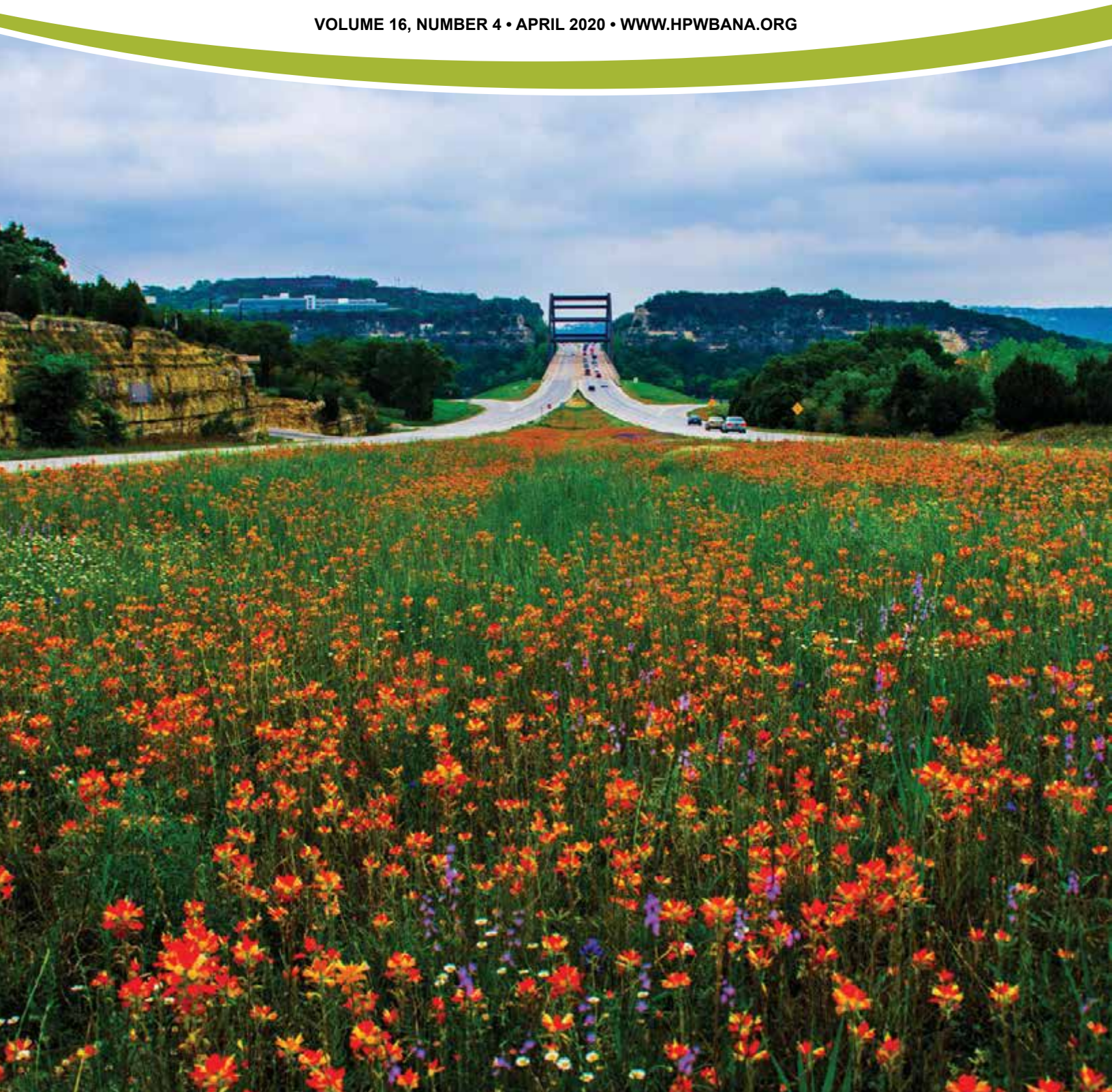




HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE HPWBANA NEWS

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 4 • APRIL 2020 • WWW.HPWANA.ORG





7228 Oak Shores Drive

Gorgeous home off of City Park/Pearce Road, has EVERYTHING. 4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 4,122 square feet, 0.81 acre landscaped lot, pool, huge screened-in patio with built-in grill and burners, 3-car garage, access to neighborhood's private boat launch and lake-front park. Low 1.8% tax rate. Highland Park Elementary. Co-listed with Tylor Morton, Realtor 512-387-1230 Offered for \$1,100,000



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



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
APD REP. - Officer Darrell Grayson512-974-5242

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Rebecca Spratlin board@hpwbana.org

Bill Hyland board@hpwbana.org

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 Street, on the west by Mt. Bonnell Road, and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Road between Hancock Drive and 45th Street. Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755





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The President's Letter

Neighbors:

There are many reasons for you to support our neighborhood association with your annual membership.

In the 1997 Articles of Incorporation for the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association, the Purposes of the Association state: "Specifically, the Corporation is organized to preserve and enhance the neighborhood in northwest Austin, Texas; to foster a closer, more genuine community of neighbors; to provide a forum for pursuing a variety of goals beneficial to the neighborhood; and, to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood in matters such as land use, zoning, environmental protection, public services, traffic, safety, consumer protection, and other matters of neighborhood concern."

And over the years we have been meeting these goals in terrific ways:

- Educate the neighborhood on issues that impact the community, including the land development code, wildfire risks, transportation challenges, and opportunities for engagement
- Provide neighborhood events, such as Movie in the Park and the Fourth of July parade, to build neighborhood pride and camaraderie
- Provide guidance and support to neighbors who are experiencing neighborhood-related issues, such as lack of city response or code violations
- Build connections and relationships with neighborhood and surrounding business and community partners
- Provide financial support for services that benefit and enhance the neighborhood, such as the constable patrol and landscaping beautification
- The donor-funded patrol—by an off-duty Travis County constable—to address traffic safety and police visibility, which is necessary to deter residential burglaries, car break-ins, and

vandalism. Roughly 75% of traffic stops are not residents of our neighborhood

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Serving on the HPWBANA board
- Serving on one of the following subcommittees of the board:
 - Traffic and Safety
 - Neighborhood Preservation
 - Events
 - Wildfire Prevention
 - Parks and Beautification
 - Community Relations

We *must* have your support to continue neighborhood events, projects, and advocacy.

Membership funds are critical to the accomplishment of neighborhood projects, and your membership dues and donations will help us continue these efforts in 2020.

If you are already a member, please renew your membership for 2020.

If not, please join, and ask your neighbors to do the same.

You can contribute more than the standard membership amount (\$20 for Single-Member Household, \$25 for Family), as additional funds allow us to do more for the neighborhood.

You can join online at: www.hpwbana.org/get-involved/join.

Pieter Sybesma, President

Board of Directors

Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association

president@hpwbana.org



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CONSTABLE PATROL

Following are the reports from the constable for his patrol activities through March 13, 2020. Please note that 79% (71 out of 90) of the traffic stops for 2020 continue to be of drivers who do not live in the Highland Park West Balcones Area compared with 73% (404 out of 556) of the traffic stops for 2019 and 74% (495 out of 672) of the traffic stops for 2018. The trend continues that roughly 75% of traffic stops are not residents of the neighborhood.

Traffic enforcement is a key element for safety in the neighborhood.

Given the significant understaffing of APD, little neighborhood patrolling can be expected from APD because officers are generally going from call to call, with the officers who are assigned to our area often sent to calls in faraway districts. It is unfortunate that the City cannot provide even minimal neighborhood police patrolling and traffic enforcement on a consistent basis.

To address the need for more visible patrolling in our neighborhoods and for traffic enforcement on our streets and around Highland Park Elementary School, privately funded supplemental law enforcement efforts were hired in early 2015. Concerned neighbors who wanted to take a more proactive stance used contributions to fund hours for the presence and activity of an off-duty Travis County constable. The 2019 HPWBANA membership survey reflected a 90% support for the constable patrol.

During 2019, the constable patrolled 60 times for a total of 171.5 patrol hours, 164 paid patrol hours, and 7.5 non-paid patrol hours. There were 523 moving violations, 146 non-moving violations, and 53 verbal warnings given by the constable. Of the 556 total traffic stops, 152 were of Highland Park West Balcones Area residents and 404 were of non-residents. 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.

In addition to traffic safety, increased law enforcement presence also helps deter burglaries, auto break-ins, and vandalism.

The cost of this effort is \$65/hour.

Please consider making a donation for one, two, five, or more hours of the constable's time, and ask your neighbors to do the same.

And for 2020, one neighbor has made a matching grant offer of \$4000.

You may donate to the patrol effort in one of three ways:

- Visit <http://hpwbana.org/get-involved/join-hpwbana> and use the donation part of the form at the bottom of the page.
- Mail a check made out to "Pieter Sybesma, Traffic Account" and put "Constable Patrol" in the memo area.

- Send with your annual HPWBANA dues payment. All checks can be sent to:

Pieter Sybesma
4801 Fairview Drive
Austin, Texas 78731

What else can you do?

- Be aware of the speed limits and observe them.
- Purchase a "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here"® yard sign for your yard. The yard signs are available online for \$12.99 at http://drivelikeyourkidslivehere.com/our_store/17/yard-sign or at the Lowe's Home Improvement on Shoal Creek Boulevard in the Hardware Section for less than \$3.00 per sign.
- Maintain your annual membership with the Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association (<http://hpwbana.org/>), and ask your neighbors to do the same. We must have your support to continue neighborhood events, projects, and advocacy.

Be safe.

Pieter Sybesma, President
Board of Directors
Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association
president@hpwbana.org



Neighbors!

If you have any interesting
and new article ideas for the
newsletter or a desire to write

for us, please contact
president@hpwbana.org

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS JANUARY 7 – MARCH 13, 2020

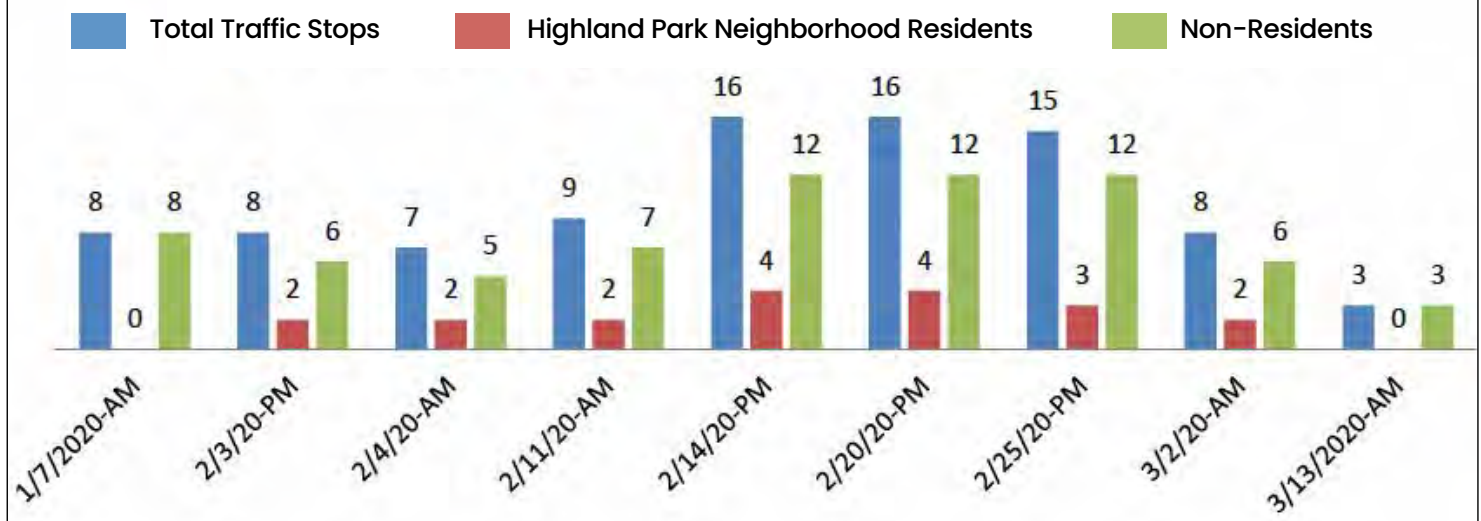
Constable Random Patrol Times: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Generally)

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

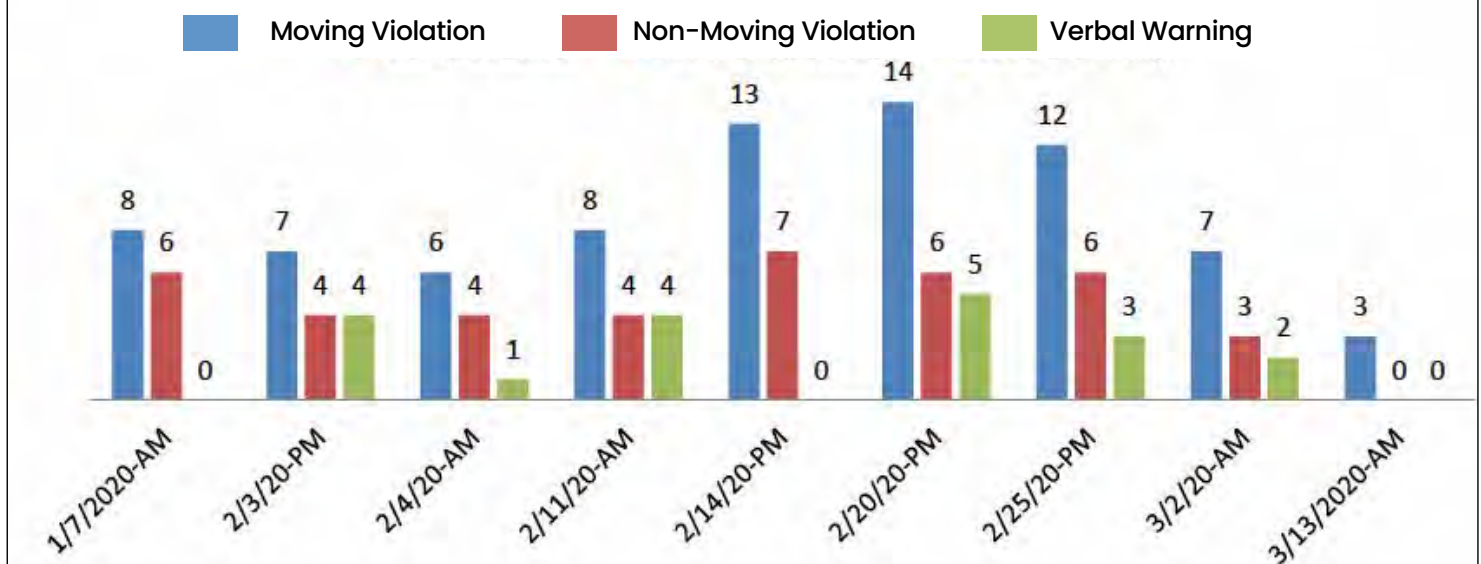
Moving Violations-- Running a stop sign, speeding, failing to yield right of way or unsafe lane change.

79% of Traffic Stops Do Not Live in the HPWBANA Area

Total Traffic Stops and Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Residents



Types of Violations



(Continued on Page 7)

Highland Park West Balcones Area

(Continued from Page 6)

- **TUE 1/7** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9am / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X3 / 3200 blk Perry -Speeding X0 / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X1 / Valley Oak at W. Highland Terr -Ran Stop Sign X1 / No School today / traffic stop - Marijuana, Driving with suspended Driver's Lic and no vehicle ins
- **MON 2/3** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 2pm to 6pm / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X5 / School zone - 4 warnings / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X1 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X1 / 3500 blk Mount Bonnell rd -Speeding X1 / Home owner requested I check the woods at the end of both Falls Trl for a possible homeless camp/ I checked 3 different trails into the woods down to the creek area and found no camp or any signs of any camping in the area. Unfounded./ roving patrol thru the area east of mopac, near bull creek end of Westfield under the bridge, I located a large pile of trash where someone dumped it.
- **TUE 2/4** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9am / Roving radar patrol thru HP for a few mins / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X3 / Balcones at Mount Bonnell -Ran Stop Sign X1 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X2 / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X0 / Valley Oak at W. Highland Terr -Ran Stop Sign X0 / 4800 blk Balcones -Speeding X1
- **TUE 2/11** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9am / Balcones at Mount Bonnell dr. -Ran Stop Sign X2 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X2 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X3 / school zone - X4 warnings / Valley Oak at W. Highland Terr -Ran Stop Sign X1 / checked Ridge Oak Park, I stopped and talked to a home owner that was out taking a walk - all good / Roving patrol-radar thru neighborhood east of Mopac -Checked area - construction trash pile still under the bridge at the end of Westfield dr. no issues or stops
- **FRI 2/14** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 2pm to 6pm / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X1 / 4900 blk Fairview -Drove wrong way on one way X1 / Madrona at Edgemont -Ran Stop Sign X1 / Madrona at Balcones -Ran Stop Sign X3 / Balcones at Mount Bonnell -Ran Stop Sign X2 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X2 / Valley Oak at W.Highland -Ran Stop Sign X2 / Home owner wanted info on who to call about a new 6' wooden fence blocking the view of west bound Hancock traffic from W.Francis stop sign / Mount Bonnell at Falls Tr -Speeding X1
- **THU 2/20** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 2pm to 6pm/ 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X3 / school zone -(5 verbal warnings) / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X5 / Valley Oak at W. Highland Terr -Ran Stop Sign X2 / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X1 / 4600 blk Edgemont -Speeding X0 / Ridge Oak Park - checked ok / assist home owner -saw his robot lawn mower had stuck itself under his SUV in the driveway. Home owner notified so they didn't back over it.
- **TUE 2/25** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 2pm to 6pm / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X2 / School Zone -3 warnings (all for exp

reg or no reg stickers) / Valley Oak at W. Highland -Ran Stop Sign X2 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X2 / 3300 blk Perry X3 (home owner came out to thank me for working radar and slowing cars down) / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X1 / Balcones at Mount Bonnell -Ran Stop Sign X2 / 4600 blk Edgemont -Speeding X0, Ran Stop Sign X0 / Ridge Oak Park -Checked ok / roving radar east of Mopac, no stops, no issues

- **MON 3/2** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9am / Roving patrol thru HP 6:45am-7:05am / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / School zone -2 warnings / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X2 / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X1 / Balcones at Mount Bonnell -Ran Stop Sign X1 / 3600 blk Mount Bonnell -Speeding X0 / Ridge Oak park -Checked ok
- **FRI 3/13** Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9am / No school today / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X2 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X1 / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X0 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X0 / Lots of roving radar patrol today / Mount Bonnell area, area east of mopac... Ridge Oak park - park checked ok / With the Covid 19 Virus going around, school was canceled and lots of people stayed home today. There was almost no traffic around the neighborhood.

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HIGHLAND PARK WEST and BALCONES PARK Area Neighborhoods Real Estate Statistics

Analyses Completed by Rebecca Sprawling



The results for the first two months of 2020 indicate that the real estate market in our neighborhood continues to be strong. List and Sales prices have continued to increase since 2007 and the List and Sales prices per square foot remain high, on par with 2019.

Sellers have gotten an early start on the spring sales season with nine new listings in the neighborhood during February. There have also been a few off-market sales as the market is moving very fast and homes are going under contract before going on MLS.



The chart below left shows that the Average Cumulative Days on Market has gone up sharply YTD as of February 29, 2020. This number is skewed with one listing that has been on the market for 388 days, while the other homes that sold in February were on the market for 9, 74, 4 and 45 days.



It is still a seller's market and we are seeing some multiple offers on homes that are listed for \$1.0 million or less. Homes above \$1.0 million are selling as well, but taking a few days longer.



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 this data. © by Rebecca Sprawling of Rebecca Realty, LLC.



Lettuce Recycle!

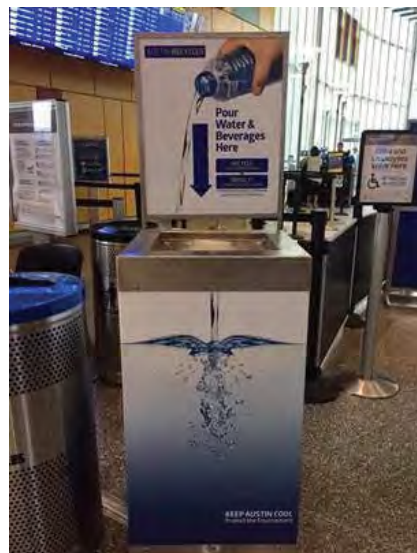
by Dena Houston



RECYCLING AT AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – PART 1

There are many recycling challenges in our great city, one of which is recycling at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). I was very privileged to meet B. J. Carpenter, the Sustainability Program Coordinator at the airport. He shared with me some of the wonderful initiatives in the field of recycling and reuse that are happening at ABIA.

• **POUR IT OUT** – Bottles and cans with liquid in them are not recyclable. The liquid in them contaminates the recycling



stream and ruins the other recyclable materials. To make it convenient to recycle bottles at the airport, there are four “pour it out” receptacles currently provided at the front of the three security checkpoints. Two receptacles are at the largest - Check Point One – and one at each of the other two. These receptacles provide a place for passengers to empty liquids from a bottle or can and then either place it in

a nearby recycling bin or carry it through security to refill in the secured area.

• **FOOD RESCUE** – So much food goes to waste in our great land. ABIA has taken some wonderful steps to rescue unused food from the concessionaires. The “food rescue” program began on March 1, 2017. Currently, Bradford Airport Logistics picks up the food from the terminal and transports it to their warehouse at the airport. The food is then picked up three days a week by Keep Austin Fed volunteers and taken to several Austin organizations that provide meals to the hungry. In 2019, 12,000 pounds of food was collected at ABIA. This food provided 10,000 meals.

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS:

What do I do with old trophies? Austin Creative Reuse Center will take these. Please call ahead to be sure they have room on their shelves. Here is their website: <https://www.austincreativereuse.org/>

HOW DO I RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS FROM SOIL AND COMPOST? Plastic bags designed to hold weight (soil, compost, litter and fertilizer) are treated with special polymers and this

treatment makes these bags not recyclable. They must go into your trash can. Also, frozen food bags and pre-washed salad mix bags are also specially treated to keep food fresh and must be thrown into the trash can.

PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!

Here is an 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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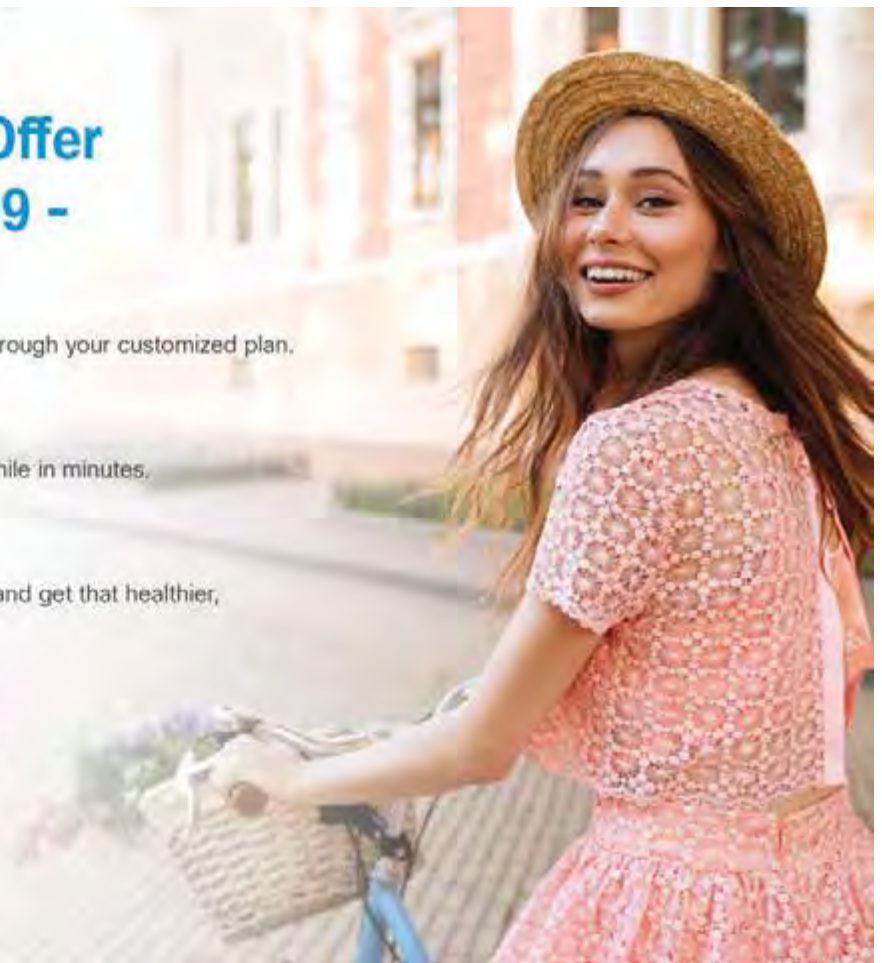
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