



The Balcones Woods Newsletter

Holiday Shop without leaving the neighborhood!



2003

November 15, 2003

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

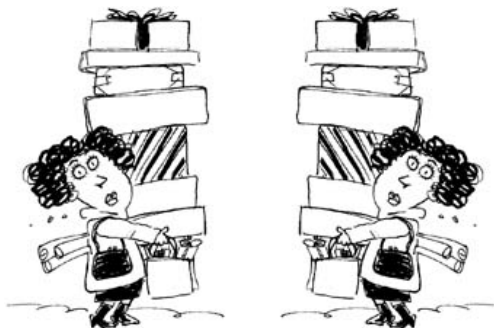
in the Balcones Woods Commons Area

More than 20 vendors! Featuring:

original jewelry, Creative Memories, beaded stemware, hand tinted photos, Pampered Chef, wooden shelves, original purses, Mary Kay cosmetics, fun kids wear, gift baskets, plants, hair bows, dance wear, charm bracelets, bath products, candles, tooth fairy pillows, Southern Living at Home, *and more!*

Come shop and bring a friend!

For more information, call Dana Stebler 231-0314



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Coming up...

- 11/11—BW Board Mtg at 7:30, Seton NW 3rd floor Conference Room A
- 11/15—BW Marketplace 10am to 3pm at the Commons

~Look for your Neighborhood Election Ballot and news on the annual meeting in December's newsletter.
~There is no operating committee meeting scheduled for November.

Quarries Update by Tom Terry

The Hyde Park Baptist Church-Five Neighborhoods Coordinating Committee met October 6, 2003. Highlights of the meeting follow. The next meeting will be January 12, 2004.

Construction Update:

Infrastructure: Work on drives, utilities, parking lots, lights etc. is essentially complete.

Christian Life Center: This project is as yet not approved by the congregation, however, approval is expected. There is no start date scheduled at this time, but the earliest would be February, 2004.

Athletic Fields: Construction will be complete by 10/31/03. The lights will be tested prior to that time.

Use of Quarries: The Quarries area is not accessible to uninvited guests during construction. For additional information see www.hpbc.org/rec/.

Other Issues: Vandalism and theft in the Quarries area. There have been incidents of theft and destruction of property in the Quarries. This activity could certainly spill over into our neighborhoods, so, it is in every ones' best interest to keep our eyes open and report any suspicious activity. Please report criminal activity to 911. Any other observations can be reported to Tom Terry and I will forward them to HPBC.

Major Events: HPBC High School will play their first football game in the Quarries Friday October 31. This will be their homecoming and the game is against the Texas School for the Deaf. The activity will run from about 5:30 until about 10:30 PM. Only the MoPac entrance is to be used. There will be a large drum which is used by TSD to communicate with their deaf players and fans. Neighborhood residents are invited to attend. There are no other special activities scheduled at this time.

Information Sources: There are several good sources of information regarding the Quarries including the HPBC web site www.hpbc.org and our own Balcones Woods site www.balconeswoods.org. The Mesa Park site has an extensive collection of documents and will soon contain minutes of the coordination committee meetings www.main.org/mpna.

Contacts: Please use your neighborhood committee contacts for information about the Quarries or input regarding complaints. The Balcones Woods contact is listed below. If you believe your issues are not being addressed, please contact a Balcones Woods board member.

Tom Terry, tomkerry@hotmail.com (daytime phone 459-6820)

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Blue Santa Sighting!

Look for the Blue Santa Donation Bin at the Neighborhood Marketplace on Saturday, November 15th. Bring a gently used or new toy to donate to the local police department's annual toy drive. Batteries are also needed. Thanks for your support! Questions? - Call Linda Shell at 343-0366.





Attention Booklovers

The Balcones Woods Book Club is beginning a fourth year! More than 35 bestsellers, Pulitzer winners and novels of every genre have been (figuratively) ripped apart by the bibliophiles of this neighborhood.

Now is the time to update our roster. If you are currently getting the monthly messages, want to add others (friends from outside the 'hood included), or just want to know what we're reading to create your own list..... **let us know if you want to receive all future announcements.**

Please send your current e-mail address to:

Brenda Mendiola
bmendiola@austin.rr.com 338-4519

or

Margaret Nadworny
rwk70@email.mot.com 338-1369



Kudos to Nikki Keller for single handedly taking on the Balcones Woods Fall Garage Sale – we thank you bunches! Kudos also out to our “Landscaping Com-

mittee*” who has arranged the beautification at the end of BW Drive and Calle Verde – it looks great! * Deanna Schexnayder, Rick L’Amie, Ed Weiss, and Kimberly Blake.

<<<<Last minute quarries news>>>>

Hyde Park Baptist Church’s football team is in the playoffs and they will be hosting another game at the Quarries on Saturday Nov. 15th. They have not been notified of their opponent so they have not been able to contact them and schedule the game time. Their first preference is early afternoon, but the time will not be decided until later this week or early next week after they get together with their opponent. Check out the website for more information as it becomes available.



BW Holiday Gift Baskets



Happy Holidays?!
(Okay, not ready to hear that?)


Well it is time to start organizing our annual gift baskets to show our appreciation to those in the Community that support us all year long.

Every year we collect snacks and baked goods to assemble baskets to be delivered to the local fire station, police station, library and emergency room in mid-December. We need a coordinator for each delivery and donations to fill the baskets.

Please contact Linda Shell at lshell@austin.rr.com or 343-0366 to help.


They both work at the **same company.**
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~IN THE GARDEN~ NOVEMBER

- Prepare beds for roses it be planted in December and January. Order those special rose varieties now for late delivery.
- Force spring flowering bulbs for indoor flowering.
- Finish planting all spring flowering bulbs except tulips.
- Clean annual and perennial beds. Rework annual beds and prepare for spring or fall planting.
- Continue to practice good garden sanitation. Keep leaves raked up and place on compost pile. Wet thoroughly as you build up the compost pile to hasten decomposition. Turn contents with shovel or spading fork periodically.
- Annual rye grass will make a good ground cover for a new lawn to hold top soil in place and prevent tracking soil into the house. Sow seed at rate 8-10 pounds/1000 square feet.
- Large, almost mature, tomatoes can be picked just ahead of the first frost.
- Fertilize shade trees by deep root placement in holes.
- Harvest fall vegetables

This is taken from a publication prepared by Travis County Extension Service.

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Covenants & Restrictions November Reminder

A motor home, RV, boat, trailer or similar item may not be parked/stored in your drive or yard. Cleaning & servicing any of the above items is allowed in your drive for no more than 72 hours once every 30 days. Boats, RV's, etc. stored in backyards must be behind privacy fences out of plain sight.

For more information on our deeds & covenants, visit the website and click "important".

Thanks for keeping
Balcones Woods beautiful!

APD Chief's Forum, October 27, 2003 (...excerpts from the Notes)

- KEYE and KVUE both had a reporter and cameraman at the Forum. This is unusual.

- Members who were rotating off the Forum were recognized and had their photograph taken with the Police Chief. This means that new openings will exist in most area commands. So, please encourage anyone interested in serving on the Chief's Forum to attend their next Commander's Forum.

- Attempted abduction of 2 women in downtown Austin was discussed. This has been well covered by the news. It was apparently a stranger on stranger abduction. The fact that the suspects had firearms with them will allow additional federal charges to be filed. This should add significant time to the sentences.

- Focus areas for 2003 were reviewed

- There was some success with domestic violence. APD proactively re-visited homes of domestic violence that had restraining orders to make sure that those restraining orders were being followed. This has helped reduce the cases of Domestic Violence.

- Gun Crimes - Holding people responsible for their guns. There has been success in working with federal and state agencies to add charges when guns are involved in committing crimes.

- Truancy - had hopes of assisting AISD. Progress has been made in the Southwest Area Command. Making sure that parents are aware of truancy issues. This area still needs work.

- Commercial Truck traffic. One of four trucks stopped is ordered off the road until they have repairs. So, this is a substantial problem and a large number of trucks are being caught.

- DWI - some progress, although last four traffic fatalities may have involved alcohol.

- Mental Health Unit - APD will be adding a Detective and Officer to the mental health unit. Also the Travis county and APD will be combining their Mental Health Units to better serve the community.

- Abandoned vehicles - continues to be a problem. Some changes in how these are handled are being implemented.

- 2004 Focus Areas were discussed. There are six focus areas for 2004.

1. Reduce robberies against persons by adopting strategies that reflect the victims and crime scenes. 50% of robberies are committed against Hispanics, many of them new immigrants. These crimes are hard to prosecute because many times the victims leave the area to pursue job opportunities. Two Detectives will track victims and stay in touch, so they can be brought back to testify. One problem with identifying those guilty of the crime of robbery is that the victims are often drunk to the point of not being able to give a description of the perpetrators. APD will look into bartenders serving alcohol in excess of the law. This unit will also work the slaver cases. These are cases where victims are enslaved and often forced in the illegal activities.

2. Reduce burglary of vehicles in areas with high density (i.e.



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apartment complexes and mall parking lots) and recreation activities (i.e. greenbelts and sports complexes). Public education - don't leave your purse or other values in the car or at least not visibly in the car. Also, APD would like to see burglary of vehicle changed to a more serious offense. Currently, it is a misdemeanor.

3. Reduce traffic congestion. Plan to work on communicating back to the traffic engineers about lights that are out of phase. Also, APD is looking into working with towing companies for quicker response times.

4. Better utilize external resources to assist in fighting crime (aka code enforcement as a means to combat root causes). Abandoned houses and uncared for lots can attract crime. APD plans to use code enforcement to clean up some areas. The North Central Area command has recently done a project that will be used as a pilot for other areas of the city.

5. Better coordination of large scale operations through timely, thorough notification; trust in the delegation of duties; and more time spent on problem-solving. Open Air Drug markets & prostitution tend to spawn other criminal activities. A special task force is working on this. This task force targets these problems around the city and works on one then moves to the next area. Also, gang activity has been on the increase. Some of this is because of gang members recently released from prison.

Explore possible redundancies in functions found in centralized and decentralized Units. The Commanders will be working on this. This one is mostly an APD internal procedure issue.

- In North Central Area Command on November 8, there will be a major cleanup of Brownie Lane. Residents will be doing much of the work. Volunteers are welcome.

- The two new area commands are up and active. North Central and I believe South Central.

- The Chief would like for Patrol Officers to be free of calls 50% of the time. Thirty to Forty percent of un-obligated time leaves an officer just 5-15 minutes chunks to working on longer term problems.

- Indictment of Officer Glasgow

Basically, the Chief said no comment. Because of the indictment, there is now an Internal Affairs Investigation also going on. This is a

(Continued on page 6)

normal part of the "due" process. Chief Knee cannot comment on an ongoing investigation. Below are the links to the statements that have been sent the Chief's Forum mailing list in the past, for those that want to review that information.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/APDChiefsForum/message/93>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/APDChiefsForum/message/155>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/APDChiefsForum/message/156>

The Chief explained that it is standard procedure when someone is shot by a police officer for Homicide to conduct an investigation. Then once that is complete it goes to the DA for presentation to the Grand Jury. Also, internal affairs begins its investigation once the Grand Jury is completed.

- Chief has confidence that the Indictment of Officer Glasgow is not interfering with the job that of APD officers do. He pointed out the recent Murder of a Woman and how multiple units worked together to identify the likely suspect.

Also, he mentioned the foiled attempted kidnapping of two women in downtown Austin.

- In response to a question concerning the status of citizenship of suspects that are arrested. The Chief said that immigration is often at the jail each morning to see who has been arrested the previous night. Also, APD checks for parole violations for those they arrest.

- Blue Santa is under way. They can use volunteers. Also, this year they will be adding 300 deliveries to the Elderly.

- A Forum member asked for the Chief's reaction to the recent accreditation hearings. Chief's Reaction " ... proud people felt free to voice opinion" The Chief believes that the comments made by those at the accreditation hearing show that people care about how APD does its job, and that this is very positive even if some of the comments were not.

- Joint command center did not go live in October. There are some technical difficulties being ironed out.

- There appears to be much concern about Truancy. One reason that APD is involved in Truancy is because a large percentage of those who are truant commit burglaries during that time. Also, those who are truant may not be getting a good education, which may lead them into a life of crime later in life. It was mentioned that over half of those in prison cannot read or write.

- A forum member expressed concerns about the quality of life in the Central East Area command. Issue include drugs, prostitution and code violations.

- Traffic Collisions without injury do not get an accident report if each party has documentation of Driver's License and insurance. This turns out to be a problem if one of the parties insurance is, in fact, expired.

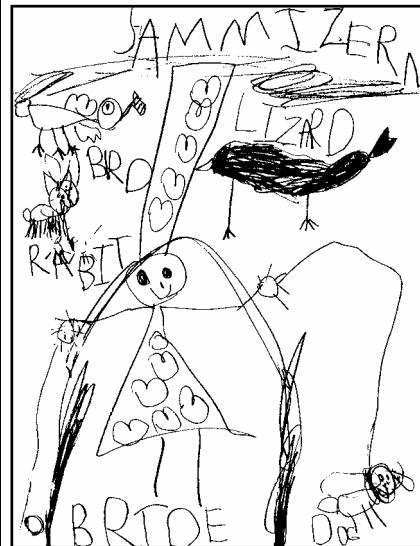
Well, that concludes my notes. The meeting lasted 2 hours and 5 minutes. — Meg Grice

Please contact Tom Terry with any questions at tomkterry@hotmail.com (daytime phone 459-6820)

BW Kids' Corner



Max looks concerned... Is he wondering if Kacy knows that livestock harboring is against Article V, Section 15 of the covenants & restrictions of the neighborhood? Or is he just keeping his eye on the toothy goat over there? Hmm.....



← Sammi has drawn a few of her favorite animals and still managed to throw a bride in — go figure!

Thanks, kids!
Send us more!

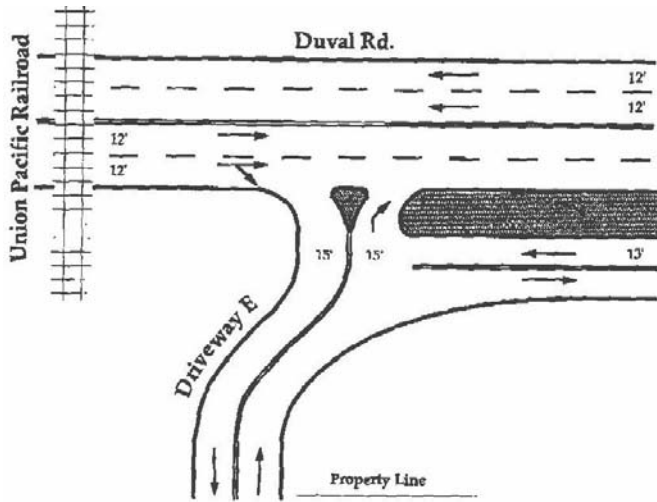
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National Instruments Driveway

The zoning change requested for the proposed driveway for National Instruments was approved by the City Council by a vote of 7-0. Here is an excerpt from the proposed plan.



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Tennis
Anyone?

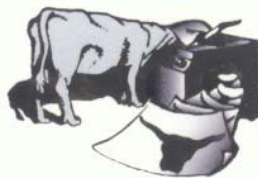
Thinking about getting involved in your neighborhood association?

Now's the time. We have lots of space for you and welcome your ideas, talents, and energy. Call or email Grant Hennig at 346-6465 / president@balconeswoods.org or call Dottie McClain at 345-4122.

Volunteers!



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Slow Cooker Taco Soup (10 minutes to prepare and 8 hours in the crock-pot)

1 lb. ground beef	1 (8oz) can tomato sauce
1 onion chopped	2 cups water
1 (16oz) can chili beans w/ liquid	2 (14.5oz) cans peeled and diced tomatoes
1 (15oz) can kidney beans, w/liquid	1 (4oz) can diced green chile peppers
1 (15oz) can whole kernel corn, w/liquid	1 (1.25oz) package taco seasoning mix

1. In a medium skillet, cook the ground beef until browned over medium heat. Drain and set aside.
2. Place the ground beef, onion, chili beans, kidney beans, corn, tomato sauce, water, diced tomatoes, green chile peppers, and taco seasoning mix in a slow cooker. Mix to blend and cook on low setting for 8 hours.

Serve with a dollop of sour cream and some shredded cheddar cheese.

BW Kids Classifieds

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~~~

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~~~

Need a **string quartet** for a special occasion? How about a **portrait in pastels** or **prismacolor**? Contact All-State violist and award-winning artist Ellen Murray at 346-2901

~~~

**Editor's Note:** If you are under 18 and would like to post a free ad for work or a service, please e-mail us at newsletter@balconeswoods.org or mail/drop off your ad to: 11408 Calle Verde Cove, Austin, TX 78759. Be sure to include an ok or permission note from your parent and a telephone number or e-mail address. Because space is limited, we reserve the right to edit ads and will run them on a first come, first served basis. Thanks!

## Tell a friend about our newsletter and advertising space!

The Balcones Woods printed edition monthly newsletter sells ads. Approved by the BWC Board, ad rates are as follows:

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- **Quarter page Ad**                **3 3/4" x 5"**              **\$40 per issue**
- **Business Card Ad**                                      **\$20 per issue**

All ad copy is subject to approval by the publisher, and no political ads will be accepted. **For more information, please contact:** Nikki Zern at newsletter@balconeswoods.org or 502-8726.



### I Got Stung by a Caterpillar?

Did you know that some caterpillars are able to inflict a painful sting? Various caterpillars have urticating hairs or spines that are connected to a poison gland. When an object brushes against the hairs, the hairs stick in the skin, injecting venom and sometimes causing a rash.

There are several caterpillars in this area that can sting, including the lo moth, the buck moth and the saddleback caterpillar, but the most common is the asp or puss caterpillar. Asps are about an inch and a half long, teardrop shaped with long, silky hair. They are usually tan, but can be a variety of colors. Asp caterpillars are typically found on trees and shrubs around homes, and generally do not harm the plants.

If stung, pain will immediately be felt and blood-colored spots may form at the site of the sting. Other symptoms that may occur are nausea, headache, vomiting or even respiratory distress. Cover the sting area with tape. Remove tape repeatedly to remove spines from the skin. Applying an ice pack to the sting area may help to sooth the skin. An oral antihistamine may also be taken to relieve itching. If respiratory distress occurs, seek medical attention.

There are many dangerous-looking caterpillars that are safe to handle, but unless you are sure they will not sting, I would advise not to touch!

For more information, contact Wizzie Brown (Texas Cooperative Extension at the Texas A & M University System) at 512.854.9600.