

THE HPWBANA NEWS

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 5 • MAY 2020 • WWW.HPWBANA.ORG





Real Estate in Austin Continues to be Strong

We are practicing "no contact showings" as well as providing face masks, shoe covers, disposable gloves, Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer to ensure Sellers, Buyers and Realtors" remain safe and healthy. We also offer DocuSign for on-line signatures and FREE remote closings so no parties have to go into a title company. **Contact me** for more information about safely selling and buying properties during these crazy times.



7228 Oak Shores Drive



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2729 Trail of Madrones

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



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

1
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APD REP. - Officer Darrell Grayson512-974-5242

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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 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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Highland Park West Balcones Area

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."

Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association, like many other neighborhood and civic associations, depends on volunteers, membership dues, and donations to pursue the goals of the association. Everyone can participate on some level—whether paying dues or volunteering your time. HPWBANA offers several opportunities to volunteer—from two hours at a time at a sponsored event (e.g., the annual Egg Hunt and July 4 Parade) or writing an article for the monthly newsletter to a few hours each month as a member of the HPWBANA Board or conducting Home Firewise Assessments. The Board depends on volunteers for all programs or activities for the neighborhood. Please help your neighbors and your neighborhood association by volunteering. You can reach us at volunteer@hpwbana.org.

Pieter Sybesma, President

Board of Directors

Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association president@hpwbana.org



Constable

Following are the reports from the constable for his patrol activities through March 27, 2020. With the restrictions relating to the COVID-19 virus, there has been much less traffic, and consequently, the constable was able to do more patrolling. Please note that 79% (72 out of 91) 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.

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.

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The 2019 HPWBANA membership survey reflected a 90% support for the constable patrol, while in 2018 the membership survey reflected an 87% support. Those same surveys reflected the primary concerns in 2019 were traffic and neighborhood preservation with 25% for each and 10% concern with crime, while in 2018 the number one concern was crime at 25%, traffic at 24%, and neighborhood preservation at 16%.

Even with the recent Police Academy graduation of 67 cadets, the APD now has 150 vacancies. The supplemental patrol and traffic safety efforts were initiated in early 2015 by concerned neighbors who wanted to take a more proactive stance.

Little neighborhood patrolling can be accomplished by APD, because 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.

The cost of the constable patrol is \$65/hour.

Neighbor donations provided funding for 122 hours (74%) of the 164 paid patrol hours in 2019, and 42 hours were paid by HPWBANA. For 2020, a donor is pledging to donate \$4,000 to match \$4,000 in neighbor donations. Please ask your neighbors for their support of this effort. To contribute to this effort, you may donate through www.hpwbana.org/get-involved/joinhpwbana, include a donation with your annual dues payment, or contact me at president@HPWBANA.org.

We have all been receiving e-mail information and recommendations on the COVID-19 Virus. Resources include:

https://austintexas.gov/COVID19 (City of Austin);

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention);

https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus (National Institutes of Health); and,

https://www..dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/ (Texas Health and Human Services)

Be Safe!

Pieter Sybesma, President

Board of Directors

Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association president@hpwbana.org

What Side of the Road Should You Walk On?



Submitted by Karen Pope

Our neighborhood is a beautiful place for walks—in solitude, with friends, with pets. The Coronavirus pandemic seems to be increasing the numbers of pedestrians around our neighborhood, perhaps because their usual forms of exercise or recreation are off-limits for the time being. This is a good time to recall/ refresh principles of walking safety, especially given many of our neighborhood's streets lack sidewalks, and walkers are expecting drivers on the roadways to "share the road."

Whether you consult the DPS, online safety reminders, or your grandmother's wisdom, you will get the same advice: **Walk so that you are FACING the oncoming traffic.** The logic behind this advice is that by SEEING the oncoming traffic, you will be better able to gauge a driver's awareness of you and can jump out of the way, if necessary.

If everyone abides by this rule, then groups of walkers needn't pass others walking in the opposite direction while all try to stay near the curb.

Especially now that the Coronavirus demands distancing ourselves from one another and there is ongoing construction traffic in numerous parts of our neighborhood, adopting this longstanding pattern for walkers would increase safety as people spend time outdoors.

Remind your kids:

- Vehicles ride right
- Walkers walk left

For a longer version of this common-sense safety rule: https://www.verywellfit.com/which-side-of-the-road-shouldyou-walk-on-3975553

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS JANUARY 7 – MARCH 27, 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



(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.Francias 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 Peery 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 645am-705am / 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
- Friday 3/6/20 City of Austin and Travis County Local State of Disaster Declared
- Friday 3/13/20 City of Austin Emergency Rules for Food Establishments Adopted
- 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.
- •Sunday 3/15/20 Order of Control for Mass and Community Gatherings Announced by City of Austin and Travis County
- •Tuesday 3/17/20 Order of Control for Bars and Restaurants Announced for City of Austin
- •Thursday 3/19/20 Executive Order Relating to COVID-19 Preparedness and Mitigation Issued by Governor for State of Texas
- •THU 3/19 Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 2pm to 6pm / Roving neighborhood patrol / public safety patrol
- •Saturday 3/21/20 Order of Control for Mass Gatherings and Critical Infrastructure Announced for City of Austin and Travis County
- •Tuesday 3/24/20 Stay At Home Order Announced by City of Austin and Travis County; Guidance for the Construction Industry by City of Austin
- •TUE 3/24 Highland Park Neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9am / Roving patrol thru all of HP / one vehicle stopped for driving wrong way on Fairview
- •Thursday 3/26/20 Mayoral Order Impacting Commercial and Residential Landlords and Tenants for City of Austin

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 offmarket 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 where 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 his data. © by Rebecca Sprawling of Rebecca Realty, LLC.

Highland Park West Balcones Area

Hancock

Jelly Bean Contest Winner!



The winner of the Jelly Bean contest was Elora Clarke with a guess of 967. The bunny attempted a in-person delivery, but Elora wasn't home at the time.





New Safe Route to Schools sidewalk constructed on north side of Hancock Drive to precede crosswalk on Hancock Drive at Fairview Drive.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area





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Walking Your Dog

More neighbors are taking their dog on a walk and more families are going to Perry Park and Highland Park Elementary playgrounds to get exercise as a result of the shelter in place/stay-at-home orders during the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Responsible dog ownership means having your pet on a leash when you walk and cleaning up after them. Having your dog on a leash under your control can avoid dog fights and confrontation with other walkers. The City of Austin's leash laws prohibit unrestrained dogs not on your property. 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. This is in addition to the requirement for pets to be on a leash on streets and sidewalks.

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.

Follow this link to find out all of the off-leash areas available in Austin: https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3ANRE_CH3-4REDOCA_ART1GERE_S3-4-4PUARWHREDOISNORE

Please enjoy your walks responsibly with your dogs.







At the Tennis Courts of Lot of Perry Park Elem

At the West Side Parking Lot of Highland Park Elementary School

Upper Perry Park



Trail intersection in Perry Park



Quarry Area of Perry Park

RECYCLING AT AUSTIN-BERGSTROM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PART 2

Below is the continued story of some of the wonderful initiatives in the field of recycling and reuse that are happening at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA). This information is from an interview with B. J. Carpenter, the Sustainability Program Coordinator at the airport.

• **COMPOST COLLECTION** – Many airport restaurants and coffee shops have begun providing compostable containers for their customers. These containers can be put directly into the compost collection bins now provided at ABIA (even with food product in them). <u>Please make</u> <u>sure the containers are labeled "BPI-certified compostable."</u>



• AIRPLANE WASTE AND RECYCLING – Your plane is about to land and the flight attendants come around to collect your trash and recyclables in separate bags. What happens to those bags? Since most planes are not designed with separate built-in receptacles for trash and recyclables, much of the time both bags are dumped in a single large bag in the waste container at the back of the plane. When the cleaning staff come on board to clean the plane, they don't know whether to throw that bag in the trash cart (with the black lid) or the recycling cart (with the blue lid).

To address this problem, all the collection bins at all airline gates had their lids changed from black (trash) to blue (recycling) so that now everything goes to the Texas Disposal System's (TDS) recycling facility. TDS has made a special arrangement to pull the recyclables from this material and therefore keep them from going to the landfill.

Incidentally, cans and bottles that the flight attendants use to serve your drinks and then return to the airline serving carts go to the airline's "hub" airport (not ABIA). For example, American Airlines planes could be serviced at DFW.

THE THINKERY

The Thinkery (Austin's children's museum) accepts all kinds of creative supplies. Please visit their website for more information:

https://thinkeryaustin.org/thinkery-material-donations-v3/

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS: WHAT DO I DO WITH BUBBLE WRAP AND STYROFOAM PACKING MATERIAL? Many mail/shipping stores, like Pak Mail on Balcones, will take these for reuse as long as they are in good condition. Bubble wrap can also go into the plastic collection bins at the grocery stores

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

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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