



BALCONES WOODS NEWSLETTER

Balcones Woods Club, Inc. * 11204 Alhambra* Austin, TX 78759
Web site: www.balconeswoods.org * E-mail: newsletter@balconeswoods.org

MAY 2007

CALENDAR UPDATES!!!

Pool Schedule: see p. 5

**Blue Wave Home Swim Meets:
Saturday mornings**

May 26th vs.

Great Hills/Jester/Lakewood

June 2nd Intramural

("Blue" vs. "Wave")

June 9th vs.

Forest Creek/ Lake Forest

June 11th and 25th:

Womens Club Meetings 7-9 pm

Location TBA (see p. 6)

July 4th:

Neighborhood Parade

August 7th:

National Night Out

August 14th at 7 pm:

NW Area Command

Commander's Forum Meeting

Covenant UMC; 4410 Duval

Neighborhood Workday at the Pool A Success!

Thanks to everyone that participated in the workday on Saturday, April 28 at the pool. The scheduled projects to help maintain the commons area and get ready for another FUN summer were completed. The metal fence to the right of the entrance got a new coat of black paint and looks really good as you approach the entrance. The new boards on the awning by the kiddy pool will create good shade that can be enjoyed while watching the kids swim. The basketball posts and backboards look good with new paint. New boards were added and painted on the buildings. All the lawn furniture has been cleaned and placed around the pool. The grab rails for the steps and the diving board were cleaned. New life-guard chairs installed. Lights in the playscape area were replaced. Thanks again to all the residents who showed up to work: Rosa, Tony, Jonathan, Scott, Sam, Bill, Zack, Lori Hunt, Lori Root, Casey, Annette, Doug, Brad, Taylor, Brian, George, Malina, Chad, Justin, Austin, Judy, Paul, Peter, John, Claire, Laura, Rachel, Hayden, Clark, Thomas, Will, Ryan, Stephen, and Grant (Hope we did not leave anyone out). You all and the other volunteers are a great asset to Balcones Woods and help keep our maintenance costs down for the commons area. Enjoy the pool this summer!



Honey bees

Honey bee colonies can often be found in wall voids, chimneys or attics. To keep bees from entering a structure, seal all holes found in walls, cracks in window framing, knotholes or cracks between wood and brick junctures. If bees are already within a wall void, DO NOT block their entrance as it could lead them into the home.

When honey bees move into a building, they should be removed as soon as possible. This can be handled by a bee keeper or pest control company. Once bees have been in place over three weeks, they produce honeycomb and honey. If honeycomb is present, the wall should be opened and all comb and honey removed to avoid secondary invaders such as cockroaches, moths or other bees.

There has been much media recently on honey bee colony collapsing disorder (CCD). Many honey bee colony deaths have been reported over the last few years and while it's still unknown what is causing the deaths, it is thought that there are numerous factors contributing to CCD. Initial studies show many disease organisms present, but none are the singular cause of the deaths. For more information on colony collapsing disorder see http://honeybee.tamu.edu/hot_topics/colonycollapse.html

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



GOOD NEIGHBOR REMINDERS:

1. Please pick-up your dog's droppings when on a walk! We have had numerous complaints about dogs doing their business in lawns and the greenbelt and people not picking-up afterward. The City of Austin law states: An owner or handler shall promptly remove and sanitarily dispose of feces left on public or private property by a dog or cat being handled by the person.

(Source: 1992 Code Section 3-3-7; Ord. 031009-9; Ord. 031211-11).

Please help keep our neighborhood clean!

2. Use of the Sports Courts

The tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts are to be used for their respective sports only. No other activities are permitted. Resurfacing these courts is very expensive and they are designed for use for persons wearing tennis shoes. Bicycles, scooter, roller skates, or any other item with wheels are not allowed at anytime. Please do not take the pads off the basketball poles, they also are expensive to replace and are not meant for any other purpose. There are sign up sheets on the tennis courts. A resident may sign up for 90 minutes per day.

Tennis Lessons at Balcones Woods Courts

Lyn Loeffler, Anderson High Tennis Coach (with 30 years of experience with clubs, camps, and schools) will instruct the following programs:

Junior Tennis Program 10 Lesson Package May 29—31 June 11—14 June 18—20

11 & 12 year olds 8:00 – 9:00 am

7 & 8 year olds 9:00 – 10:00 am

9 & 10 year olds 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Activities include basic drills, court games, and point play.

Limit of 8 students per age group Program includes all dates listed above. Cost: \$100 per student.

Call: 338-4110

Adult Novice Tennis Program 6 Lesson Package May 29 & 31 June 12 & 14 June 19 & 21

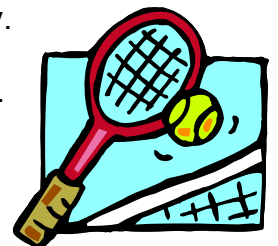
7:00 – 8:15 pm

Activities include basic drills, court games, and doubles play.

Limit of 8 players. Program includes all dates listed above.

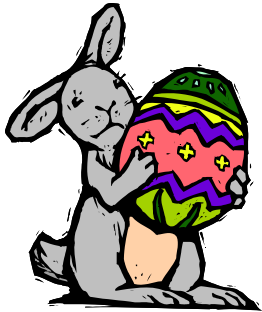
Cost: \$60 per player

Call: 338-4110





The Balcones Woods Easter Egg Hunt was a soggy hit! Despite the rain, which we couldn't seem to escape two weekends in a row, families came out and had a great time. We want to thank our Easter Bunny (Marilyn Butler) and our coordinators this year (Allison Dady & Angela Temple). We can't begin to list the people who spent their time making sure there were enough eggs to hunt, enough prizes to win, enough tents to stand under, and no trash left behind. A great testimonial to our wonderful neighborhood! Also, a big thanks to Sandra Marshall who lovingly took this event on for several years and provided us with all the tools we needed to keep it going! We'll see all you hunters next year.



Balcones Woods Women's Club

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<p><i>Owners Frank & Sandy Bellucci</i> <i>Visit our Family at:</i> www.perfmotors.com</p>		

CLUB CORNER

1. Take advantage of the lazy days of summer by joining the **Balcones Woods Book Club**. Hang out at the pool (or your air conditioned living room) reading this month's book, relax, and then join us to discuss the book, neighborhood happenings, and whatever else comes up at our monthly meeting. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM at members' homes to discuss the book, have some refreshments, and get to know each other. For information, you can call Sheri Radomsky at 527-8581 or email at sheriradomsky@hotmail.com.

Our book for June will be *Snow Flower & the Secret Fan* by Lisa See.

In nineteenth-century China, in a remote Hunan county, a girl named Lily, at the tender age of seven, is paired with a laotong, "old same," in an emotional match that will last a lifetime. The laotong, Snow Flower, introduces herself by sending Lily a silk fan on which she's painted a poem in nu shu, a unique language that Chinese women created in order to communicate in secret, away from the influence of men. As the years pass, Lily and Snow Flower send messages on fans, compose stories on handkerchiefs, reaching out of isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments. Together, they endure the agony of foot-binding, and reflect upon their arranged marriages, shared loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. The two find solace, developing a bond that keeps their spirits alive. But when a misunderstanding arises, their deep friendship suddenly threatens to tear apart.

2. Meal Circle:

This neighborhood group has been in existence since the end of 2002. It is estimated that they have provided meals about 30-40 times since forming the group. They are always looking for new cooks to add to the list. If anyone believes they are a cook on the meal circle list, but haven't received an email recently, please contact Jodi to update your email address information.

If you would like to join, know that it is completely flexible: you only cook when it fits in your schedule. Typically the group provides about 7 meals. Normally it is every other day for about 2 weeks. We have provided meals for families experiencing a new baby, recovery from surgery, long-term illness, death in the family, and other injuries. This list is by no means exhaustive of the possibilities. The meal circle is flexible and has done other options such as providing items for a buffet after a funeral.

The coordinator relies on neighbors to inform her when someone is a good candidate for meals. We are sensitive to dietary requirements, allergies or dislikes.

If people would like to join the group or update their information, they can email Jodi at dschrobilgen@austin.rr.com or via the meal circle link on the neighborhood website.

REMINDER:



Dogs in the City of Austin and Travis County are required by law to be safely leashed or confined on the owners' property at all times, except when a dog is in a designated leash-free area. Cats are not required to be confined or leashed, so our officers do not pick up roaming cats. If a pet or livestock is wandering, unsupervised and unleashed, in your area, please call 3-1-1 to make a report. If possible, but without putting yourself at risk, please try to confine a stray animal in a fenced yard or other enclosure to keep the animal safe while an officer makes his/her way to the area.

TRAFFIC TRIVIA



Essay time!

Please describe in your own words the significance of the above sign.

Email answers to: Newsletter@balconeswoods.org
Prize awarded for the most BW-relevant (and printable) answer



News from the Quarries:

Now present is a new lightning warning system for the ball fields and tennis courts that will sound an alert should there be lightning in the area. It is a lightning prediction device that will activate prior to actual lightning strikes. It will be activated from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. each day. When lightning is in the area, the warning will be a 15 second blast. Once the danger has passed, the "all clear" signal will be a series of three short blasts. It is loud enough to be heard throughout the Hyde Park Baptist Church complex and would likely benefit those neighbors adjacent to the Quarries. The timing of a scheduled system test will be determined later.

Feeling the Heat? Go for a swim!

The pool is open and the water is just the thing to cool off on these hot summer days. The new portable steps are here, so now it's easier than ever to join in the fun. Pool hours are as follows:

May 5th – May 24th - [Weekends Only]

- Saturday - 12pm to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm-10pm]
- Sunday - 12pm to 9pm - [Adult swim 8pm - 9pm]

May 25th – June 22nd***

- Saturday - 10am to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm-10pm]
- Sun, Tues, Wed - 12pm to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm-10pm]
- Mon, Wed, Fri - 2pm to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm-10pm]

June 23rd – August 26th

- Mon-Sat - 10am to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm-10pm]
- Sunday - 12pm to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm-10pm]

Aug 27th – September 30th - [Weekends Only]

- Saturday - 10am to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm - 10pm]
- Sunday - 12pm to 10pm - [Adult swim 9pm - 10pm]

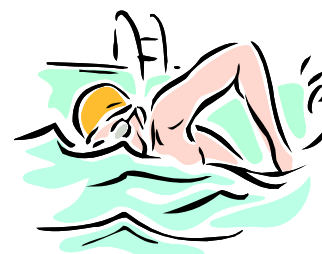
Blue Wave Swim Meets -

[Pool opens at 1pm]

- Saturday - May 26th
- Saturday - June 2nd
- Saturday - June 9th

Phone number at the pool:

346-0185



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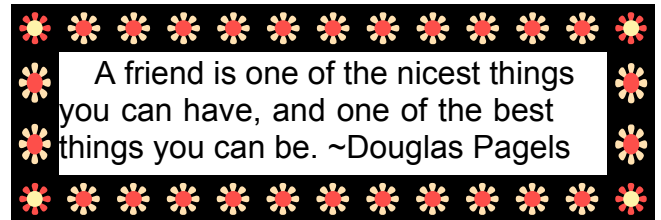
Don't forget to bring your quarters when you come to the pool! The guard shack is now offering an expanded selection of well-priced refreshments for your snacking pleasure.



2006 Parade Photos



Ladies, it's time! The Fourth of July Parade is fast approaching and we have loyal fans to entertain. The **SECOND** annual Ladies' Lawn Chair Brigade will be out in full force. Time to start rooting around for those *lightweight* aluminum folding lawn chairs. Hint: They work best if they are old and without all those fancy new safety mechanisms that prevent folding. Make sure you can find one (or more) to bring with you to the Women's Club meetings in June. Bring friends too! "Practices" are fun, and new members are always welcome to come to these social gatherings. June meeting times are Monday, June 11th and Monday, June 25th from 7 to 9 pm. Location TBA. Contact Suze Koneman at skoneman@yahoo.com for details and check the website for updates.



A friend is one of the nicest things you can have, and one of the best things you can be. ~Douglas Pagels

BW Kids Classifieds

ALI'S SITTING SERVICE

I will sit your pets, your plants, and your kids! (Ages 1-10) Mail service is also available. Very responsible 15 year old, with lots of experience. Please call 627-3822

Babysitting, pet sitting, mail gatherer! Experienced and ready to help. Amy Olsen 349-9783

Shelby's Sitting Service

- Feed and walk pets
 - Take in Mail & newspapers
 - Water plants
 - Babysitting ages 2-11
 - Very reliable
- Call Shelby at 345-0347

Experienced Babysitter
For toddlers and small children –
Call Katie, 338-1518

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

My name is Marshall Geyer, age 12. I can:

- Get mail
- Watch and feed pets
- Babysit
- Water and watch plants

I have good experience with my siblings. If you are interested, you can call me at 372-9575 or email me at marshallx@myway.com.

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

My name is David Geyer. I am a very responsible 13 year old and am looking for work in the following sections:

- Watching your house
- Working with your pets
- Watering plants and watching them
- Gathering mail

I have house sat twice. If you are interested in any of these categories, please call me at 378-0536, or you can e-mail me at housesittingcentral@yahoo.com. I charge \$3 a day per service.

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!



More photos from the Commons Area Work Day. Thanks again for all your hard work!



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Patrick H. Easter
Owner/Broker
Balcones Woods Resident

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With our incredible neighbors and perfect location, we have a true gem of a neighborhood. It would be an honor to assist you or anyone you know in their next real estate transaction.

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512-795-2870

AROUND THE TOWN

Friday, **June 1**, 8:30 p.m. And Saturday, **June 2**, 8:30 p.m. FREE TO THE PUBLIC!

Zilker Hillside Theatre: *Ballet Under the Stars* by Austin Metamorphosis Dance Ensemble

June 6:

John Irwin of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center will give a multimedia presentation of the botanical gardens dedicated to **native plants**. A question and answer session will be held after the presentation. Come and find out how you can incorporate native plants into your garden and yard. The event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.

The Virtual Tour of the Wildflower Center will be held:

Wednesday, June 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Milwood Branch Library: 12500 Amherst Drive Austin, TX 78759 512-339-2355

June 8, 9 and 10: LITERACY AUSTIN'S 18th annual BookFest 2007

This year, the three-day sale is at Arboretum Crossing, across the parking lot from Dave & Buster's. Heat up your summer with a great selection of new and used books in many categories including Arts, Biographies, Children's Literature, Educational & Teacher Resources, Fiction, Religion, Sci-Fi/Fantasy and many others. * **All books are in excellent condition and sell from 50 cents to \$5.** The early bird sale is Friday, June 8th from 3-9 pm with an entry fee of \$10. Saturday, June 9th, the hours will be 9 am-9 pm, and Sunday, June 10th from noon until 6 pm. The entry fee for Saturday and Sunday is only \$3. *** **ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORT VALUABLE LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR MANY APPRECIATIVE ADULTS!** For more information, visit the website at www.literacyaustin.org or contact Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel, Director of Development at 478-READ (7323). lisakay.pfannenstiel@literacyaustin.org

June 10: Danskin Women's Triathlon Walter E. Long Lake Metropolitan Park

Some of our neighbors will be competing! Send in those photos!

June 13: Island Rhythms Hula Dancers at the Austin Children's Museum Community Night 5 to 8 pm.

6 pm: Get swept away to a tropical dream as Island Rhythms Hula Dancers perform and teach us all a step or two. A night like this would not be complete without making a flower lei, traditional hula implements ('uli'uli) to dance with, and snacking on a few island treats! Find out more about Island Rhythms at: http://www.geocities.com/island_rhythms/index.html

June 19th, 2007 - Youth Partnership for Change Underage Drinking Prevention Youth Summit

YouthLaunch's Youth Partnership for Change program will host a Youth Summit that will be held Tuesday, June 19, 2007 in Austin at St. Edward's University. The participants will be 9-12 grade high school students and their adult sponsors who are interested in leading the fight to prevent underage drinking through community outreach and education, service - learning projects and other activities. Youth Summit participants will receive the latest brain research and have opportunity to network with one another and share strategies and successes in preparation for future activities. Participants will develop action plans for sharing this new information with community members and key decision-makers in their communities. Contact Veronica De La Rosa, vdelarosa@youthlaunch.org or mconstable@youthlaunch.org or call 512-342-0424 for more information or to register. Sponsored by YouthLaunch <http://www.youthlaunch.org>