



BALCONES WOODS NEWSLETTER

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

July 2008

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 12th: BWC Board of Director Meeting, Seton NW Hospital room 3A, 7PM

August 12th: Northwest Area Commander's Forum at Covenant United Methodist Church, 4410 Duval Road, 7PM

August 21st: Ice Cream Social/Meet your Teacher Davis Elem. 5:30 to 7 pm

August 23rd: Adult potluck dinner 7 pm

August 25th: First day of school AISD

September 26th: Adult Casino Night at the pool, 7 pm

If you have an event you would like listed in the newsletter, please send the information to:

newsletter@balconeswoods.org.

The newsletter is published quarterly, with additional issues as needed based on amount of material received.

Calling all Grown-ups!

Don't miss out on these fun events planned by the neighborhood Social Committee!



The adult potluck dinner will be Saturday, August 23rd at 7:00pm at the pool. Main dish, tea, water, beer and wine will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

The Adult Casino Night is Friday, September 26th at 7:00pm at the pool. Dinner, games and drinks provided, no need to bring a thing.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering to deal Black Jack that evening should contact Peggy Miller. 346-9155 or pegm@austin.rr.com



Volunteer Opportunity:

Looking for a way to give back to your neighbors? Join the Meal Circle! This wonderful group supports neighbors who could use some help in a tumultuous time. The group supplies hot meals for families welcoming new babies, dealing with hospitalization or death in the family, ongoing illnesses, etc. There has been a few accidental omissions on recent email lists, so both new and former members of the group should contact Jodi at 241-0294 or mealcircle@balconeswoods.org for updated information. The group would like to be notified of neighbors who might need this service, so contact the same email with any nominations. They are also always looking for additional cooks as well. Thank you for all your help!

The Balcones Woods Blue Wave Swim Team A Neighborhood Legacy of Excellence

The Blue Wave Swim Team concluded the 2008 season on Sunday, June 29th at the Austin Aquatics League Championships in the University of Texas Swim Center. At meet's end The Blue Wave had narrowly out-pointed their nearest competitor, the Pflugerville Fast Frogs and appeared to have locked up another championship. Unfortunately, an obscure rule had been overlooked in the scoring and was invoked by one of the opposing coaches. After recalculating, the title was awarded to Pflugerville. The Frogs had squirmed by Balcones Woods by ONE point, an amazingly small margin considering that over 1,500 total points were scored by the five teams competing. In spite of the narrow second place finish, the 168 Blue Wave swimmers and their coaches were not fazed by the results. Their unsinkable spirits were on full display at the season-ending celebration held later that evening at the BW pool. Considering their record of 16 championships over the last 20 years, the undiminished confidence is hardly surprising.

To those of us whose BW tenures range from five to fifteen years this incredibly successful institution seems like an accepted fact of life. But how does one of the smaller neighborhoods in North Austin develop into such a well organized and dominating swimming machine? To find out where it all began we had to talk to some of the BWWB pioneers. We learned that the first team was organized in 1976 thanks in large part to Jim and Claudia Misage who still live on Wellington Circle. Claudia remembers working with a small group of organizers who contacted parents and recruited the first sets of timers, runners, scorers and of course, swimmers. Joe and Marianne Heuring who live on Cordova were part of that first year too. Joe was the Announcer for the home meets and both the Misages' and Heurings' children competed for the Blue Wave through age 18. While Claudia couldn't recall the name, the first coach was the daughter of one of the U.T. Swim Coaches so they were able to borrow lane ropes and flags and other essentials from the Longhorns. Claudia says the parents got along great and the neighborhood rallied around the new team with tremendous spirit that carried them through the first years when our team was greatly outnumbered by the established teams we swam against.

Josh Blake was also a swimmer and coach in the BW early years. He remembers his first year on the team as an intrepid five year old in 1980. He continued swimming until his 18th year. Josh went on to join the Marines, but returned to serve as Coach of the Blue Wave in the mid-1990's through the 2001 season. Josh is currently an instructor with the Austin Police Academy and he provided some great insights to the developing team. As he recalls, the nickname "Blue Wave" did not come about until 1985, voted in by the team. "In the early years we were a part of the Northwest Swim Circuit which had huge teams. The BW teams numbered only 50 to 60 swimmers and we were regularly swamped by Hunters Chase, Anderson Mill, and Brushy Creek. But we always had wonderful spirit and I know we had the best support". Josh recalls that "things changed in the late 1980's when we moved to the Austin Aquatic League and we were up against teams our size." "We started winning right away", and never looked back.

No history of the Blue Wave can be told without a mention of Huddie Murray's and Carol Imperial's contributions. Huddie began coaching with the Blue Wave in 1992, Carol in 1999 and thankfully, they are both still serving us in that capacity. Huddie, in addition to her formidable meet strategy skills, is a wonderful teacher. When asked her thoughts on the success of the Blue Wave she immediately credits "neighborhood support and parent involvement". Unlike most of the other neighborhoods "young kids here see so many swimmers staying with the team until they are eighteen, so it's cool to keep swimming and being a part of the team." Carol excels in teaching the young kids and the "pre-team" or "Wave of the Future". She agrees that the degree of neighborhood involvement and the dedication of the swimmers is unmatched by any of the other teams around.

Head Coach Julie Zamora has been with the team for two years and her experience as a high school head coach is evident in the team's preparation and training regimen. At this year's closing ceremonies Coach Julie called for the high school seniors to come forward and be recognized. This special group had just completed their last year of Blue Wave eligibility; their average time on the team was 12 years. When the last name was read the parents and coaches stood and applauded them for a long time. The six through seventeen year olds were watching and cheering too, already missing their teammates of many years, but ready to step up and take on the challenges of 2009.

(Time and space limitations did not allow for recognition of hundreds of individuals who have played important roles in the Blue Wave story. Please visit the Balcones Woods Website for more information and pictures of this year's team in action.)

Stuart Bradford

Make it Happen Campaign Making Progress



The \$100,000 Make it Happen fund-raising campaign kicked off June 11 at the Blue Wave Swim Team Potluck Dinner.

An estimated \$35,000 in pledges and gifts have been committed to the campaign so far. The Swim Team campaign hopes to raise \$100,000 by September 2008.

“This isn’t just a fundraiser for the swim team. Every homeowner is invited to participate in the campaign because the new building will benefit our entire neighborhood,” said Blue Wave president Michelle Manning.

The Balcones Woods Club neighborhood association notified the Swim team in June that the association is moving forward to complete a significant remodel of the swimming pool commons area. To help offset those capital costs, the board expects to assess a fee for the Blue Wave Swim Team’s use of the facility. In response, the Swim Team began raising funds to cover those anticipated fees and pay them “up front” rather than over time. The total cost of the project is still being finalized. Pending final approval of the board, the project could get underway at the end of this year.

According to Building Committee chair Brian Anthony, the proposed 3000 square-foot facility will replace the existing amenity center building. It will be open year-round and include a new community meeting room with a kitchenette, expanded bathroom and shower facilities and other improvements. Homeowners will be able to reserve the air-conditioned and heated room for parties, meetings or special events.

A number of fundraising special events have been successful since the campaign began. A neighborhood car wash by swim team members and their families raised \$1,830. More than \$300 was raised at the July 4 picnic when the Swim Team sold \$22.95 car wash coupons donated by Arbor Car Wash for \$20 each. Coupons are still available by contacting Cathy Olsen at 799-3774, or via email, olelanddesign@aol.com.

Two more special events are planned. Modern Woodman of America Financial Services will hold a matching gift cookout on July 27th from 5-8 pm at the pool commons area. A suggested meal donation of \$10 will be requested. Modern Woodman will match up to \$2,500 in donations made at the event.

A Make it Happen Garage Sale is planned for Sat. Aug. 9 from 9am – 1pm at Davis Elementary. If you would like to donate items contact Esther Mahavier at 719-4861 and someone will pick up your items prior to the sale.

All gifts to the Make it Happen Campaign are tax deductible.



Artists rendering of proposed Amenity Center



Remember when?

From young swimmers thru high school teams to coaching the next generation: Some of our neighborhood "kids" have grown up with the Mighty Blue Wave...

Thank you to all coaches, swimmers, and parents for helping to bring something special to our neighborhood.



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Aphids

Aphids feed on a wide variety of plants in Texas. They have high reproductive capabilities so their populations can grow to large numbers quickly. Aphids are small, soft-bodied insects that come in a variety of colors. Some have wings while others may not, but all have cornicles, or "tailpipes" that come off the tip of the abdomen.

Aphids have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to pierce plant tissue and suck out the juices. Damage often appears as yellowing or curling of foliage. Aphids also secrete a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew. Honeydew often appears on the plant as a shiny spot or sometimes the honeydew may have sooty mold growing on it. Sooty mold is a black fungus that can block sunlight from reaching the plant leading to lack of photosynthesis.

Some ideas for managing aphids are as follows:

- Encourage natural enemies such as ladybugs, lacewing larvae & syrphid fly larvae; know what these creatures look like so you don't kill them
- Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge the aphids from the plant
- Least toxic pesticides include things such as insecticidal soap, neem, horticultural oils or d-limonene
- Other pesticides to manage aphids may include active ingredient such as permethrin, acephate (non-food items only), carbaryl or imidacloprid

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

New Yahoo Group! Balcones Woods Family Activities

Please join our new Yahoo Group for information on family activities in our neighborhood. Most events are for 0-10 year olds, but ALL are welcome. Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bwfamilyactivities>

Then click "join this group". If you have any trouble joining, please contact Becky White at rwhite3000@yahoo.com. If you are interested in volunteering for the Youth Social Committee (organizing play-groups, Santa in the park, Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Parade) please contact Sara Pedersen, BW Youth Social Chair, at smpedersen@sbcglobal.net or 343-6377.

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Book Club



Our August Book is **A long way gone : memoirs of a boy soldier**, author Ishmael Beah. This was the mayor's book club book for 2008. Meeting is on August 12th. Bring your suggestions for future books! Sheri Radomsky sheriradomsky@hotmail.com

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A Note on Yard Signs

The use of political signs on private property in Balcones Woods Club is legal as a result of the passage, in 2005, of Section 202.009 of the Texas Property Code. Under the new Section deed restrictions can no longer prohibit the display of political signs. Additionally, Section 202.009 provides that signs can be displayed on or after the 90th day before an election until the 10th day after an election date.

The new Section does permit certain restrictions to be placed on the display of political signs including quantity, type, construction and size. The Balcones Woods Board of Directors reserves the right to add to these restrictions at anytime regarding those "optional" provisions of 202.009. Currently, the limits are based on State and City laws that the signs have to be 10 feet inside the yard from the curb. Cannot be attached to any structure or vehicle on or next to a property. There can be no more than 2 signs on one property. Each sign can be no larger than 4 square feet.



If you love to make and give cards, create scrapbooks, apply decorative home elements or make and give special gifts, please contact me!

Phyllis Zumwalt
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Security Key for the Commons Area

If you need a key for the commons area, contact Robin Beger (345-8909).

The fee for a new key is \$6. Keys must be used at all times to gain access to the pool or park.

Please do not climb fencing. We spent over \$500 last year to repair fencing damaged by kids climbing into the park.

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BW Kids Classifieds

My name is Eric Price, I am 16 years old and very responsible. I will babysit kids of any age and will even take care of your pets if needed to. I am also available to take care of your pets while you are away. This includes walking, feeding, and anything else that your pet requires. I can also take in your mail and newspapers. If interested please call 346-8342 or 203-2958

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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

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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. Because space is limited, we reserve the right to edit and will run ads on a first-come, first-serve basis. Thanks!

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2008 Modern Woodmen of America



Randy McClendon

FICF, LUTCF

4401 Balcones Woods Dr.
Austin, TX 78759
512-250-0458



Grant McClendon* FIC

6810 McNeil Dr.
Austin, TX 78729
512-250-0458