



BALCONES WOODS NEWSLETTER

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

March 2008

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22nd: Easter Egg Hunt! 10:30 am. Bring your basket and your camera!



April 7th
Storytime at Davis for incoming kindergartners; see p.2

April 8th: Book Club Meeting

April 9th: Operating Committee meeting
7 pm; Seton NW room 3A

April 12th
Work Day at the Commons!

April 19th
Rain date for Work Day if needed

April 26th
Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale!
Proceeds benefit the swim team

May 3rd: **POOL OPENS!**

May 13th: Board Meeting
7 pm; Seton NW room 3A

May 13th: Commander's Forum
Spicewood Springs Library

May 13th: Book Club Meeting

May 14th: Operating Committee meeting
7 pm; Seton NW room 3A

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.

GETTING READY FOR SUMMER

A lot of work is going on at the park to get the sports courts and pool ready for summer fun. The basketball, volleyball and tennis courts are being resurfaced. When all the work is completed, they will look brand new. We can all help to keep them looking great by not allowing wheels of any kind on the courts. Wheels will destroy the new surface very quickly. Only TENNIS SHOES are permitted on the courts.

The wind screen will be repaired and a new net installed. After the surfaces have cured, we will have a contractor service the lights for the sports courts and repair the broken light on the drive.

New filters have been installed for the big pool and both pumps have been repaired. Leaves were a big problem this winter. They clogged the pump on the kiddy pool and the pool vacuum. The leaves also cracked the leave baskets on the big pumps. All of these items have been corrected.

Workday at the commons area is scheduled for **April 12** with a rain backup date of April 19. There are a lot of projects this year. We will have the normal cleaning, inspection and inventory of the lawn furniture. The wooden benches around the pool will be stained and the play scape power washed and inspected. The building needs some minor sealing and paint work.

CALLING ALL CARPENTERS - Bring your tools and skills. The wooden deck next to the kiddy pool needs to be replaced. We plan to do this with new materials that will not rot. The filter room needs a new door. The wooden cover on the pump well needs to be replaced. Repairing the tennis backboard on the practice court will require tarps to protect the new surface, ladders to reach the top and strong bodies to lift materials.

Mr Dan Frank has volunteered to help repair the metal fence around the park. There are several parts that have broken and need to be welded. Several tops that are missing or broken need to be replaced.

This is a good way to have some fun outdoors, meet your neighbors and participate in neighborhood activities. The social committee has agreed to supply pizza and drinks. See you there!

Davis Elementary Welcomes Incoming Kindergartners

New kindergartners are invited to come experience the fun of Davis Elementary! Come play on the playground, meet the gym teacher, and hear a story in the library. All these activities and more are sponsored by the Davis PTA Welcome to Davis Club.

If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten at Davis Elementary in the Fall of 2008, the Davis PTA would like to invite you to join the Welcome to Davis club. The club sponsors playdates and activities to acquaint you and your child with Davis Elementary. It offers opportunities to meet other incoming kindergartners and their parents, current parents of Davis students, and (at some events) school administrators. If you are interested in joining, please RSVP for events at welcometodavis@davisdolphins.org.

This spring and summer, we've already planned several exciting events:

- a Work-Out in the Davis Gym with the Gym Teacher on Mar. 18 from 12:30 to 1:00
- Story Time with the Davis Librarian on Apr. 7 from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.
- Brunch in the Davis Cafeteria on April 23 from 9:30 to 10:15
- A tour of the Science Lab's Wetlab during MARE week (May 12-16), time/date TBA
- a Playdate at the Davis Elementary Playscape on May 18.; 3 to 4 p.m.
- Ice Cream Social/Meet your Teacher on Aug. 21, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Splash into Davis Pool Party at Balcones Woods pool on Aug. 23 at 11:00 a.m.
- First Day of School on Aug 25 at 7:45 a.m.

Kindergarten Round-up—the registration for incoming kindergartners--will be held at Davis Elementary on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. to 10:30. To learn more about registering your child for kindergarten, visit www.davisdolphins.org.

SENIOR SWIM PARTY!

Attention graduating seniors!

Your day in the sun is fast approaching!

Make plans to hang out at the pool with your fellow Senior Trojans at the annual Senior Swim Party.

Currently, organizing is underway to hold a pool party honoring graduating Seniors from our neighborhood. The party is being sponsored by families of graduating seniors who are also residents of Balcones Woods, and is being planned for

Friday, May 16th.

If you are a resident and the parent of a graduating Senior, and are interested in receiving more information or participating, please contact Nancy Woelke at 343-1658

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Let's Go Blue!



Join the Blue Wave Swim Team

Registration Sunday, April 6th
2 - 5 pm at the Pool



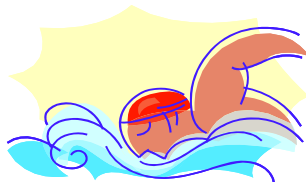
First Swimmer \$115 / Additional Swimmers \$95
Returning Swimmers will receive
registration packets by email or mail.
For more info, please contact Michelle Manning.
Manning_mc@sbcglobal.net

Blue Wave News

Go Blue Wave! It's nearly time to register for the 2008 summer swim team. Are you a new family to our neighborhood or the swim team? If so, this year we're holding an informal **"Meet the Coaches"** session up at the pool **Tuesday March 25th from 5:30-7**. The coaches and swim team president will be on hand to answer your questions about the Blue Wave. Watch the neighborhood bulletin board or contact Michelle Manning at manning_mc@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Assistant Coaches – If you are interested in being a paid assistant coach for the Blue Wave this year, please contact Michelle Manning at manning_mc@sbcglobal.net for an application. Hours vary slightly, but range between 3:45-6pm May 1-June 4th and 8-12noon June 5-27th.

Volunteer Assistants – This year we'd like to have older, experienced Blue Wave swimmers helping the coaches with the younger swimmers. Volunteer assistants will work under the guidance of a coach and must be 16 years or older. If you are interested, email Michelle Manning at manning_mc@sbcglobal.net for more information.



Spring Garage Sale

Support Your Blue Wave
Swim Team

Annual Spring Garage Sale,
Saturday April 26th, 2008.

Registration begins on April 6th at the pool during swim team registration (2pm-5pm). \$5 donation to participate.

After April 6th, registration information will be available on the front porch at 3900 Cordova Dr.

Deadline for registration:
Wednesday, April 23rd.

This annual fundraiser 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 Michelle at manning_mc@sbcglobal.net (preferred) or 346-2127. Go Blue Wave!

It's time for Spring Cleaning!

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Don't Forget Mom. Mother's Day is May 11, 2008.

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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

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.
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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

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

My name is David Geyer, a responsible 13 year old. My brother Marshall and I have started Geyer Neighborhood Services. You can hire us either by e-mail, which is: housesittingcentral@yahoo.com, or you can call us at 512-372-9575.

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!

Quarries News

This is an update on the HPBC Quarries from a committee meeting 3/3/2008.

Hyde Park Baptist will start having Sunday Church services on Easter in the Christain Life Center located in the Quarries. Also, tentative plans are that construction will begin on the HPC secondary school in the Quarries during the summer of 2008. There are no plans to open the Mesa Woods vehicular gate (From Mesa Park into the Quarries) at this time. However, the zoning variance granted by the city allows for the use of this entrance and HPBC is reserving the right to open the gate as needed. Currently, HPBC is going to wait to see what reactions they get from members and users of the facility before making a more permanent decision about the Mesa Woods access.

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BOOK CLUB

April 8

Eat, Pray, Love

Elizabeth Gilbert

May 13 : ?

For more information and directions to the locations, email Sheri Radomsky at sheriradomsky@hotmail.com or call at 963-6819.



I've been seeing more and more fire ant mounds popping up all over town lately. With the warmer weather, the ants are becoming more active and noticeable. Since temperatures can vary from day to day in early spring, you need to choose your treatment method carefully.

Fire ant bait may not be the best to use during cooler weather. Fire ants pick up bait as food, but during cooler weather, fire ants usually do not actively forage for food. To check if fire ants are foraging for food, place a hotdog slice, a potato chip or some peanut butter near a mound. Leave the food item for 15-30 minutes then check to see if fire ants are actively taking it back to the mound. If they are picking up the food, then bait can be applied for managing fire ants. If fire ants are not picking up the food, you may need to try another treatment method.

Broadcast granular products, with active ingredients such as bifenthrin or fipronil, work well when applied in late March or April. These products are applied with a drop or push spreader and then watered into the soil so that the chemical binds in the soil layer. When fire ants work the soil to build their mounds, they come into contact with the chemical and die. These products can provide a year of control, although you may need to spot treat individual mounds occasionally throughout the year.

Individual mound treatments using liquid drenches, dusts or granular products can be utilized at any time of year when you see fire ant mounds. Many of these products require water to carry the pesticide down into the mound where the fire ants are located. Failure to use the proper amount of water may not completely kill the mound. Read and follow label instructions before treating mounds.

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

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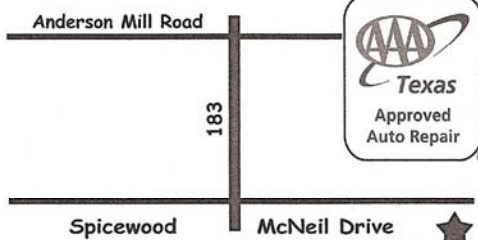
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Chief Acevedo

Northwest Neighborhoods Recognize Area Officers

In February some residents of Balcones Woods attended the annual Police Appreciation event at Covenant United Methodist Church. John Baylor of Angus Valley served as emcee. He welcomed residents from the Northwest Area Command neighborhoods and introduced the homeowner association president from Mesa Park and our own Grant Hennig.

Commander James O'Leary made a few opening remarks and introduced the officers present. The Commander explained that when Anderson Mill is incorporated into the city, they will become a part of the Northwest Area Command. APD will work to increase staff necessary for this additional territory. Then, Commander O'Leary introduced Police Chief Art Aceveda. Chief Aceveda seemed overwhelmed by the amount of items to be presented to the officers. He commented that APD hears from citizens when there is a problem, but it is so gratifying to be thanked by the public. Chief Aceveda said that he had just returned from a trip to Israel where he had a first-hand look at their latest crime-fighting technology. Some of this surveillance technology will be procured for Austin. He graciously answered questions from the audience. One attendee asked about the speeding that she sees in her neighborhood. Chief Aceveda recommended contacting the District Representative Unit (974-5743). He said that APD can station some motorcycle officers and the radar trailer (speed detector) in these "hot spots." He also encouraged residents to take down license plates. Even though a police officer must catch the person speeding, APD can document a pattern of speeding by a particular vehicle, if the resident will report it. Chief Aceveda was asked about the new City Manager. The chief had praise for Mr. Ott and thinks there will be a good working relationship between the APD and City Manager's office. Refreshments were served and the residents enjoyed visiting with the officers and Chief Aceveda.

Sincere thanks go to Balcones Woods residents who contributed toward the six tables of "goodie boxes" shown in the photo: Cheri and Jeff Crozier, Vicki and Alex Davis, Terry and Lou DeVetter, Jane Gault, Elaine Heinzke-Hennig and her granddaughter Eden Heinzke, Angela and Timothy Nash, Richard and Marsha Smith, Scarlett and Ray Spivey, Tom and Debbie Terry, Brad and Carolyn Therrell, Julie and Gary Vander Stoep, and Bob Vehon. These folks provided fresh baked goods, snacks and treats. In addition, our Balcones Woods Homeowner's Association allotted funds to purchase some additional items.

Commander's Meeting Notes: February 12, 2008

Commander James O'Leary welcomed the attendees and started the meeting by presenting a slide show of transient campsite photos. We were encouraged to contact our District Representative (974-5743) or NWDR@ci.austin.tx.us to report any evidence of transients camping in our area, because they are likely trespassing on someone's property. A question was asked about the panhandlers who frequent the Braker Lane/183 and Great Hills/183 intersections. The officers strongly urged us to NOT give any money as it just encourages the panhandlers to remain. More often than not, the money is used for drugs, alcohol or cigarettes.

A new officer to our area was introduced. Her name is Tanya Normand and she is replacing long-time officer John "Buster" Nelson who retired at the end of the year.

The officers discussed their latest burglary of vehicle (BOV) initiative. They are using unmarked cars to catch criminals burglarizing vehicles in the area bounded on the east by Mo-Pac, Parmer Lane on the south, McNeil Rd on the west and north. The officers urged us to put all packages in the trunk rather than leaving anything in the car for burglars to see. Also, put the items in the trunk before you get to your destination. If a burglar sees you put packages in the trunk and leave the car, that may make you a bigger target.

Another area of concern is the window smashing incidents occurring between November, 2007 and February, 2008. Sixteen incidents have occurred in the Wind River/ Santa Cruz areas. There is a Crimestopper's Award for information leading to the perpetrators.

There have been many moving violations in the Lakeline Blvd/Hwy 183 intersection. There had been confusion as to which jurisdiction this intersection fell within. This intersection is now in the APD "territory."

Kathrin Brewer of Partners in Education presented an opportunity regarding an AISD school volunteering opportunity.

The guest speaker for the evening was Paul Tomasovic, a Code Enforcement Officer. He discussed the Public Assembly Code Enforcement (PACE) Team. This team was formed to ensure that events within the city limits are not only safe for those attending, but also consider the impact on surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Tomasovic showed photos of the aftermath of fraternity parties, large social gatherings (warehouse parties) and what is called 'rave' parties. When large gatherings get out of hand with under age drinking, noise, and trashing the area, it makes for grave concerns regarding code violations. Social gatherings of more than 50 require a permit. If you have any questions regarding this topic, you can reference their website: www.ci.austin.tx.us/pace.

These quarterly meetings are well worth your time. You obtain up-to-date information about crime in our area and have the opportunity to visit with the officers who patrol our area.

Next meeting: May 13th @ the Spicewood Springs Library
8637 Spicewood Springs Road
7:00 pm

Thanks to Marsha Smith for keeping us informed!



**THE
EASTER
BUNNY
IS
HOPPING
OUR WAY!**

Saturday,
March 22nd
10:30 AM
at the Commons

Hunt is open to families of residents. Bring your basket and your camera, and don't be late!





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COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Settlement Home for Children is a private, non-profit agency that has been serving children in the greater Austin area for nearly 100 years. The agency verifies single adults, couples, and families to provide temporary and/or permanent care for children who have been removed from their parents by the state for abuse and neglect. For more information, contact: Bridget Shrum
Foster Family Developer
The Settlement Home for Children
(512) 836-2150 ext. 161
www.settlementhome.org

Shred Day 2008
Saturday, April 19, 2008
7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Austin High Parking Lot
1715 W. Cesar Chavez

With the increased awareness of identity theft, it's important to dispose of personal records carefully. To highlight this, the Association of Records Managers and Administrators and the City of Austin is sponsoring a Free event to help individuals and families with:

- Home records management
- Identity theft protection
- Recycling

Households can bring up to five file boxes of paper records for shredding. Mobile shredding trucks from Austin Shred, a Balcones Resource Company, CenTex Shred and Iron Mountain will be on-site to shred the material.

Restrictions:

- No wet material
- No plastics/binders
- No electronic media

For more information contact Jannette Goodall at 974-9045 or via email at Jannette.goodall@ci.austin.tx.us

Join Leadership Austin for the monthly **Engage Speaker Series** breakfast. Each month Leadership Austin brings together community, business and government leaders to discuss important and timely regional issues in a networking setting. This spring, learn about Austin's position in the new global economy and implications for the quality of life in our region.

Spring 2008 Engage Speaker Series

Chez Zee Restaurant

5406 Balcones Drive

7:30 a.m.- 8:00 a.m. – Networking and Breakfast

8:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. – Presentation

§ April 1: Healthy Communities: How globalization impacts local healthcare

§ May 6:

Quality of Life: The way people live

For information on Leadership Austin and to register for the **Engage Speaker Series**, please visit www.leadershipaustin.org

Balcones Woods Neighborhood Stats

Current Active Average 108 days on market

Average of 5 properties currently on the market

2029 sq ft \$156.98/sq ft = \$317,973

One stories average for homes 1958 sq ft \$158.46/sq ft = \$309,966

Sold Average of 57 days on market

One stories averages for homes 1602 sq ft \$157/sq ft = \$247,500

One stories w/pools average 2005 sq ft \$157/sq ft = \$310,000

Two story averages for homes 2409 sq ft \$145/sq ft = \$339,500

- Stats from MLS between Dec. 31, 2007 to March 9, 2007 For more detail information contact



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