

**Support Your Neighborhood Association and Join the HPWBANA
Inside: Monthly HPWBANA Constable Report**



**HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

THE HPWBANA NEWS

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 8 • AUGUST 2020 • WWW.HPWBANA.ORG



07/23/2020



We had a wonderful experience as both buyers and sellers when working with Rebecca.

She was patient with us as we searched for our new home and her knowledge of the market was invaluable. The true value of working with Rebecca was made evident in that nothing slipped through the cracks during the offer, negotiations, inspections and on through the closing of both homes.

Buying and selling a home is stressful, but Rebecca's calm, professional demeanor and her organizational skills made the entire process so much easier. There was no point where we felt that any detail had escaped her attention. This allowed us to focus on the specifics of our move, rather than being concerned about details of the transactions.

Our expectations for a Realtor were high and Rebecca exceeded our expectations in every way.

Stephanie and Michael McCollum

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 Grayson 512-974-5242

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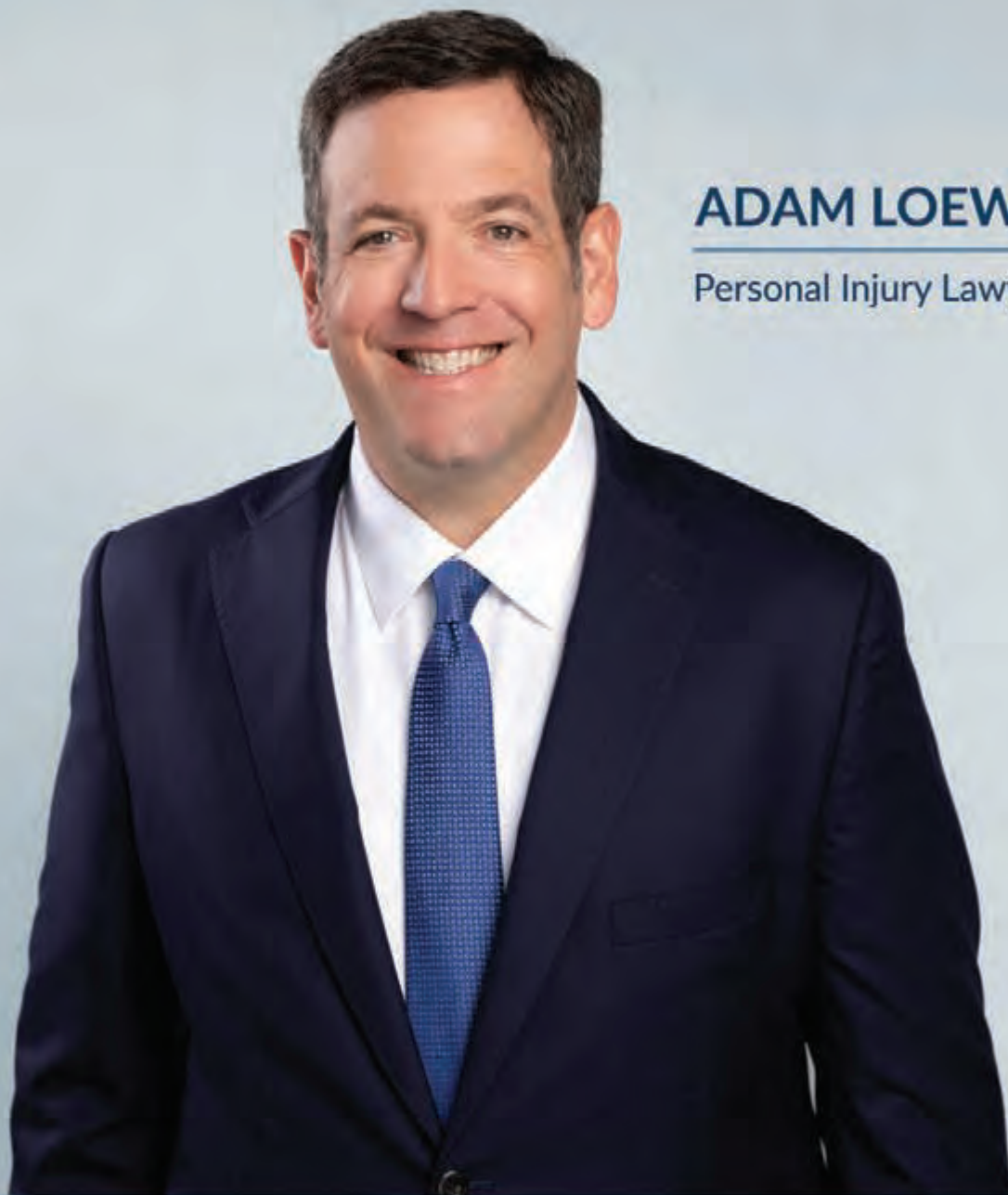
Bill Hyland board@hpwbana.org

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

HPWBANA Neighbors:

This letter is being written in early July. At this point in time, the Austin Independent School District has plans to have in person instruction at Highland Park Elementary and other schools beginning on August 18. How this will look is still being planned. When school does begin, we will have a return of many children being dropped off by parents or school buses while others will be walking to school.

Because we do not have enough sidewalks in the neighborhood, it seems most children are brought to school by their parents with resulting very heavy traffic on Fairview Drive and the intersecting streets. Hopefully school crossing guards will be at the busy crossings for the safety of pedestrians. There is a new RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon) crosswalk and sidewalk extension installed on Hancock Drive at Fairview Drive as part of the Safe Routes to School Program. And the city has lowered the speed limit on neighborhood streets to 25 mph.

Some of the street area on the north and west side of Highland Park Elementary is signed as "No Parking, Tow Away Zones" to allow adequate street area for the large buses and cars to safely get by. However, there often are times when parents either do not see or ignore these no-parking areas and needlessly place pedestrians and traffic at risk with the much-reduced street travel area. These traffic control signs and no-parking signs have been installed for student safety.

AISD's Department of Transportation encourages drivers to reduce their speed when driving near schools and to follow posted signs that require drivers to slow down to 20 mph or less when lights are flashing. Police officers will be enforcing reduced speed limits from approximately 45 minutes before school opens, during lunch periods, and for 30 minutes at the end of the school day.

Failure to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, failure to stop when school bus lights are flashing for students boarding or exiting the bus, and speeding through school zones when lights are flashing could result in a fine of up to \$400 dollars.

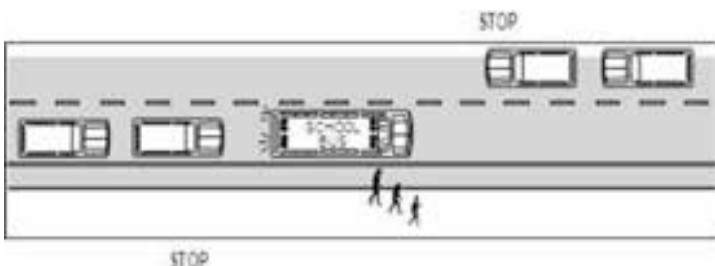
AISD's transportation team offers tips for driving in school zones:

- Follow all posted speed signs
- Be aware of surroundings at all times and eliminate distractions
- Find alternate routes if possible
- Stop at all crosswalks marked and unmarked, as pedestrians have the right of way
- Stop for all buses with red flashing lights

And also remember, cell phone use is prohibited in school zones.

Excerpts from the *Texas Driver's Handbook (Revised July, 2012)*:

Yield Right-of-Way to School Buses



You must yield the right-of-way to school buses. Always drive with care when you are near a school bus. If you approach a school bus from either direction and the bus is displaying alternately flashing red lights, you must stop. Do not pass the school bus until:

1. The school bus has resumed motion;
2. You are signaled by the driver to proceed; or,
3. The red lights are no longer flashing.

It isn't necessary to stop when passing a school bus on a different road or when on a controlled-access high-way where the bus is stopped in a loading zone and pedestrians aren't permitted to cross. A person who fails to obey the law regarding yielding the right-of-way to school buses displaying alternating, flashing lights is subject to the penalties listed in the Penalties for Failure to Yield Right-of-Way to School Bus.

Do Not Park or Stand a Vehicle

Whether occupied or not, do not park or allow a vehicle to stand idling:

1. In front of a public or private driveway;
2. Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
3. Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection;
4. Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, yield sign, or other traffic control signal located at the side of a road;
5. Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and on the side of a street opposite the entrance to any fire station within 75 feet of entrance;
6. At any place where an official sign prohibits parking or standing

Let's have a safe school year in this new normal.

Pieter Sybesma, President

Board of Directors

Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association

president@hpwbana.org

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NEIGHBORS HELP BEAUTIFY WEST HIGHLAND TERRACE DOMAIN

By Gabe Hensley

This is more of a thank-you note than a description of our involvement with the median that divides the westernmost block of Highland Terrace as it leads to the school. When we moved into the neighborhood in 2012, Colleen Jamison was already several years into the stewardship of the median. She planted the live oak as well as the crepe myrtles that have now matured and provide shade for the eastern portion of the median. It is easy to believe that Colleen is a master gardener when you see how she laid out the remaining supporting shrubs and flowers and the way she tended to them throughout the years. I am thankful for the median, because it brought Colleen into our lives. She freely shared her encyclopedic knowledge of gardening with me and my kids as we helped with little projects here and there.

The western half of the median directly in front of our house was unkempt and unplanted, so it made for a great first project. We noticed that on school days there were a lot of families who walked in the street because there is only a sidewalk on one half of the street. We knew we wanted to give the kids a path to the crosswalk where Bill the Crossing Guard could then make sure they make it across safely.

We chose crepe myrtles because they don't require a lot of water and grow quickly to eventually provide a connecting canopy over the walkway. We both had old benches that we placed between the trees to give someone a place to stop and take a rest or just chat with a neighbor. I am thankful for the median because it showed me the kindness of the neighborhood. Within no time, more benches started showing up, neighbors were bringing them by to fill the remaining areas between the trees.

We planted the remaining trees that lead up to the school the following year and connected the crushed granite path all the way to the end of the median. We created a little butterfly garden halfway down the path and got the Mexican Wiregrass going that has now created a beautiful border.

The median continues to bring the neighborhood together as we just recently re-mulched and laid new granite for the path. We had met Jason Weiner and Lori Keller before, but it wasn't until we spent an afternoon working on the median together that we really became friends. I am thankful for the median for the role it plays keeping the neighborhood together.

Finally, I am thankful for the median because it is a place where creativity and imagination are still alive. If you look closely, you will find an active fairy garden that is tended to by my daughter and her friends.

The median was just an eyesore, but with Colleen's love, vision, and our collective support, it has become a beautiful place to relax or catch up with neighbors.

Pictures for Story Showing Progression of Improvements



Constable Patrol



Following are the reports from the constable for his patrol activities through July 10, 2020. The constable has begun reporting the range of speeding over the speed limit in his reports: 1-9 mph over the posted speed, 10-15 mph over the posted speed, and 16 mph or more over the posted speed. For the cumulative reporting of the information in the summary reports since late April, four moving violations were for speeds between 1 and 9 miles per hour over the posted speed limit and 27 moving violations were for speeds between 10

and 15 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. The highest speed was 45 mph on Hancock Drive.

Please note that 80% (101 out of 126) 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.

The cost of the constable patrol is \$65/hour. Please ask your neighbors to support this effort.

And thanks for your continued support.

Be Safe!

Pieter Sybesma, President

Board of Directors

Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association

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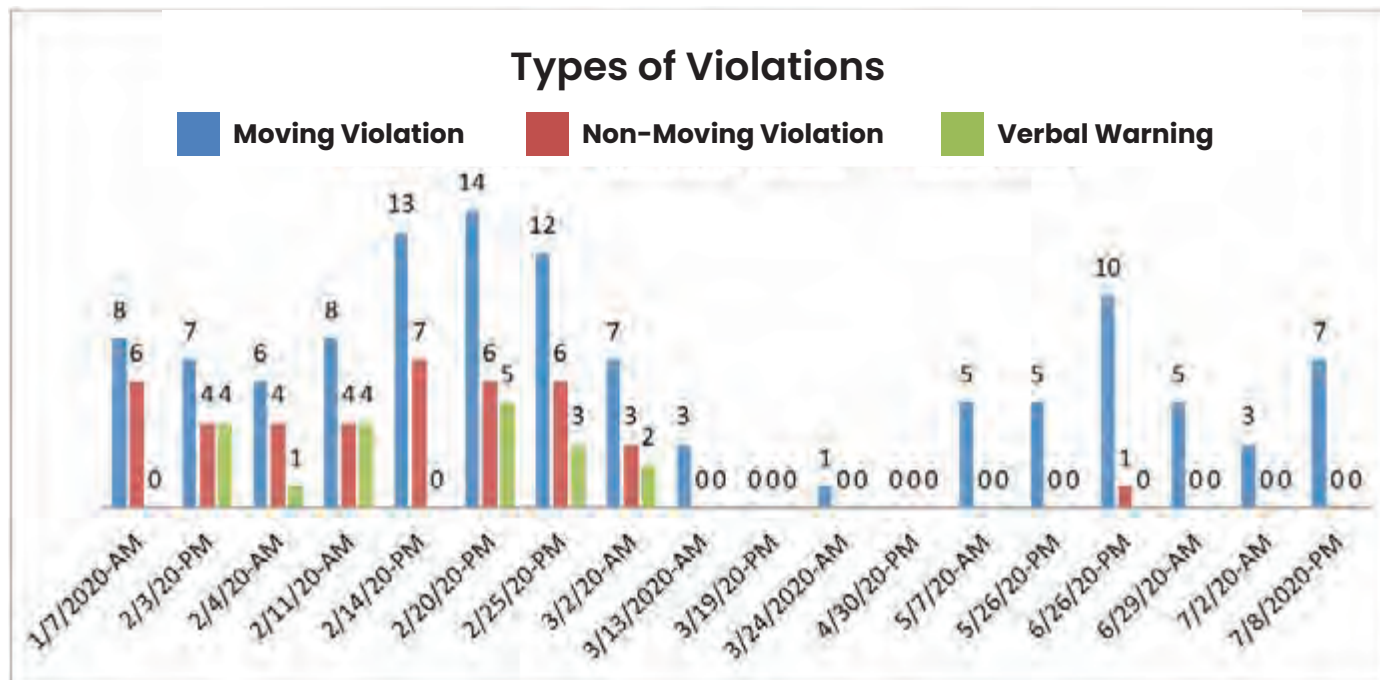
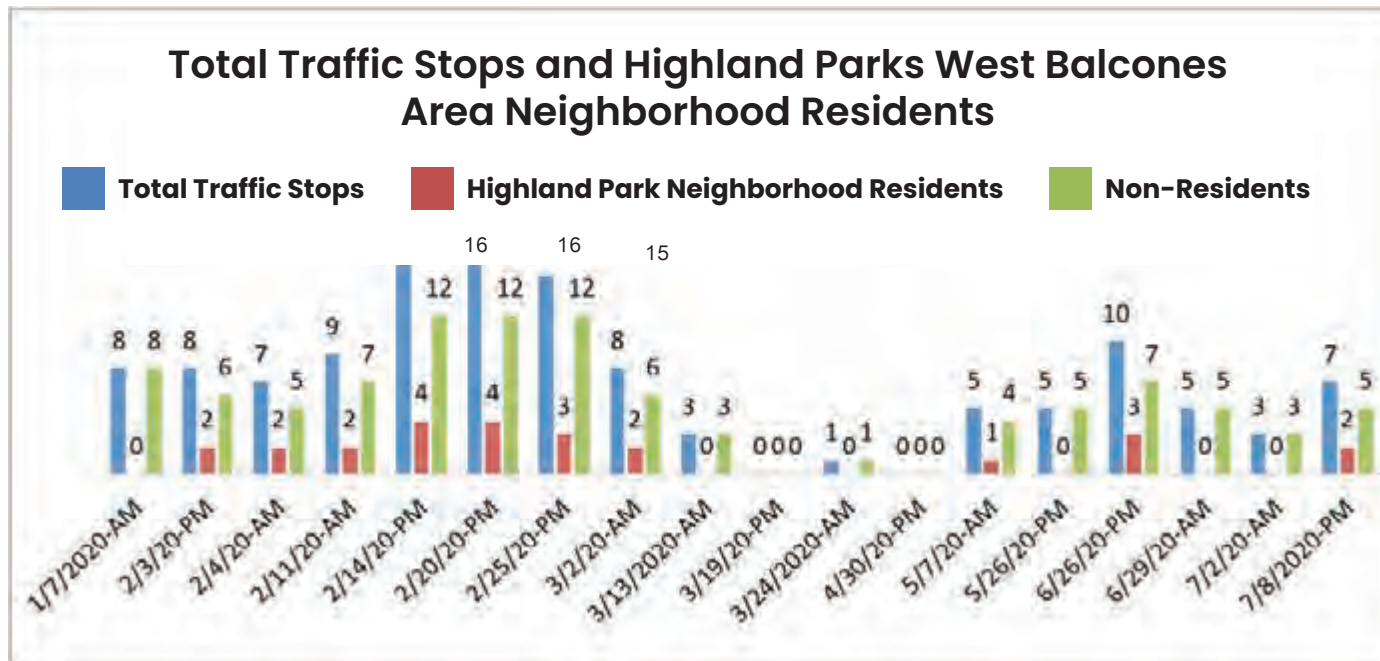
HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS JANUARY 7 – JULY 10, 2020

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.

80% OF TRAFFIC STOPS DO NOT LIVE IN THE HPWBANA AREA



Continued on Page 9

HIGHLAND PARK WEST and BALCONES PARK Area Neighborhoods Real Estate Statistics

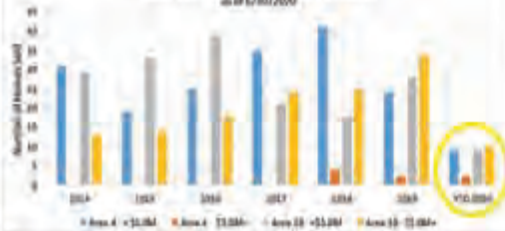
Analyses and Graphs by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

HIGHLAND PARK WEST, BALCONES PARK AND AREA NEIGHBORHOODS
Homes Listed and Homes Sold

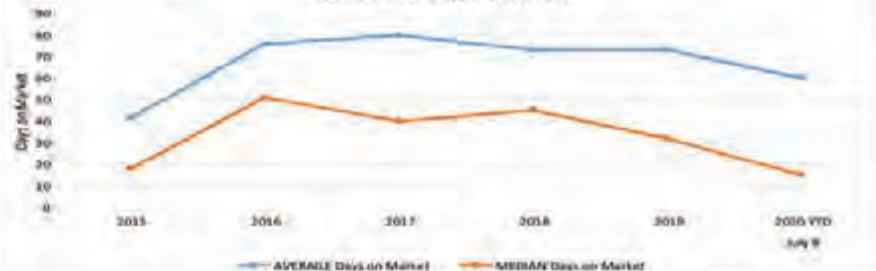


Highland Park West, Balcones Park and Area
Neighborhoods

Home Sale Prices Above/Below
as of 6/30/2020



Highland Park West, Balcones Park and Area Neighborhoods
Cumulative Days on Market



HPWBAN List and Sales Prices



HPWBAN List and Sales Prices
per Square Foot



Bucking the National Trends

It is not unusual at for Austin's residential real estate market to behave very differently than the rest of the state and country.

That trend continues as our local neighborhood's number of sales and listings have slightly exceeded those in June of the previous two years. While List Prices are down, the Average Sale Price per Square Foot has dipped slightly, the Median Sale Price per Square Feet has increased.

Number of days on the market continues a downward trend.

In most parts of the US, home sales of homes priced at and above \$1.0M+ have slowed, we find that segment continues to be strong in our neighborhood.

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 Wolfe Spratlin of Rebecca Realty, LLC.

Continued from Page 7

- 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 Til 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 / 3200 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
- 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
- THU 5/7 Highland Park Patrol 6:35am to 9am (Covid.19)/3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X2 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X0
- Friday 5/8/20 City of Austin Stay Home - Work Safe Order Extended to May 30 and Modified
- Friday 5/29/20 City of Austin Stay Home - Work Safe Order Extended to June 15 and Modified
- TUE 5/26 Highland Park Patrol 2pm to 6pm / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X1 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X1 / 3200 Hancock -Speeding X2 / Balcones at Mount Bonnell -Ran Stop Sign X1 / Mount Bonnell park / talked with APD unit -no problems around parking area / checked house under const on Big Bend -owner is having problems with Juv's -talked with Neighbor / I talked with a home owner about a car running the stop sign on Balcones at Madrona and then ran over a cat. This occurred a few days ago. / didn't see the homeless camp under the Hancock bridge.
- 6/15/20- 6/26/20 City of Austin Updated and Modified Mayoral Orders Extended to August 15.
- FRI 6/26 Highland Park Patrol 2pm to 6pm / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X2 / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / Edgemont -Speeding X0 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X2 / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X3
- MON 6/29 Highland Park Patrol 7am to 9am / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X2 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X0 / Ridge Oak Park - checked ok
- THU 7/2 Highland Park Patrol 7am to 9am / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X2 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X0 / Balcones at Madrona -Stop Sign X0 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X1 / Mnt Bonnell Park - checked ok / Mnt Bonnell -Speeding X0 / Ridge Oak park -few people out walking thru the park
- WED 7/8 Highland Park neighborhood patrol 2pm to 6pm / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X2 / Balcones at Madrona -Stop sign X0 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X2 / Ridge Oak Park - Checked ok / Mount Bonnell rd -Roving radar X0 / Mount Bonnell Park -checked ok / Roving thru streets east of Mopac



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Lettuce Recycle! *by Dena Houston*

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS - PART 3

This is the last part of a three-part series on questions from our readers. Recycling can be very confusing; I encourage you to send me your questions at recycling@hpwbana.org. I will answer your questions personally.

ARE PLASTIC ROLL-ON DEODORANT CONTAINERS RECYCLABLE? Only completely empty plastic roll-on deodorant containers with the recycling symbol on the bottom are recyclable. Aerosol containers (any kind, including deodorant) are recyclable in the blue cart ONLY if they are completely empty. Partially full aerosol cans are a fire hazard at the recycling processing facility. They must go into the trash can or be taken to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMPOSTABLE AND BIODEGRADABLE? Compostable material is always biodegradable, but biodegradable material is not always compostable. Compostable materials will break down in a compost pile and become dirt or humus. Biodegradable products are designed to break down into smaller pieces, but they never become dirt or humus. For example, a biodegradable plastic bag degrades into small pieces of plastic, while a compostable plastic bag becomes dirt. Therefore, it is important that you place only compostable materials and bags into the green curbside compost collection bin.

MY PIZZA BOXES LOOK CLEAN. CAN I THROW THEM INTO MY BLUE RECYCLING BIN? No. Even if the box looks clean, it has absorbed grease that is not visible. This grease makes the cardboard unable to be processed properly for recycling. All pizza boxes can go into

the green curbside compost collection bin or the trash can.

MY NEWSPAPER GOT WET BUT NOW IT IS DRY. CAN I PUT IT INTO MY BLUE RECYCLING BIN? No. When any paper gets wet, the paper fibers shrink, making the paper less valuable. Also, wet paper is at risk for contamination from whatever contaminated it. Wet paper can go into your green curbside compost bin or into the trash can.

CAN I RECYCLE PLASTIC LIDS IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE RECYCLING TRIANGLE ON THEM? No. The triangle marked on plastics tells what the plastic is made of. This helps sort the plastics properly at the MRF (manufacturing recycling facility). If plastic is not labeled, the MRF won't know how to process it. These types of plastics need to go into the trash can.

ARE PHOTOGRAPHS RECYCLABLE IN THE BLUE BINS? Old photos are not recyclable because of the chemicals used in the photographic process. Newer digital photos are recyclable, much like magazines. To tell the difference, tear the photo. If it tears in layers, rather than cleanly ripping apart, you have an "old school" photo and need to put it into your trash can.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website:
<http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>

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

If you don't know how to recycle something, put it into your trash can so that it doesn't contaminate the recycling stream.



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Now is the time to support the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association by renewing your membership for 2020! We need your support to continue neighborhood events, projects, and advocacy.

2020 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> 2020 Family Membership (\$25) <input type="checkbox"/> 2020 Single Member Household Membership (\$20)	Additional Donation amount: \$ _____
Name: _____ Name of second adult: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____	Applied to: <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Preservation <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation & Safety (Constable Patrol) <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification <input type="checkbox"/> Events <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list)

IT'S EASY! PICK YOUR WAY TO PAY.

1. **MAIL IT IN.** Send in the above Membership Form with a check made payable to:

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2. **VENMO!** How to find us? Search for: **HPWBANA Treasurer @HPWBANA**

Please include all the info from the form above in the "what's it for?" field.

Important! If you include an additional donation amount, please specify the **amount** and **where** you would like it applied to (categories in the membership form above).

3. **Paypal.** Go to the following link: www.hpwbana.org/join

Thank you,

Board of Directors - Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association (HPWBANA)



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Trey is currently working with another Realtor. This is not intended to solicit any business.