



HPWBANA

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE HPWBANA NEWS

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 12 • DECEMBER 2019 • WWW.HPWANA.ORG

HAPPY

Holidays

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 Grayson512-974-5242

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Bill Hyland board@hpwbana.org

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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.

HPWBANA 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



A Magical Night in Perry Park

Your Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association again created a wonderful evening for our neighbors with the Movie in Perry Park. At dusk on October 18, neighbors gathered to be taken on a magic carpet ride with Disney's 2019 movie, Aladdin.

It was a beautiful evening, just warm enough for a sweater and gathering together with family and friends.

Movie-goers enjoyed free soft drinks provided by Hannah Reed, sponsor and Owner/Publisher of the Life in Highland Park West magazine; complementary water was provided by the Highland Park West Balcones Park Area Neighborhood Association; complementary photo booth provided by Michelle Denny, sponsor and owner of Dance Discovery and her colleagues, Karina Lucio and Ashleigh Milton; and complementary popcorn provided by Rebecca Spratlin, sponsor, HPWBANA Board Member and Owner/Broker of Rebecca Realty, LLC.

Many thanks to our neighborhood volunteers, Bill McMillin, sponsor, HPWBANA Board Member and the evening's MC; George Zwicker HPWBANA Board Member and Treasurer; and neighborhood volunteers Chris Herrera, Owen Roof, Rosa Roof, Christi Hester and John Spratlin.



THANK YOU to the Sponsors of

MOVIE in PERRY PARK



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The McMillin Fur Babies



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...Plus a donation from
HPWBANA President,
Pieter Sybesma and wife, Anita

Lauren Cunningham

Importance of Preparing for a Fire

By: Bill McMillin



Property prepared homes have a much greater chance of surviving a fire.

The biggest threat are the embers that spread from a wildfire. These embers can travel over a mile from the wildfire.

Home Ignition Zone are the characteristics of a home and the surrounding 100' area as they relate to its ignition potential and defensible space.

Mechanisms for home ignition:

- Direct flame impingement.
- Embers on or in home.
- Radiant heat (from neighbor to neighbor).

Common factors:

- Embers
- Secondary fuels – firewood, doormats, patio furniture.
- Direct flame impingement.
- Windows – non-tempered, single pane wooden or vinyl.
- Landscape to structure – mulch, plants near walls or windows.
- Structure to structure (auto exposure). Inadequate setbacks expose home to high heat and ember production.

Some things to look for and or to mitigate:

- Roofs – Remove leaves and debris off of roofs.
- Gutters – keep gutters clear of leaves and debris. Use non plastic and cover.
- Properly cover vents – use 1/16" diameter metal screening inside behind vents.
- Properly cover chimneys.
- Remove accumulation of leaves in close areas and corners.
- Clean out open pots (best to store them upside down so leaves and debris do not collect.
- Keep tree limbs off of roofs – 6' to 10' clearance.
- Apply non-combustible skirting
- Eaves and soffits –enclose eaves and minimize vegetation.
- Windows – Vinyl frames can melt.

Do not leave windows open if you evacuate.

3 times rule – fire from vegetation will be 3 times higher than the vegetation

Use double pane and tempered windows. Limit vegetation around windows.

- Decks and Porches – space under decks can trap heat coming from a fire. Keep it well maintained. Use larger wood members and adequate spacing. Best to have a fully enclosed solid deck. If the opening is over chest high, keep it clean and well maintained. Use non-flammable skirting, screening – no lattice. Avoid railroad ties. Use rock or concrete board (Hardie Board). Pre-treat decks/porches and remove vegetation.

- Fences – Use non flammable material. Wooden fences are one of the

(Continued on Page 4)



2729 Trail of Madrones

Mid-Century Modern Westlake home, beautifully updated. High-end finishes throughout, open floor-plan, lots of natural light, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, pool. 0.64 acre. Eanes School District. Offered for \$1,070,000

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

(Continued from Page 3)

Use rock or concrete board (Hardie Board). Pre-treat decks/porches and remove vegetation.

- Fences – Use non flammable material. Wooden fences are one of the first to catch fire. Use a non-combustible attachment or spacer such as masonry between the home and fence.

Keep vehicles clear of home as best as possible during a fire. Remove gas powered items such as lawnmowers, etc.

Use a gravel / rock barrier around the house. Do not have wooden mulch against the house. Keep vegetation clear of home and keep your lawn green and mowed.

Fine fuels, such as grasses, brush and debris ignite faster than junipers and other trees.

When there is a high fire risk, or you go on vacation, keep leaf litter clear, remove door mats and any flammable patio furniture.

Some secondary fuels are:

Vehicles, Firewood, Patio Furniture, Door mats, Potted plants, Empty pots, Hot tubs (flammable covers), Boardwalks, Landscaping – timbers, railroad ties, mulches, dried grass, foundation plantings.

Fire resistant landscaping

Plant choices, Placement/proximity to structures, “limb up” – keep limbs 6’ to 10’ off ground/roofs. Keep lawns mowed. Gravel / concrete walkways.

Breaking Bread: The Highland Park Gastro Club

The best way to connect with friends new and old is by sharing a meal together. That’s the idea behind the Highland Park Gastro Club – a neighborhood dinner club for those with a shared interest in food — cooking, dining and entertaining. If you’d like to expand your circle of friends and neighbors, take a closer look!



Adventures in food, friends and fun

If you love our local food scene but would enjoy a more social and intimate setting – Gastro Club offers amazing meals in a variety of Central Austin homes. The group also plans several events and parties. This past year featured a member-hosted house concert with local musician Lex Land, a tapas and wine tasting party, and a hands-on cooking class at the Sustainable Food Center. Past years included a Hill Country wine tasting, an East Austin pub crawl and a dinner and a show.

Taste the world

Part of the fun is getting to know your neighbors and trying new food-centric adventures. We’ve done Indian, Thai, Italian, Greek, Cuban and Moroccan, as well as breakfast-for-dinner, a small bites competition and a Sunday supper. Most meals are a combination of simple, fresh and inventive – but there’s no skimping on dessert. Wine is always a center piece, so we are always on the lookout for aficionados or those who want to learn.

Commitment: Love of food, people and new experiences

The club currently has 32 full members, mostly couples who commit to hosting a dinner for 8 at least one time each year. The host prepares the main entrée while guests bring either an appetizer, first course or dessert. A schedule of 5-6 dinners is shared at the beginning of the year so members can plan ahead.

The new season starts in January, so this is a great time to join. For those who participate, the club asks for prompt communications and RSVPs as you would for any dinner party. There is a small membership fee earmarked for parties and incidentals. **If interested, contact Diana Hyland, 512-586-0765, hylandink@gmail.com**

To check out past events and menus, visit: <https://highlandgastroclub.wordpress.com/>

the Y
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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

FINISH STRONG

The holiday season is in full swing, and we know your calendar is packed. But with a wide array of state-of-the-art fitness equipment, numerous exercise classes offered daily, the Y is here to help you finish the year strong. Keep the commitment to your health through the holidays and burn off your seasonal stress at a Y near you.

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LETTUCE RECYCLE!

by Dena Houston

HOLIDAY TIME – A CORNUCOPIA OF STUFF!



Life during the holidays is filled with abundance. It is a time of getting together with family and friends to celebrate the season with lots of food, gift getting and giving, parties, and general merrymaking. All this celebrating generates STUFF. I would never suggest we give up all the wonderful things the holidays bring. Instead, in this month's Lettuce

Recycle, I hope to help everyone deal with some of the impact of this glorious bounty. In several months, "all this stuff" will become the focus of our de-cluttering mission for spring-cleaning.

HOW TO RECYCLE SOME OF THIS STUFF

- **BATTERIES** – Household batteries, including rechargeable, can be recycled at most Austin public libraries. Here is a complete list of the battery drop off locations in Austin: <http://austintexas.gov/page/battery-drop-locations>

- **GIFT BAGS** – Gift bags cannot go into the blue recycling cart. They can be reused, donated to the Austin Creative Reuse Center <<https://www.austincreativereuse.org/>>, or thrown into the trash cart.

- **GIFT WRAP PAPER** – Wrapping paper and tissue paper (no glitter or foil) is recyclable and can be placed directly into the blue recycling cart. This can even include paper with tape still on it.

- **HOLIDAY CARDS** – Plain cards can go into the blue recycling cart if there is no glitter or other embellishments (like bows or googly eyes). The embellished ones go into the trash cart. Photo cards cannot be recycled. They must go into the trash cart.

- **HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND OLD LIGHT BULBS** – Strands of broken holiday lights can be taken to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. This center will also take old LED light bulbs. Incandescent bulbs must be thrown into the trash cart.

- **STYROFOAM and BUBBLE WRAP** – Styrofoam peanuts and bubble wrap that are clean and in good condition will be accepted at mail box stores like Pak Mail and UPS. They will happily reuse them. Chunks of Styrofoam and other Styrofoam pieces are accepted only at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. The recycling center no longer accepts Styrofoam peanuts.

- **TINSEL AND BROKEN DECORATIONS** – Tinsel and any broken decorations must go into the trash cart. They are not recyclable.

EXCESS WASTE

- **CARDBOARD BOXES THAT WILL NOT FIT INTO THE**

BLUE CART – Flatten the boxes and set them next to your blue bin on collection day. They will be picked up that day by either the recycling truck or another City truck.

- **HOLIDAY PARTY WASTE** – With curbside composting, we can now put our party-generated paper plates, napkins, and food product into the green bin to be composted rather than going to the landfill. If you don't have curbside composting, consider using recyclable plasticware (cups, plates, bowls, and cutlery) for parties. After a quick rinse to remove food product, these can be placed in your blue recycling bin. TIP: I set out small bins for recycling and compost collection at my holiday parties.

- **HOUSEHOLD CLUTTER** - Holiday time is a great time to get rid of the toys and clothing everyone has outgrown in order to make room for new items. Please consider donating your gently used goods to the many wonderful organizations in Austin that will happily accept them. Here is a link to the Austin Reuse directory to help find a home for your used items:

<https://austineconetwork.com/austin-reuse-directory/>

- **TRASH OVERFLOW** – Extra bags of trash that do not fit into your trash cart with the lid closed must be placed next to the trash cart and tagged with an Extra Trash Sticker. These stickers can be purchased at most local grocery stores for \$4.00 + tax. Extra bags without a sticker will be charged \$9.60 + tax per bag by the City. If you have curbside compost collection, you can save room in your trash cart by sending all your turkey bones and leftovers to be composted rather than thrown into the trash cart.

QUESTIONS AND IDEAS FROM OUR READERS:

ARE TETRA PAKS RECYCLABLE? No, they are not recyclable in Austin. Tetra paks, as well as cardboard milk and juice containers, must be placed in the trash carts. They are made of multiple layers of materials that cannot be separated for recycling.

ARE TOILET TISSUE AND PAPER TOWEL ROLLS RECYCLABLE AND DO THEY NEED TO BE FLATTENED? Yes, both can go into the blue recycling bin and do not need to be flattened. The toilet tissue roll can even have a little tissue left on it.

IS ALL ALUMINUM FOIL RECYCLABLE? No, aluminum foil must be totally clean and dry (no paint or food product) in order to be recyclable. It needs to be wadded up into at least a 2-inch ball. Foil tops on cream cheese, sour cream, and yogurt can be recycled if clean and dry. Some wrappers and toppers look like foil but are not. If you wad it up and it stays wadded up, it is foil. If it does not stay wadded up, it has a plastic coating on it and is not recyclable.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

(Continued from Page 5)

IDEA – CRAYOLA COLORCYCLE IS A WAY FOR SCHOOLS TO RECYCLE CRAYOLA MARKERS. Please visit this website for more information <<https://www.crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx>>.

Please remember: WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT! AND



Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website called What Do I Do With. It is a guide to recycling, reusing, composting and more for City of Austin residential curbside customers. Just type in the name of an unwanted item and you will find out what to do with it. <<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.

SAVE PAPER! Receive this newsletter electronically on the first day of each month. Go to: <<https://peelinc.com/index.php/resident-subscriptions>>.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Neighborhood 2019 Supplemental Traffic Enforcement Efforts

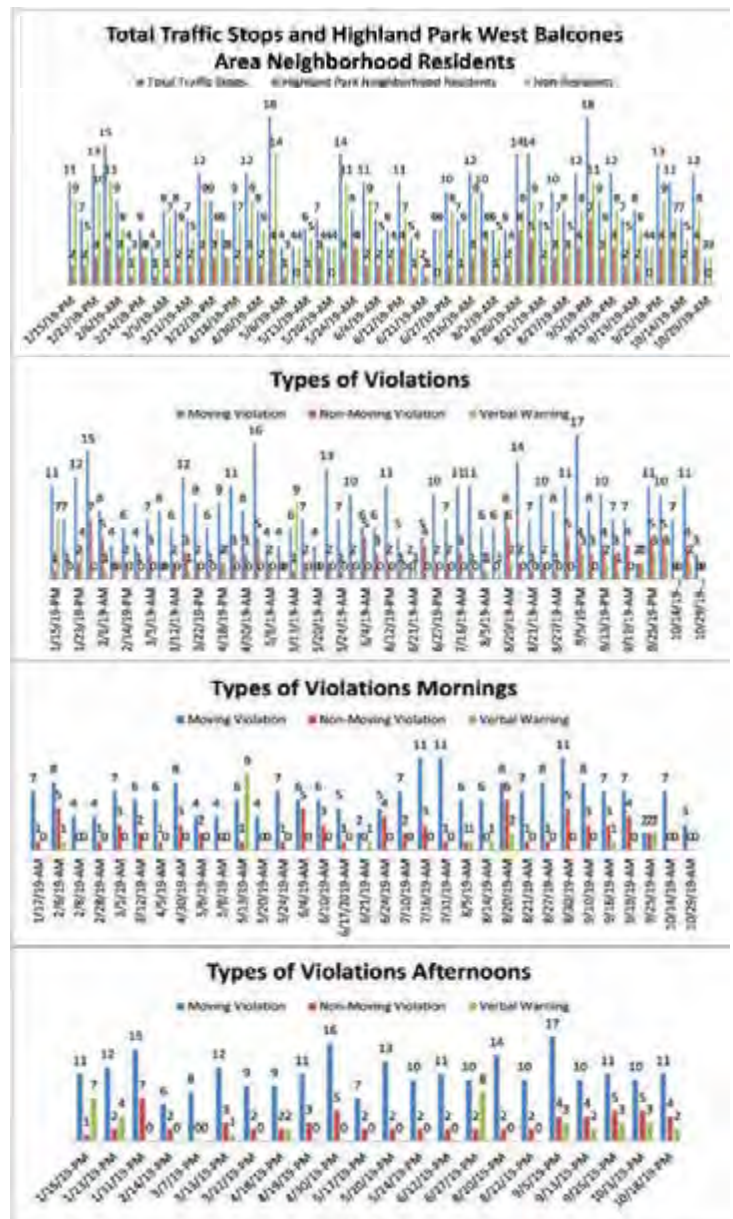
January 14 – November 1, 2019

Constable Random Patrol Times: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Generally)

Traffic Enforcement Areas: Balcones, Perry, and Hancock and smaller side streets or School Zone and both crosswalks, and Patrol throughout the neighborhood.

Moving Violations-- Running a stop sign, speeding, failing to yield right of way or unsafe lane change.

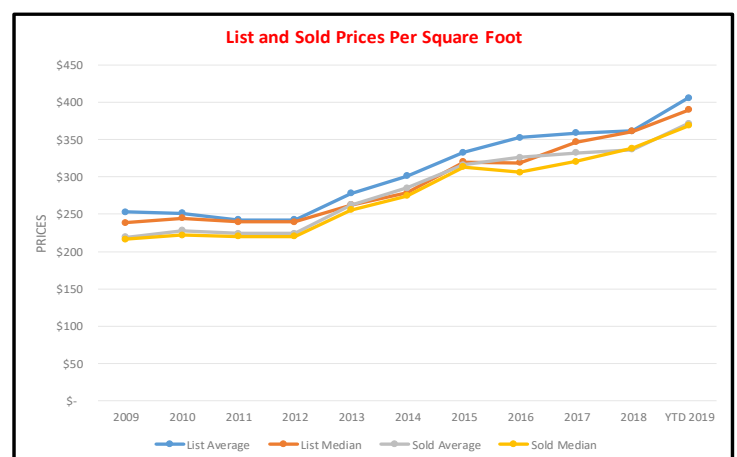
72% of Traffic Stops Do Not Live in the HPWBANA Area



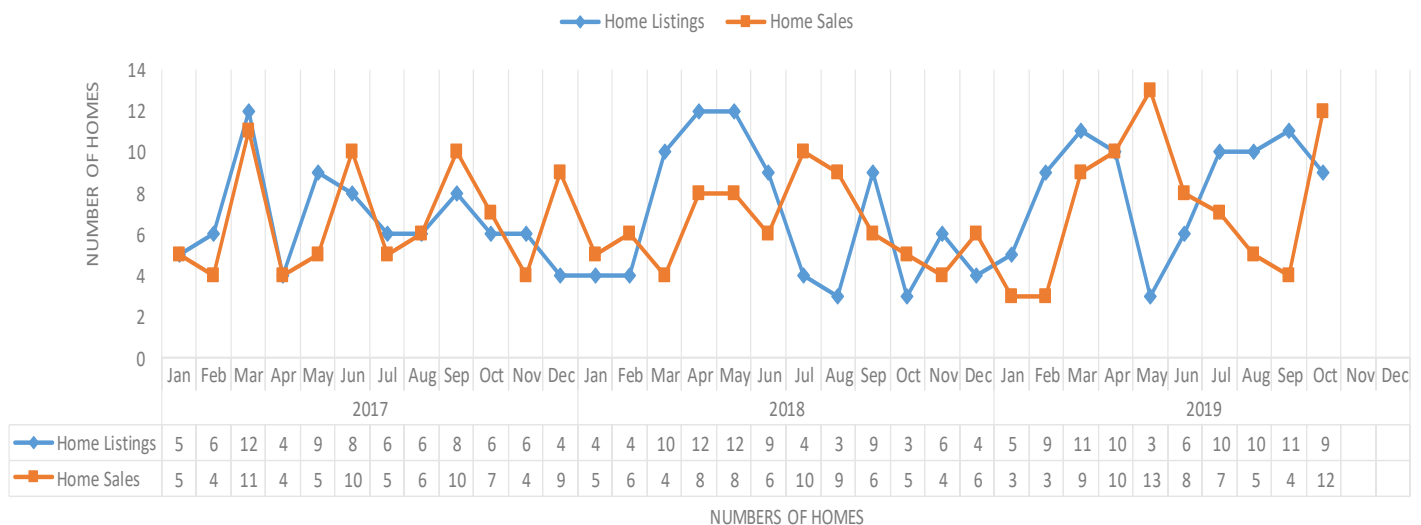
HIGHLAND PARK WEST and BALCONES PARK Area Neighborhoods Real Estate Statistics

Analyses Completed by Rebecca Spratlin

Looking back 10+ years, these graphs clearly show the steady increase in property values in our area neighborhoods. During that time, the Average Sold Price has increased from \$558,227 to \$1,018,452 (+82%) and the Median Sold Price has increased from \$502,500 to \$959,000 (+91%). You can see that the prices increased aggressively from 2012-2015, then continued to increase at more moderate rates in the subsequent years. Despite claims that prices have been flat over recent years, these statistics demonstrate continued home value growth and very aggressive growth so far in 2019.



HIGHLAND PARK WEST AND BALCONES PARK AREA NEIGHBORHOODS HOME LISTINGS AND HOME SALES



All data was derived from Austin Board of Realtors® MLS. Data reflects listings and sales by member Realtors®. Note that off-market/private homes listed and sold by owners are not included in his data. © by Rebecca Spratlin of Rebecca Realty, LLC.

Happy Holiday Safety Recommendations

The holidays are a joyous time for many in our neighborhood, but it is also a time to remember to be extra vigilant:

- When traveling for the holidays, be sure to let your neighbors know so they can keep a watch on your house.
- Have mail, newspapers and trash receptacles picked up in a timely manner
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer
- Large displays of gifts should not be visible through the windows
- If expecting package delivery, plan to arrange for timely pickups or have packages sent to your workplace
- Make sure your tree is established on a sturdy base so children and pets are less likely to dislodge it
- Ensure holiday light wiring is not frayed or damaged



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

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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@hpbwana.org, secretary@hpbwana.org, vp@hpbwana.org, or treasurer@hpbwana.org).

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



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