

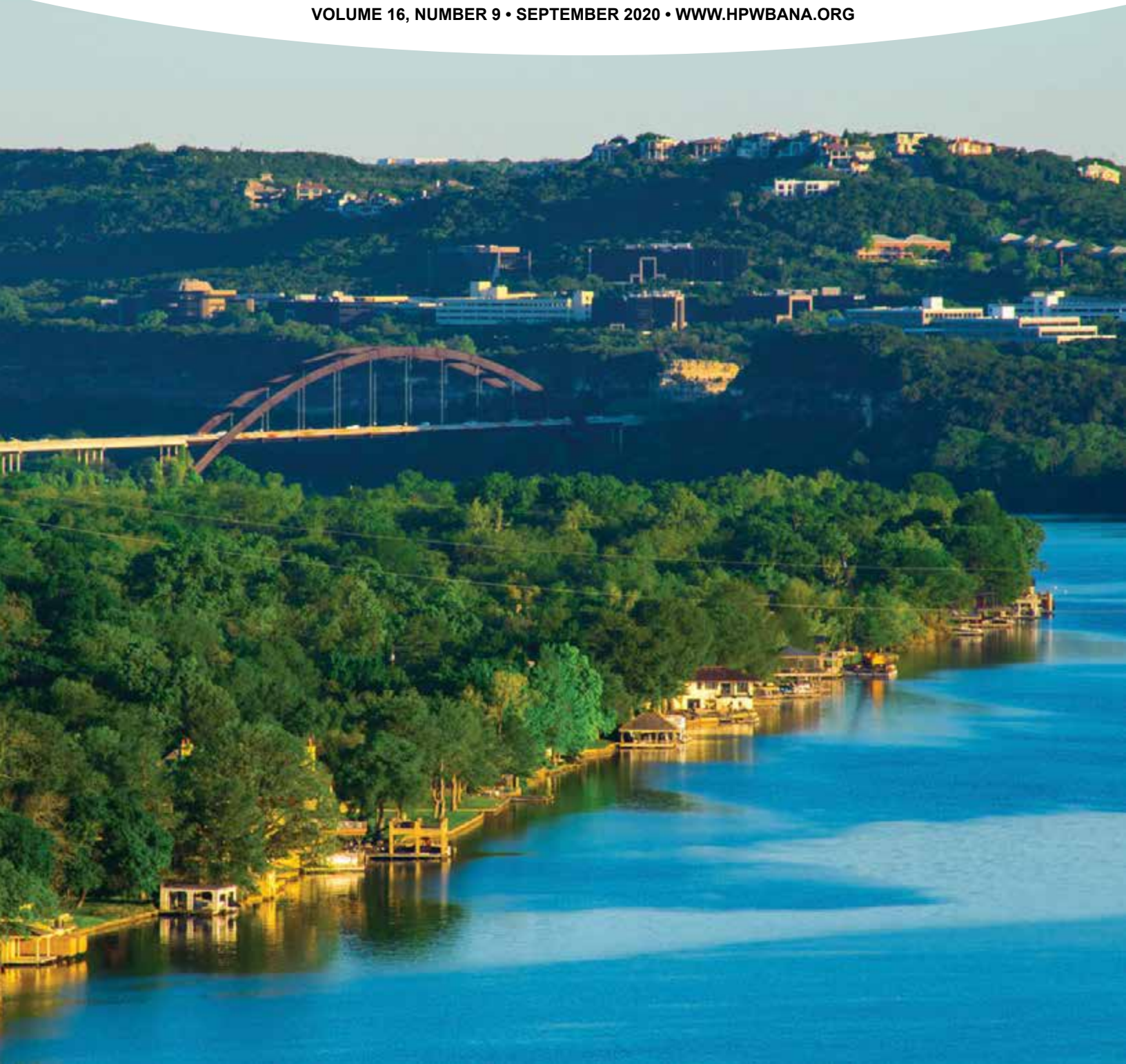
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Inside: Monthly HPWBANA Constable Report**



**HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

# THE HPWBANA NEWS

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 9 • SEPTEMBER 2020 • [WWW.HPWBANA.ORG](http://WWW.HPWBANA.ORG)





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Social Services (during work hours) ..... 211

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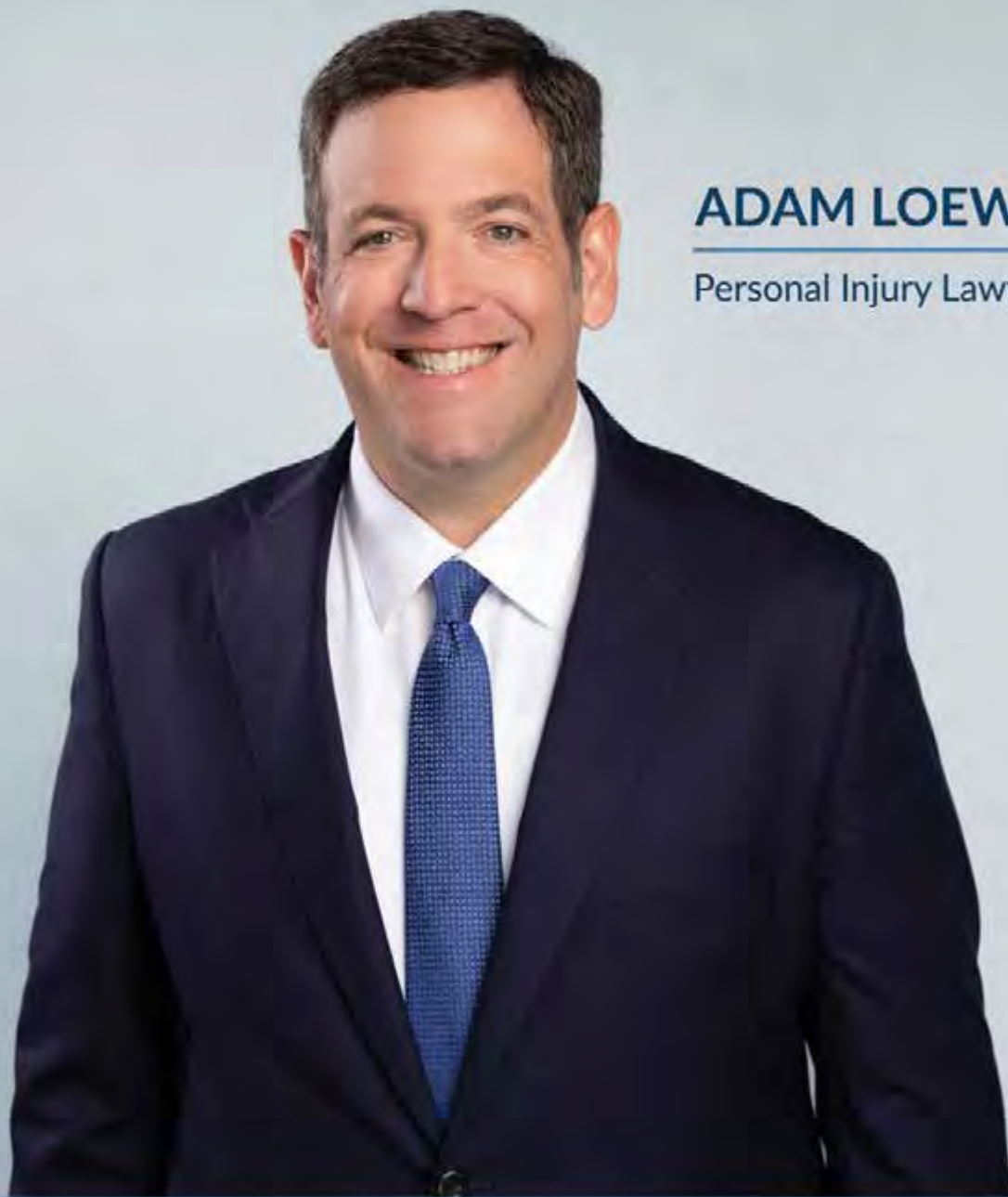
The HPWBANA Board meets on the first Monday of each month except December. Please go to [HPWBANA.org](http://HPWBANA.org) for our current meeting location or contact [president@hpwbana.org](mailto:president@hpwbana.org).

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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# Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

## Board Meeting

### Monday, June 22, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.

### Via Zoom; Austin, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Sybesma

**In attendance:** Bill Hyland, Dawn Lewis, Jason Lindenschmidt, Bill McMillin, Piet Sybesma, George Zwicker

Not present: Rebecca Spratlin

#### **Neighbor Communications:**

Neighbor Mike Levy discussed the constable report and the value that the constable patrols brought to our neighborhood.

#### **New Business**

**Confirming email votes:** The board discussed and reaffirmed that a previously passed resolution would still apply that due to the inability to meet in person, that voting by email may become more common as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Dawn Lewis made the motion to confirm the e-mail votes and George Zwicker seconded. The motion passed 5-0 (Spratlin not present and Lindenschmidt joining the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)

**Increase in budget for membership costs:** There was a discussion and then a decision to authorize an amendment to the 2020 HPWBANA budget for Membership for an increase of \$420 for the purchase and printing of envelopes for the membership drive. Neighbor Mike Levy encouraged the board to include remittance envelopes as it was an effective tool in increasing response rates. Board member McMillin offered the amendment and it was seconded by Board Member Zwicker. It passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the median on West Highland Terrace that has been landscaped and beautified by the neighbors there, led by Gabe Hensley. An amendment to authorize the expenditure of \$300 for mulch and crushed granite to provide to Mr. Hensley was offered by board member Lewis and seconded by board member McMillin. The amendment passed unanimously.

**July 4th Parade:** The board agreed to cancel the HPWBANA July 4th Parade due to concerns related to the COVID19 pandemic.

**Speed Limits:** The City of Austin is in the process of reducing speed limits in neighborhoods and President Sybesma had sent a letter to the City on behalf of HPWBANA asking that our neighborhood be included in the decision. The City has agreed to reduce the speed limit and subsequently the signage from 30 to 25 miles per hour.

**Treasurer Reports:** Treasurer George Zwicker presented two reports to the board, one dated April 4th and the other May 28th. Both of these reports had been approved by the board via email. The April 4th report indicated there was a balance of \$11,616.62, while the May 28th Treasurers report reflected a bank balance of \$10,936.32, both motions were presented by President Sybesma, seconded by Board Member Zwicker and approved unanimously. It is expected that there will be more income generated with the membership drive.

**Communications/Newsletter:** Mike Levy indicated that the newsletter process was going well. There is still a need for articles, and the constable coverage has helped increase financial support.

**Membership:** Vice President Lindenschmidt said the membership letter had been completed and should be sent out shortly. There was board discussion about how to improve and build membership and make joining more user friendly.

**Events:** A decision about whether to hold Movie in the Park in the fall will be decided at a later date.

**Community Liaison:** President Sybesma reported that Camp Mabry had no updates at this time.

#### **Old Business**

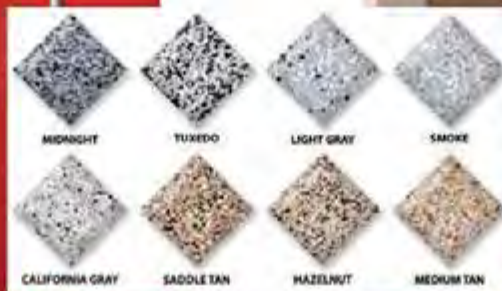
**Proposed School Zone for Hancock Drive and Balcones Drive:** Board Member Zwicker reported that he has continued to work with the City of Austin to get an official school crosswalk at the intersection of Valley Oak and Hancock Drive and expansion of the School Zone to include Hancock Drive. There is still not a commitment from the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Lewis, Secretary



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## Constable Patrol

HPWBANA Neighbors:

Following are the reports from the constable for his patrol activities through August 7, 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, five moving violations were for speeds between 1 and 9 miles per hour over the posted speed limit and 47 moving violations were for speeds between 10 and 15 miles per hour over the posted speed limit. The constable is reporting that he is seeing more neighbors walking while he is on patrol.

Please note that 80% (119 out of 148) 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.

Neighbor donations provided funding for 122 hours (74%) of the 164 paid patrol hours in 2019. 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 <http://hpwbana.org/get-involved/join-hpwbana>, include a donation with your annual dues payment, or contact me at [president@hpwbana.org](mailto: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)

And thanks for your continued support.

Be Safe!

Pieter Sybesma, President

Board of Directors

Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association

[president@hpwbana.org](mailto:president@hpwbana.org)



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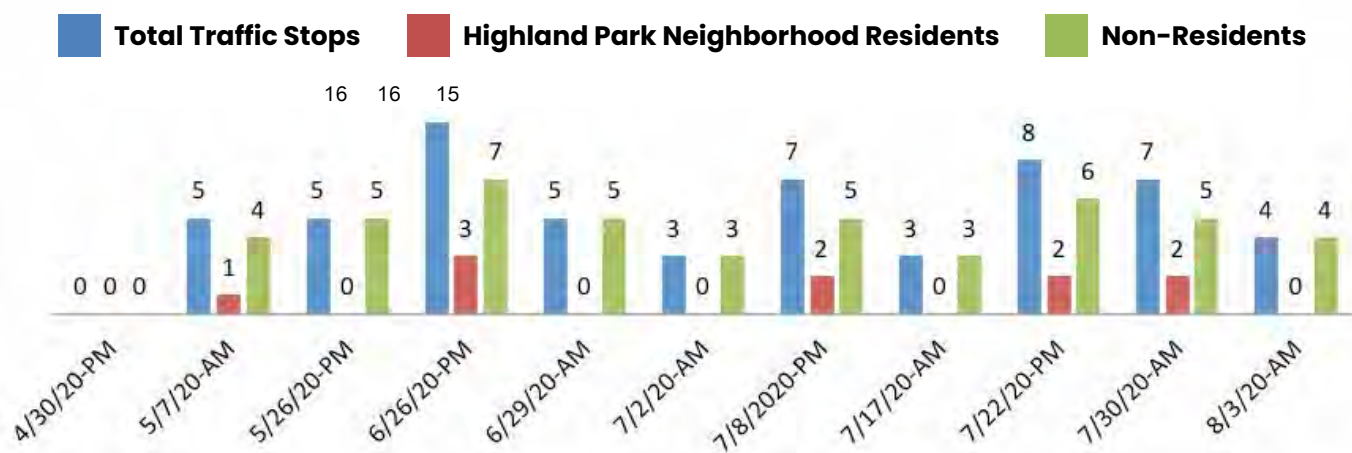
# HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD 2020 SUPPLEMENTAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS APRIL 1 – AUGUST 7, 2020

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

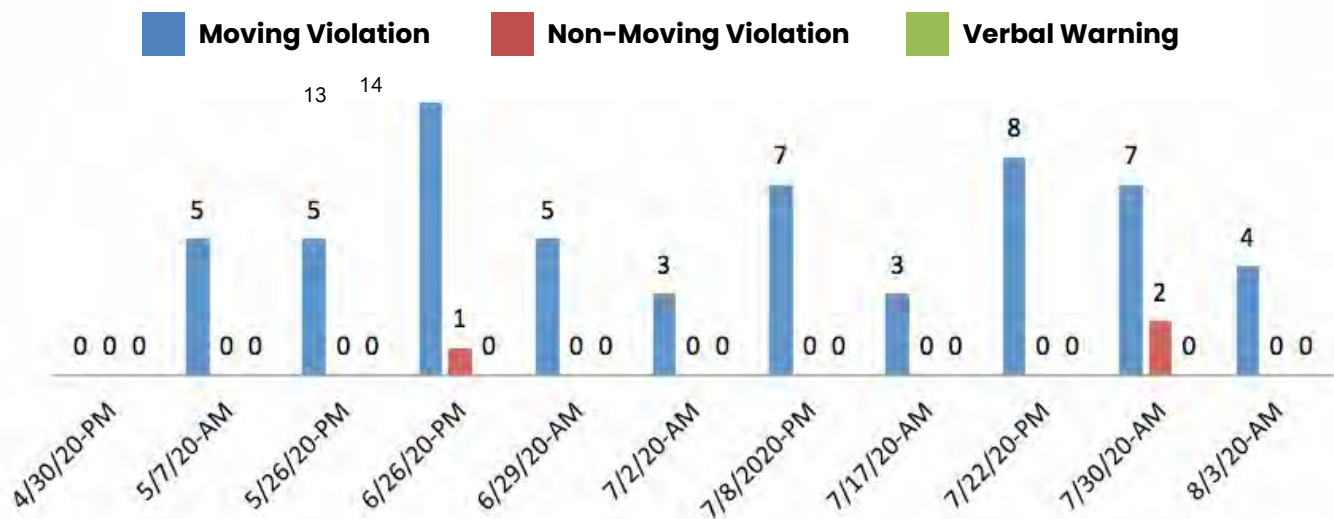
Traffic Enforcement Areas: Balcones, Perry, and Hancock and smaller side streets or School Zone and both crosswalks, and Patrol throughout the neighborhood. Moving Violations—Running a stop sign, speeding, failing to yield right of way, or unsafe lane change.

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

### Total Traffic Stops and Highland Parks West Balcones Area Neighborhood Residents



### Types of Violations



Continued on Page 8

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

*Continued from Page 7*

- THU 4/30 Highland Park Patrol 3pm to 7pm (Covid.19)  
Ridge Oak park -checked ok / 4000 blk Mnt. Bonnell rd. closed/ Homeless has set up camp under Hancock Bridge at the end of Westfield Dr. / Male waving large yellow flag with HAPPY FACE on Hancock bridge to the South bound vehicles on Mopac / worked roving patrol in all parts of Highland Park / lots of people out walking or in there yards
- 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 X 0
- 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.
- 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
- FRI 7/17 Highland Park neighborhood patrol 7am tp 9am / Roving radar patrol on Balcones Dr. between Mount Bonnell Dr and Perry. -Speeding X0 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X2 / Ridge Oak Park -ck ok/ 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X1 / Roving radar on Hancock -Speeding X0 / Lots of people out walking, running, riding bikes or walking their dogs
- WED 7/22 Highland Park neighborhood patrol 1:45pm tp 6:00pm / W.Frances and Perry Ln area -Road Const with flaggers directing traffic / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X2 / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X4 / Roving radar on Balcones 4500 blk -Speeding X0 / 3300 blk Perry LN -Speeding X2 / Balcones at Madrona -Stop Sign X0 / Ridge Oak Park -Ck Ok / Mount Bonnell - Roving radar patrol and in front of the park area -Speeding X0
- THU 7/30 HP neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9am / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X3 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X3 / 4900 blk Fairview -Drove wrong way on one way X1 / Roving radar patrol on Balcones - Speeding X0 / Ridge Oak Park -checked ok / Mount Bonnell -Roving radar patrol -Speeding X0 / Park checked ok / roving patrol thru area east of Mopac / lots of people out walking, jogging and riding bikes
- MON 8/3 HP neighborhood patrol 6:45am to 9:00am / roving radar on Balcones, Edgemont, mount Bonnell and Crestway -Speeding X0 / 3900 blk Balcones -Speeding X0 / 3300 blk Perry -Speeding X2 / 3200 blk Hancock -Speeding X2 / Balcones at Madrona -Ran Stop Sign X0





## Hurricane Preparedness Month

HPWBANA Neighbors:

September is National Preparedness Month. Do you have a plan for when a disaster strikes?

We are blessed by nature in our beautiful HPWBANA neighborhood. But we also have several natural and weather related features that can affect us—wildfire, heavy rains and flooding, hail, tornadoes or high winds, power outages, and even ice storms. While we like to think we are prepared, emergency planners advise that we should prepare our family to be self-sufficient for up to three days before significant help arrives. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's website <https://www.ready.gov/september> and the Centers for Disease Control website <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/index.html> feature proven hints for preparing our families for emergencies. Following is a suggested family supply list from [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov):

### Emergency Supplies:

Water, food, and clean air are important things to have if an emergency happens. Each family or individual's kit should be customized to meet specific needs, such as medications and infant formula. It should also be customized to include important family documents.

### Recommended Supplies to Include in a Basic Kit:

- Water (one gallon per person, per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

### Clothing and Bedding:

If you live in a cold weather climate, you must think about warmth. It is possible that the power will be out, and you will not have heat. Rethink your clothing and bedding supplies to account for growing children and other family changes. One complete change of warm clothing and shoes per person, including:

- A jacket or coat
- Long pants
- A long sleeve shirt
- Sturdy shoes
- A hat and gloves
- A sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person

Below are some other items for your family to consider adding to its

supply kit. Some of these items, especially those marked with an \* can be dangerous, so please have an adult collect these supplies.

•Emergency reference materials such as a first aid book or a print out of the information on [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

- Rain gear
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils
- Cash or traveler's checks, change
- Paper towels
- Fire Extinguisher
- Tent
- Compass
- Matches in a waterproof container\*
- Signal flare\*
- Paper, pencil
- Personal hygiene items including feminine supplies
- Disinfectant\*
- Household chlorine bleach\*—You can use bleach as a disinfectant (diluted nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to treat water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe, or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Medicine dropper
- Important Family Documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container

Be Safe. Be Prepared.

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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### Residential Street Speed Limits to be Reduced to 25 mph

A reduction of speed limits to 25 mph on residential streets (non-arterial, or non-major, streets with some portion of adjacent front- or side-facing residential land use) was approved by the Austin City Council on June 11. Many neighborhoods, including the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association, have sought this speed reduction on their residential streets for many years.

New signage will need to be installed indicating the change in speed limit to 25 mph before the enforcement of the lower speed (from 30 mph) is implemented.

The Austin Transportation Department classified residential

streets based on the width of the street: Residential streets 36 feet or width or less will automatically have the reduced speed limit to 25 mph, while residential streets between 36 feet and 40 feet in width can have the speed limit reduced to 25 mph based on subsequent individual evaluation or by implementation of appropriate speed mitigation measures.

Based on the map on the Austin Transportation Department website showing the streets to be reduced to 25 mph and those that are not— <https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Compare/index.html?appid=510ea1343a0d46ceb316dd5a08133042>—the HPWBANA Board voted to seek the reduction of all residential streets within the boundaries of HPWBANA. HPWBANA requested that Perry Lane, Hancock Drive, Mount Bonnell Road, and Balcones Drive, from its intersection with Hancock Drive northerly to RM 2222, also have the speed limit reduced to 25 mph citing the many residences and driveways on these streets and the fact that most of the streets do not have sidewalks. Several streets within HPWBANA are private streets according to ATD and are not subject to the city speed limits: e.g., Waters Edge Drive, Waterford Place, Oakwood Cove, and Los Colinas. To view the HPWBANA request and the ATD response to the request: <http://hpwbana.org/traffic-info>

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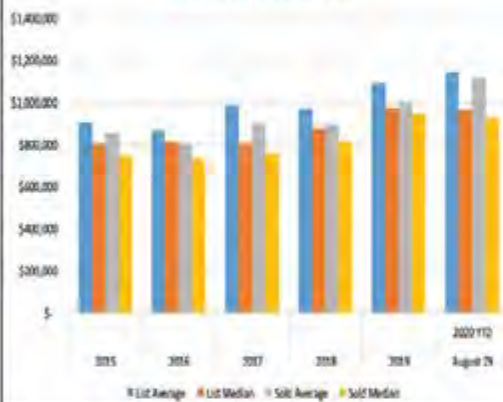
# HIGHLAND PARK WEST and BALCONES PARK Area Neighborhoods Real Estate Statistics

Analyses and Graphs by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

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



HPWBA List and Sales Prices



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



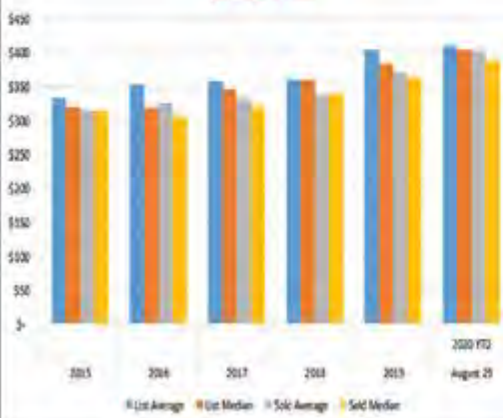
## Continued Sellers' Market and Buyer Searches

Despite the many odds, the residential real estate market in our neighborhood continues to be strong. As can be seen from the chart above, the number of listings for the past two months have exceeded the previous two June and July listings. The list and sale price per square foot has continued their upward climbs since 2016, while the overall list and sale prices have dipped a just a bit compared to last year, but are still above the levels in 2015-2018.

We have seen the "Days on Market" fluctuate over the past few years, which makes the dramatic drop YTD 2020 stand out. The Average Days on the Market is 46 and the Median Days on Market is 13 YTD 2020. In July the Average Days on Market was 28 days and the Median Days was just 11 days. There have been several other properties that have sold before even going on the market. In many cases there have been multiple offers.

The recent action of the Federal Reserve has reduced interest rates which are expected to keep mortgage rates low for the next few years. This is great news for buyers who will enjoy expanded buying power.

HPWBA List and Sales Prices  
per Square Foot



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.

## LETTUCE RECYCLE!

by Dena Houston

### THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA



Cateura is one of the poorest “slum” villages in Paraguay. It is located at the edge of Paraguay’s largest landfill into which three million pounds of trash are dumped daily.

This village suffers from severe poverty, lack of education among the young, high drug use, and a dangerously polluted water supply. When it rains in Cateura, the streets become a sea of trash.

Most of the people in the village make their living as “trash pickers,” earning five cents a pound for cardboard and ten cents a pound for plastic. In 2006, an environmental engineer named Favio Chavez went to Cateura to teach the trash pickers about recycling safety. He was also a musician and decided to teach music lessons to the children. He taught them outside, next to the landfill, in the heat and in the pouring rain. At first, he had two violins and three guitars for the 10 children who signed up. The kids had to share the instruments. They could not take them home to practice because the instruments were so valuable—more valuable than the houses the kids lived in—that they would surely be stolen.

Chavez asked one of the “pickers,” Cola Gomez, to help build some more instruments. Cola picked through the trash and found an old drum with a hole in it. He found X-ray film to cover the hole so the kids could play it. He made a violin for Ada Rios using a bent fork, metal sheets from a flattened paint can, and other recycled items. The story of Ada Rios is captured in a wonderful children’s book called *Ada’s Violin*.

Cola started experimenting with other materials to build instruments—water pipes became flutes, packing crates became guitars. He made a cello from an oil drum, a spoon, and the heel of a shoe.

Tito Romero put together trumpets, flutes, and trombones. He made a saxophone from a drainpipe, melted copper, spoon handles, cans, and bottle caps.

Soon, the orchestra performed concerts in Cateura and then in the capital of Asuncion. The audiences loved the orchestra and The Recycled Orchestra started to get invited to different countries. You can hear them perform at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTQQ0m8Ys8>.

Playing in the orchestra has changed the lives of many of the children in the village. Money from the concerts has helped the families build new and safer homes.

What started as a music class for 10 students has grown into a traveling orchestra and music school with 200 students and 25 instructors. Quoting Favio, “The world sends us garbage. We send back music.”

You can see a short documentary about the Recycled Orchestra (also called Landfill Harmonics at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYbORpgSmjg>).

References for this article:

- September 14, 2016, NPR’s All Things Considered – “From Trash to Triumph: The Recycled Orchestra”
- September 2019 Issue of Muse Magazine – “From Trash to Tunes”

## 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](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).



# Big World, Small World: An HPWBANA Story Too Unique Not to Share



Hello, this is Chi and Tat Whitley. We are identical Vietnamese twin brothers who were adopted from Russia.

Our parents, Charles Whitley and Nina Brodsky, adopted us on February 20, 1996, from Tula, Russia—an industrial city just south of Moscow. The orphanage we lived in for the first 22 months of our lives was quite deprived. Warm water did not exist and the caretakers used cloth rags as diapers. So, let's just say our future selves were pleasantly content when we left Russia.

At the time of our adoption, Charles and Nina lived in Santa Fe, NM. Our mother, who is a painter by trade, was the Assistant Comptroller of the National Center for Genome Resources. While our father had just completed his PhD dissertation in nuclear physics at Los Alamos. After nearly two years with us in Santa Fe, our parents decided to move to Austin, TX, to be closer to our father's family—who reside in Temple, TX. After a year of renting, Nina and Charles bought a house on Lucas Lane, a quiet cul-de-sac street. However, the house itself was all but quiet with our rambunctious selves running around.

Like many of your children, we attended Highland Park Elementary from K-5. We went on to attend Lamar Middle School and then became McCallum Knights. In a lot of ways, we had very similar experiences to other neighborhood kids. As adolescents, we used the Highland Park quarry as a playground, and then in high school and during semester breaks in college, a practice field (we played three college sports). We took gymnastics lessons at Crenshaw's and flew around on our bikes in the neighborhood. It was this community that shaped us and molded us into who we are today. We adamantly believe that family, friends, and the quality of those relationships are the most important things in life, and to nurture and retain those should be an integral part of each day.

Upon graduating from Rhodes College in 2016, with liberal art degrees in hand, we simultaneously went into education. Chi taught at Memphis Rise Academy, a 6-12 charter school, while Tat moved back to Austin to teach health and coach football at Reagan (now Northeast) High School under Keith Carey, his former Defensive Coordinator at McCallum. In a lot of ways, the diversity we experienced at Lamar and McCallum trajected our careers into education. By seeing the remnants of No Child Left Behind, we understood the detriments many of our peers faced. Building communities seemed to be our strength and calling.

However, after one grueling year of teaching for Chi and two for Tat, we both decided to go into marketing to pair our liberal arts degrees with more data analytics and technology. Like many young professionals, we didn't want to be left behind in a digital world and Silicon Hills. This spring, Tat earned an MS in Marketing from McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin. While Chi worked his way through several internships to gain experience.

Currently, both of us are interning for Pinwheel.com—an Austin start-up company that created a smartphone for kids with a fully customizable operating system. Tat serves as the Growth Analyst for Pinwheel, while Chi is the Content Marketer. For us, we wanted to stay connected to education and continue to enrich children's lives. If there was one thing that we learned from the HPWBANA neighborhood, it's that our best moments revolved around interpersonal relationships and sports.

Similar to Austin, we have changed and grown dramatically. However, one thing that has remained constant is the Austin hill country and community continued pull on our hearts. We're immeasurably appreciative for our parents adopting us, and also grateful to be able to continue calling HPWBANA our home.

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