



BALCONES WOODS NEWSLETTER

Balcones Woods Club, Inc. * 11204 Alhambra* Austin, TX 78759

APRIL 2007

Web site: www.balconeswoods.org * E-mail: newsletter@balconeswoods.org

CALENDAR UPDATES!!!

March 31: 10 am
Easter Egg Hunt at the Commons

March 31: 11 am to 1 pm
Swim Team registration
Details p. 5

April 12: 4 - 6 pm
Afternoon playgroup at the park

April 18:
Welcome to Davis Club event
Details p. 6

April 21:
Neighborhood Garage Sale
Details p. 5

April 28: 8:00 AM
Commons Area Work Day
Rainout date 4/29

May 5: Pool opens!
"Splash Day" Noon to 10 pm.

Spring Cleaning Balcones Woods Style!

The commons area needs repair and cleaning to get it ready for the ever so busy swim season. Volunteers make it happen. Without the help of neighbors our fees for maintenance of the commons area would be even higher. So please come out to help get the park and pool area ready! We will be meeting at the commons area at 8 AM on Saturday, April 28th.

Breakfast, lunch and drinks will be provided by the neighborhood social committee. Hope to see everyone there. Please note that and the rain-out date will be the next day -- April 29th. Thanks again for volunteering to make Balcones Woods so great!



QUARRIES UPDATES

1. Thanks to Quarries manager Derek Tackett for clarifying the fishing guidelines:



Fishing is permitted in the HPBC Quarries lake for people falling into one of the following categories: 1. HPBC Church members. 2. Members of the Fitness club in the Christian Life Center located in the Quarries area. This fitness membership is open to the general public.

Anyone not falling into the above categories may secure a \$25 fishing permit which is good for 1 year. Permits can be obtained at the Welcome Desk in the CLC building. Note: A Texas fishing license is not required to fish in The Quarries as it is private property and not a public waterway.

Additional info. may be obtained by going to www.hpbc.org. Reminder: HPBC wishes to remind neighbors that all pets brought onto The Quarries property must be on leashes.

2. Quarries Emergency Information: If there is a situation or incident at the Quarries that needs police intervention, please call 911. The correct address for the property is 11400 North Mopac Expressway. The church is also asking that we notify them if we report any incidents so they can follow-up on their end. If you report an incident to the police, or if there is an incident or situation you wish to bring to the attention of the Quarries, please call the CLC or email Derek Tackett and copy Kent Jennings. CLC (Christian Life Center) 241-0233; rec@hpbc.org
Derek Tackett, Recreation Minister; dtackett@hpbc.org
Kent Jennings, Associate Pastor of Administration; kjennings@hpbc.org

Please direct any questions about how or when to report incidents to Derek or Kent and they will assist you.

(see more p. 6)



THANK YOU, OFFICERS!



One of the tables of goodies donated to the area police officers

On Tuesday, February 27, some residents of Balcones Woods attended the annual Police Appreciation event at Covenant Methodist Church. Terry Tevis, President of the Mesa Park Homeowner's Association, welcomed residents from Angus Valley, Balcones Woods, Millwood and Mesa Park. Terry acknowledged attendance by a representative from Congressman Mark Strama's office and Brewster McCracken, City Council Member.

Three Northwest Area Command officers were honored with plaques recognizing their efforts to serve and protect in our community. Then, the officers presented a plaque of appreciation to Jessie and Bob Grissom of Mesa Park. This dedicated couple have participated in numerous police-community activities, such as Operation Blue Santa. The Grissoms have coordinated the Police Appreciation event for many years. They spearhead the collection of "goodies" for the officers of the Northwest Area Command. There were 4 large tables filled with snacks, treats and notepads/pencils for our area police officers. Krispy Kreme donated dozens of donuts; Sam's donated a large, decorated sheet cake; Costco offered a generous gift card for various items.

Thanks go to Balcones Woods residents who contributed toward the "goodie boxes": Brad and Carolyn Therrell, Pam and Timothy Nash, Terry and Lou DeVetter, Roger and Jane Buegner, Tom and Debbie Terry, Jane Gault, and Richard and Marsha Smith. If anyone was overlooked, please accept an apology.

Following the presentation of plaques, attendees enjoyed refreshments and visiting with the officers.



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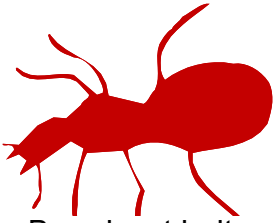
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Neighborhood Reminders:

1. Architectural Control Committee approval is needed for any improvements or additions to a property. Please consult the guidelines in your directory.
2. Trash cans, recycle carts and leaf bags need to be stored out of sight until trash pick-up day or the night before trash pick-up day. This is apart of the Covenant/ Restriction part of the neighborhood that helps Balcones Woods looking great.

Fire Ant Management



When it comes to fire ants, there are many management options to choose from. This article will provide generalized information so that you may make a decision on the management option best for you.

Broadcast baits are broadcasted over the entire yard using a hand held spreader. Most baits consist of a defatted corncob grit coated with soybean oil which attracts the fire ants. The active ingredient, what kills the insects, is dissolved in the soybean oil. The corn cob grit in baits is mostly what you see; it is used as a carry to disperse the product. There is typically a small amount of chemical dispersed when baits are applied at the label rate. Baits are attractive to the fire ants, so the ants seek it out, pick it up and carry it back to the mound to share with others in the colony. Depending on what active ingredient you choose, baits will take anywhere from a few days to several weeks for you to see results; and results can last from zero days to 8-12 months.

Broadcast granulars are spread over the entire yard using a drop or push spreader. Granulars need to be watered into the soil after they are broadcast. When fire ants excavate the soil to create their mound, they come into contact with the pesticide and die. Granular broadcast treatments usually take several weeks for you to see results and results can last from 12-18 months.

Individual mound treatments come in a variety of formulations such as dusts, liquid, aerosol, granulars and baits. When baits are used as a mound treatment, they should be sprinkled around the outside of the mound, not on top. Fire ants do not look for food on top of the mound. Granular mound treatments typically need to be watered in with 1-2 gallons of water. Dust treatments sometimes are just sprinkled over the mound but other times need to be watered in, so read the label to see if water is required. Liquid mound treatments are mixed with water before drenching the mound. When using water with a liquid treatment or to water in a granular or dust product, start watering on the outside of the mound and spiral in towards the middle of the mound.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

TRAFFIC TRIVIA!

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

Which of the following statements are TRUE?

- A. A properly fitted bike helmet should cover your forehead.
- B. Bicyclists should ride facing oncoming traffic when on the street.
- C. Bicyclists are not required to stop at intersections.
- D. All of the above are true.

Answer on page 7.

Spring has Sprung!

Flowers are blooming, grass is growing, old limbs are falling.

So now is the time for everyone to remember to keep their yards -- and our neighborhood -- looking great.



Remember when? It really wasn't so long ago that we had icicles on the playground! Happy Spring!

LET'S GO BLUE!



JOIN THE BLUE WAVE SWIM TEAM



Registration Saturday, March 31st
11am - 1p.m. at the Pool

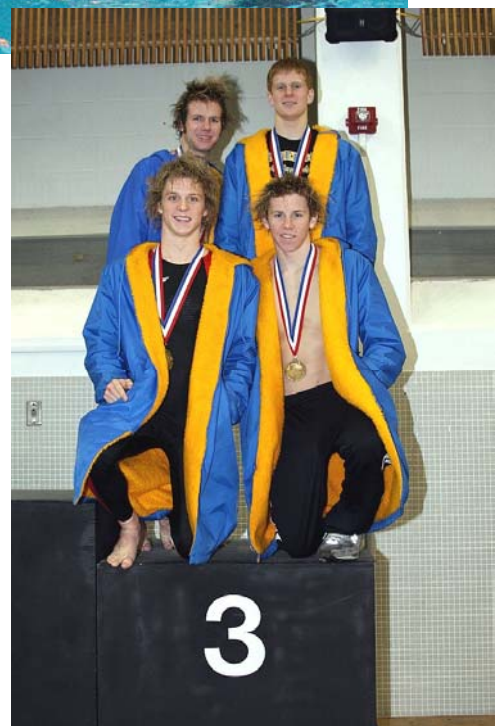
First Swimmer \$85 / Additional Swimmers \$80
Returning Swimmers will receive registration packets in the mail.

For more info, please contact
Lori Root
loriroot@aol.com
794-1009

WAY TO GO!!!

Congratulations to several Blue Wave swimmers who are part of the Anderson High School swim team that made it to State this year! Blue Wave swimmers who were on the AHS State team include: Lesley Murray, Ryan Rivette, Stephen Larson, Shelby Kiser, and Jake Reynolds. Check out the stats on the team web site:
www.trojanswimming.com

The State UIL swim meet was held at UT on Feb 16 & 17 (photos below). School records were set!



Support Your Blue Wave Swim Team

Annual **Spring Garage Sale** 3rd Weekend in April
Saturday, April 21, 2007

Registration begins on March 31st at the pool during swim team registration (11a - 1p) \$5.00 donation to participate

After March 31st registration information will be available on the front porch at 4014 Cordova

Deadline for registration; Wednesday, April 18th

This annual fund raiser supports our neighborhood Blue Wave Swim Team. An advertisement will be placed in the American Statesman and maps are distributed at the entrance to our neighborhood to guide the many visitors. This will be a great day to sale those unwanted items or walk the streets, make good deals and chat with your neighbors.

Any unsold items may be left at the curb by 2:00 p.m. for pick up from a local charitable association. A receipt for donations will be provided upon request.

Because of the increased traffic on this day, please encourage your children to be safe and to keep their eyes open.

If you have any questions, please contact Monica at 418-1280 in the evening. Go Blue Wave !

GET MORE OUT OF YOUR GAS APPLIANCES.

In the market for a new gas water heater or furnace? Let us pick up part of the tab. Texas Gas Service Conservation Program offers a variety of rebate options to help you save money on qualified gas appliances and improve the energy efficiency of your home.

TANKLESS GAS WATER HEATER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Save money and energy with a new, energy-efficient tankless gas water heater with electronic ignition (no pilot light) and earn **earn \$300** from Texas Gas Service. You can also earn \$40 on a high-efficiency (EF .62 or higher) gas water heater.

For more money-saving rebates and tips: www.TexasGasService.com/Conservation

Email Conservation@TxGas.com or call 370-8243

Qualified customers within the Austin and Sunset Valley city limits can receive this incentive for both new installations and replacements in either new or existing homes.



Balcones Woods Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday March 31st

Gates open at 10:00

Join us for an Egg-stravaganza!



The Balcones Woods Easter Egg Hunt is open to all children (and grandchildren!) ages 0 to 8.

There just might be a special visitor available for picture taking. Bring your baskets and cameras but don't be late!

AUSTIN, Texas, Feb. 6, 2007 – Texas Gas Service will give away more than \$1 million this year to its Austin and Sunset Valley customers through a series of natural gas conservation rebates. 2007 rebates include cash incentives for tankless and high efficiency water heaters, hydronic heaters, furnaces, duct sealing, attic insulation, high efficiency clothes washers and natural gas vehicles. Texas Gas Service customers can receive \$300 on a tankless gas water heater, \$125 on a hydronic heating unit and \$75 on the installation of a new central furnace, among others.

In addition to giving cash, Texas Gas Service will also install or replace space heaters, wall furnaces or central furnaces and provide free weatherization services for qualified applicants living on fixed or moderate incomes, the elderly and the disabled.

For more information about the Texas Gas Service Conservation Program and how to apply for commercial or residential rebates, visit www.TexasGasService.com/Conservation or call 370-8243.

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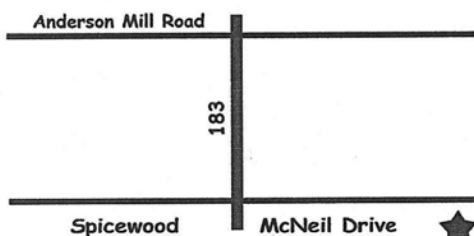
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Davis Elementary Welcomes Incoming Kindergartners

Have you been reminiscing with your four or five-year old about how much you liked kindergarten? Have you been talking about how “big” kids go to school? Or, are you explaining how students can buy lunch in the cafeteria and carry a backpack? If you’re nodding “yes” as you read this and you’re planning on sending your child to Davis Elementary kindergarten in the Fall of 2007, you’re not alone.

The Davis PTA would like to invite you to join our Welcome to Davis club. The club sponsors play-dates and activities to acquaint your child and yourself with Davis Elementary. It offers opportunities to meet other incoming kindergartners and their parents, who are preparing their children for the same exciting and (maybe a little bit) scary transition to kindergarten. If you are interested in joining, please RSVP for events at welcometodavis@davisdolphins.org.

To learn more about registering your child for kindergarten, visit www.davisdolphins.org.

Welcome to Davis Events		
Event	Time and Date	Place
Brunch in the Cafeteria Come learn about the lunch line Cost: \$1.85/child; \$2.75 adult	Wednesday April 18 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.	Davis Cafeteria
Storytime and hallway tour Davis Librarian Ms. Meyer will read a story and we’ll tour the Davis halls. Lemonade and snacks will be served.	Monday April 30 1:45 to 2:30 p.m	Davis Library
Kindergarten Round-Up Registration for kindergarten.	Tuesday May 1 8:00 to 10:30 a.m	Davis Cafeteria
Time in the Science Lab We’ll have fun with science followed by lemonade and snacks.	Thursday May 17 (tentative) 1:45 to 2:30 p.m.	Davis Science Lab
Informal Summer Playgroup Sign up and join other parents interested in getting together over the summer. (tentative)	Time and location to be determined	
Davis Ice Cream Social An evening to enjoy ice cream, pick up pre-ordered school supplies and meet your child’s teacher.	Thursday Aug. 23	Davis Elementary
Splash into Davis An opportunity to swim and meet your classmates. Parents must be on hand to service their children. Please bring a sack lunch.	Saturday Aug. 25 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Balcones Woods Pool
First Day of School	Monday, Aug. 27	Davis Elementary

Club Corner:

Preschool Playgroup meets most Mondays at the park 10 am. We have a once monthly afternoon get-together the second Thursday of the month from 4 to 6 pm for families (including older siblings) who cannot attend Monday mornings. Come out and play! Call 496-8774 if you would like to be added to the evite list for the most up-to-date plans.

Quarries Information continued from p. 1:

The summer schedule and description of summer activities is available on the HPBC website at <http://www.hpbc.org/cms/index.php?section=138>. Any questions should be directed to the numbers listed on the website or by calling the CLC number.

Volunteer Needed for Youth Social Committee

The Board of Directors last year established a new position on the Operating Committee. This position is the Youth Social Chairperson. This position would be responsible for organizing different youth activities throughout the year for the neighborhood. This position can be one person or a group of people to help spread out tasks and events.

The established events that the position would be responsible for are: Easter Egg Hunt in spring, 4th of July Parade in summer, Santa in the Park in winter. Other possible events added to the position would be up to the people running this committee. Currently, this position is vacant and we are looking for a dedicated volunteer for our kids. Thanks to the Women's Club for volunteering to organize December's Santa in the Park and the Easter Egg Hunt this March 31st. If anyone is interested in helping with future events, contact Grant Hennig at 346-6465 or president@balconeswoods.org.

You've Been Noticed!

A message for all of you that have quietly been demonstrating kindness to your neighbors: We appreciate your work! Your actions have been an inspiration to others. For those of you who pick up litter on your regular walks or find other ways to make life better for your neighbors, **THANK YOU!!!**

BW Kids Classifieds

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Amanda's Sitting Service

I will sit your plants, pets, and kids. I will also gather up mail. I am a very reliable and responsible 17 year old. I am great with kids at any age. Call Amanda Roam at 241-1380.

Austin's Sitting Services

- Pet Sitting
 - Plant Sitting
 - House Sitting
- Call Austin 345-8416

Cordova teenager looking for lawnwork. Will mow, edge, and rake. Call Chad for pricing and scheduling at 346-6465.

Editor's note: If you are 18 or under and would like to post a free ad, please e-mail us at newsletter@balconeswoods.org or call 794-8962. Because space is limited, we reserve the right to edit and will run ads on a first-come, first-serve basis. Thanks!

Visit my website to request a MLS Gateway Page for specific market activity or a complimentary Comparable Market Activity for the neighborhood.



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The answer to the Traffic Trivia question is A. If a bike helmet fits and is worn properly, the forehead should be protected. Bicyclists should ride in the same direction as cars on the road, and they must obey the same laws at intersections. Enjoy the spring weather and be safe on your bike!

Motorists: Please remember that our neighborhood is home for many families. Be aware of pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and please obey the 30 mph speed limit THROUGHOUT Balcones Woods. (Yes, it's OK to go SLOWER than the posted limit.) Thank you for demonstrating this courtesy to your neighbors.

Around the Town

Fun, 2, 3, 4: all about a number of things! Exhibit

Austin Children's Museum, 201 Colorado Street

<http://www.austinkids.org>

If you could choose between one dollar a week or one penny that doubles each week for your allowance, which would you take? You might be surprised which is bigger after 12 weeks. Whether it's measuring, graphing or estimating, this engaging exhibit helps visitors apply math to everyday activities by solving fun challenges. Open Jan 13-May 20.

Sponsored by Austin Children's Museum

3/31/2007:

Clean Sweep

Cleanup: various locations around Austin, Vol Party: Waterloo Park

<http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org>

Join Keep Austin Beautiful and your fellow Austinites on March 31st for Clean Sweep: Austin's annual citywide cleanup. KAB will connect you with a cleanup project or provide you with everything you need to plan your own. FREE volunteer party after the cleanup with live music, lunch, t-shirts, a performance by the Ariel Dance Theater, and more. Cleanup: 9am-11am. Volunteer Party: 11:30am-2pm. Register now at www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org or 391-0617.

Sponsored by Keep Austin Beautiful

From 4/01/2007 to 6/30/2007:

A.R. Valentien Botanicals Exhibit

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

<http://www.wildflower.org>

Painting of California wildflowers by one of the finest botanical painters. On loan from the San Diego Natural History Museum. Check out products inspired by his work at the store.

Sponsored by Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

From 4/14/2007 to 4/15/2007

Austin Fine Arts Festival

5th & Guadalupe/Republic Square Park

<http://www.austinfineartsfestival.org>

Celebrate the arts while shopping the original work of 220 local, national and international juried artists. An Austin tradition, the outdoor art gallery also features live artist demonstrations, children's art activities, award-winning musicians and delicious local cuisine. Donation is \$8.00/adult and children 12 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the AMOA and The Blanton Museum of Art.

Sponsored by Austin Fine Arts Alliance

All information taken from:
kvue.com community calendar

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