



The Balcones Woods Newsletter

LOCK YOUR GARAGE DOORS!!!

I hope that got your attention. This year alone Balcones Woods has already had more reported thefts and burglaries than all of last year. Mesa Park has seen a slight increase as well, what's happening? Is it the economy? Or are we just getting careless. This is a FANTASTIC neighborhood, and obviously we aren't the only ones who know it. We need to use common sense to help prevent these crimes from occurring.

In July, one of our neighbors came home to a robbery in progress and had a gun pulled on him before the thieves made off with a good deal of personal property. As of this time they haven't been captured. Check out the website for some valuable information he gives and lessons learned from the incident. Also, pages 4 and 5 have some great crime prevention tips to help keep your family, home, and belongings safer.

Stay tuned for the date of our upcoming NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING. We will be getting together down at the commons area for a meeting with our district representative, Officer Mike Dunn. Please make it a priority to attend and learn more about protecting our homes and families from criminals. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Check the website and marquee for more information.



August 2003


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Adult Party at the Pool!!!

Saturday, August 2nd from 7pm 'til 10pm.

BBQ, beer, margaritas, and sodas will be provided. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. Adults only, please. Contact Craig Shepard for more details, 343-0437.

Turn on your porch light, lock your doors, and head out to meet your neighbors. Tuesday, **August 5th** is National Night Out.

NNO is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations; and send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organizing and fighting back.

Neighborhood Wide Fall Garage Sale ~ Saturday, October 18th

Speaking of garages... Is it time to move out some of those "treasures" to make room for your car? Need a little extra cash for the BW Marketplace in November? Grab your price tags and get busy. The fall garage sale is right around the corner. Look for some great tips and more information in next month's newsletter. Contact Nikki Keller for details 345-5752.

Coming up...

- Aug 2~Adult Party
- Aug 5~NNO
- Aug 12~Book Club Meeting at the Common Area
- Aug 13~Op Comm Mtg
- Aug?? - Neighborhood Watch Meeting
- Sept 20~Casino Night at the Pool (if you'd like to be a dealer, contact Craig at 328-3235 ext. 27)

August Gardening

August is the peak of the heat in Austin. Despite higher water bills remember:



Water is the best summer fertilizer. It's your key to successful gardening. Soak frequently, thoroughly, and deeply.

~ Make a second application of chinch bug control early this month, if needed.

~ Plant pansy and calendula seed for fall and winter color.

~ This is the ideal time to begin planting that fall vegetable garden.

~ Start a new compost pile and be ready to collect the leaves as they drop this fall. Be certain to keep moist to speed up decomposition.

~ Plan now for major landscape changes you may need.

(Excerpted from an article by the Travis County Extension Service)

If your street address ends in...

August Watering Days

September Watering Days

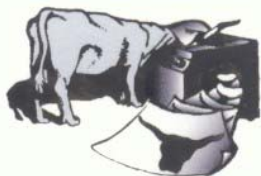
0 or 9	Aug. 4, 9, 14, 19, 24, 29	Sept. 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, 28
1 or 8	Aug. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	Sept. 4, 9, 14, 19, 24, 29
2 or 7	Aug. 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31	Sept. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30
3 or 6	Aug. 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	Sept. 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31
4 or 5	Aug. 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, 28	Sept. 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27

Since we're on the subject of water....

The pool will be open Saturday with **FRESHER, CLEANER** water!
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You should be getting your **2003 directory updates** in your mailbox this month, so be on the lookout! Thanks to Sandra Walker for all her hard work.

~ Labor Day
Garbage Pick Up Schedule ~



Monday through Friday customers slide to the next day (Friday customers will have Saturday pick up).



Seabiscuit finishes first, but waits an hour to take the lead

By Sam Bradford

Hello everybody! I'm back and I brought a story to tell; a story about three men and the horse that made them better. Seabiscuit is the compelling, true story about a racing horse during the Great Depression that was deemed physically inadequate to be a champion. The movie also follows the lives of Seabiscuit's owner (Jeff Bridges), trainer (Chris Cooper) and jockey (Tobey Maguire). The three men each have had hard times and have led unfulfilled lives during the first years of the depression. It isn't until they all come together that they realize that anyone, despite money or background, can be a champion.

All in all this was a very entertaining and enjoyable movie, however, I didn't begin to truly enjoy the movie until an hour into it, or until Seabiscuit shows up. This was due to the style in which the movie was formatted, which was to tell the story of all three characters separately using the latest in choppy editing technology. On top of this, the very beginning features a ten minute documentary about how the assembly line changed the way the world did business.?. This is probably because the book that this movie is based upon uses the same style. In a book, jumping from one character's story to the next and then throwing in History 101 can be divided up into chapters and doesn't confuse the reader as much. In the movie, however, the scene changes go a little fast and it is not until half-way through the movie that the significance of the history is revealed. So after the first hour I was worried, but then Seabiscuit came and then the movie took off.

After Seabiscuit is introduced then the movie begins to shine with some really enjoyable, comedic moments and some camera work that blew my mind. The characters all come together when the biscuit shows up so there is no more skipping back and forth between characters or long drawn out explanations of their past. There are scenes during races that make you feel like you are right there in the race, and then there are scenes where the beauty of the landscape will take your breath away. The movie truly becomes great once the characters come together and introduce a unified conflict, climax and resolution.

The acting in this movie was surprisingly disappointing for all but a few of the actors. Bridges, Cooper, Maguire and William H. Macey are the best actors. Macey plays the radio announcer who adds a great sense of humor to the ensemble. The only other actor worth mentioning was Seabiscuit, everyone else was sub par at best.

So, if you are looking for an exciting, funny, heart-warming and all around good movie, then go and see Seabiscuit but remember, the prerequisite is an hour of History 101.

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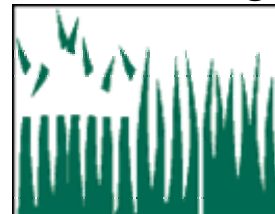


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**Covenants & Restrictions
 Reminder for August**



Yards must be mowed and watered on a regular basis to avoid an unkempt appearance.

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burglary prevention

Burglaries in Austin neighborhoods cost residents over 1.3 million per year in loss of property alone. Most burglaries in your neighborhood are being committed by youths 18 and under. They are not skilled professionals, but they will take advantage of an easy target. Don't make it easy for them.

1. Install a deadbolt lock.

Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant. Lock your doors every time you leave the house, even if you're leaving for just a few minutes during the day. The most popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours. In over 1/3 of burglaries, there is no forcible entry--someone forgot to lock the doors.

2. Install solid doors.

Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1 3/4 inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.

3. Keep garage doors closed and locked.

4. Secure sliding doors and windows.

Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both casings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.

5. Secure sash windows.

To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a pin or nail.

To prevent aluminum sash windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.

6. Mark your property.

Mark your valuables with an engraver. Marking your property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property. Make a property identification list. Put warning stickers on doors and windows.

7. Purchase a burglar alarm.

A home alarm system can be a very effective burglary deterrent and fit into many people's needs. Remember to test your system monthly.

8. Leave a light on.

When leaving on trips, leave a light on in the bathroom. In the bedroom, attach a lamp and radio to a 24-hour electric timer set to go on at dusk and off at your bedtime. Close bedroom drapes or blinds.

9. Use proper exterior lighting.

Place a light over every door. Double cones lights on each corner of the house will also light up windows.

10. Work together with your neighbors.

When you are going to be away, tell trusted neighbors and ask them to watch your property. Have neighbors maintain your yard. When on vacation, have someone cut grass. Shrubbery should not hide neighbors' view of windows or doors. Have someone pick up newspapers and mail. Tell neighbors to call police if they notice anything suspicious.

(reprinted from the Austin Police Department website: <http://www.cityofaustin.org/police/>)

BW Classifieds Online!

Do you have a garage sale to advertise, a weight bench to sell? Maybe your kids are in a play this weekend or your looking for someone to help you weed that bed? We're trying out something new on our website and it's only open to BW residents. Check it out online at www.balconeswoods.org under "classifieds" to learn more.



Kudos to the BW MealCircle for all your kind support in this neighborhood!

Check them out under "clubs" on the website to learn more about what they do and how you can get involved!

Also thanks from the board to Tom Terry for his work on the Calle Verde tract tax protest (and of course the HPBC Quarries and APD Chief's Forum, and Welcoming Committee help...) and to Nancy Reed for eagerly volunteering to take back over the Welcoming Committee Chair (you're a life saver, Nancy, thanks!).

DIANE STRICKLAND

Your Balcones Woods Neighborhood Specialist,
CAN PRODUCE RESULTS FOR YOU!



Diane Strickland
ABR, GRI
REALTOR

Home: 346-2633
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Cell: 426-3210

dstrickland2@austin.rr.com
www.balconeswoodsnews.com



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Hello Neighbors -

I am Diane Strickland from Coldwell Banker and I live in Balcones Woods, a neighborhood I love. My personal goal is to get you the highest price on the sale of your home in the shortest amount of time. I have been selling real estate since 1988 and continue to be a Multi-Million Dollar Producer year after year. I have a thorough knowledge of the area and look forward to representing you, the seller. I welcome the opportunity to work with you.

BW Kids' Corner



Hamster by Lauren McClure, age 8



Jewel Fish by George Anthony, age 8



The Iron Giant by Shelby Stebler, age 6

The Iron Giant is an animated family film set in the Cold War Era of the 1950s. The movie begins when something falls to the earth from outer space. A young boy, Hogarth Hughes,

discovers the creature (a giant robot) in the woods and befriends him. The boy teaches the robot to speak, play games, and to be more human. Suspicion, paranoia, and fear of the robot lead to a manhunt to destroy him, and

the robot must deal with his own programmed inclinations to destroy those who would destroy him. Ultimately Hogarth helps teach the Iron Giant the important lesson that we all have the ability to choose who we are and how

we act. Despite a few (isolated) incidents of strong language and violence (including the threat of nuclear annihilation), the Iron Giant is a movie that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Submitted by Dana Stebler

HPBC QUARRIES UPDATE by Tom Terry

The Hyde Park Baptist Church-Five Neighborhoods Coordinating Committee met July 14, 2003. Highlights of the meeting follow. The next meeting will be October 6, 2003.

Construction Update:

Christian Life Center: This project is scheduled to go before the HPBC congregation for approval around 8/27/03. If approved, permits will be applied for and bids solicited. There is no start date scheduled at this time, but, the earliest would be November.

Athletic Fields: Construction has started on reconfiguring the fields with a multi-use facility in the middle of the Quarries where the softball field has been and converting the old football field into a practice facility. The project should take 150 days.

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

Other Issues: Patriotic Celebration on June 29. Representatives of Mesa Park and Champions Forest reported no problems with traffic from the celebration. I have received three complaints from Balcones Woods residents about the fireworks and a number of neighbors have voiced their enjoyment of the fireworks.

Major Events: There are no major events scheduled at this time.

Information Sources: There are several good sources of information regarding the Quarries including the HPBC web site <http://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
 (tomkterry@hotmail.com / day 459-6820)



Marketplace is back and hoping to be BIGGER. We're scheduled for November 15th and need to get our vendors lined up. If you are or know someone who would like to participate in the BW Marketplace, give Dana Stebler a call at 231-0314 or email her at dstebler@austin.rr.com.

— ALERT —

**Don't Put It Off Any Longer;
Mortgage Rates Have Been Heading Higher**

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Crock Pot Scalloped Potatoes & Ham by Shannon Juarez

This recipe is easy and kids love it. And it's great for leftover baked ham, especially around the holidays.

- 4-5 potatoes, peeled & sliced
- 1/2 c. chopped onion
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 to 1 c. chopped cooked ham *
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 c. water

Place the first four ingredients in crock pot. Mix cream of mushroom soup and water together and pour on top. Cook on high for 5 hours.

*Brown ham in skillet before adding to pot to give it even more flavor. You can purchase pre-cooked ham at the grocery store.

Need to work off that Crock Pot Scalloped Potatoes & Ham? Maybe this would interest you?

For the month of August, we are offering a 1 hour water "All Levels" aerobics class at the pool on Monday and Wednesday nights at 7:30. The class is taught by a certified* water aerobics instructor and the cost is \$4 a visit or you can pay ahead to save a few bucks. Call Dana at 231-0314 to reserve your spot. The class size is limited so call soon.

*ACE Certified Instructor &
Speedo Certified Aqua
Instructor, Laura Hitt



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:

Display Ad Dimensions and Rates

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| • Half page Ad | 7 3/4" x 5" | \$60 per issue |
| • 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.

BW Kids Classifieds

Shelby's Pet & House Sitting

- Feed & walk pets
 - Take in mail & newspapers
 - Water plants
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Rates. Call Carol Murray at 346-2901

Responsible 16 year old boy seeking babysitting jobs. Oldest of six children. Many Neighborhood references upon request. Contact David Vineyard 794-5870

Do you need someone to mow your yard?

Well then, call Cory Folts and Chris Grunski between the hours of 11 am and 10pm at 343-7633 and let us help you. Both boys are neighborhood boys that are hard workers and just need some money! We mow, edge, blow, pick up, and any other odd jobs you may have for us. Yard prices, small-\$20, medium-\$25, large-\$35 (we decide your yard size)

Need a string quartet for a special occasion? How about a portrait in pastels or prismaticolor? 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!