



BALCONES WOODS NEWSLETTER

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

OCTOBER 2008

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

Neighborhood Survey Indicates a Majority Want to Build New Amenity Center

Board of Directors Takes Next Steps Toward Construction

The Balcones Woods Club Board of Directors learned in its Oct. 14 meeting that 63% of homeowners responding to a neighborhood survey say the homeowner's association should move forward with plans to build a new amenity center in the Commons Area. The final tally showed that 116 respondents (63%) said "yes, we should build the amenity center," while 67 members (37%) voted against the proposed plan. The survey was mailed to all members in the neighborhood.

The board discussed the results of the survey and feedback received from dozens of homeowners who attended a community meeting on October 8th at Davis Elementary. The Building Committee updated the Board with revised construction costs for the building. The latest estimates indicate costs for the project will be approximately \$579,000 which includes all-new restrooms and showers, a guard station, storage areas, a multi-purpose meeting room, along with many site improvements such as sidewalks, parking lot improvements, a fire hydrant and other updates required by the city of Austin. The Building Committee presented a detailed financial analysis for the project. The analysis indicated the project can be built without charging residents a special assessment fee. The report indicated that a construction loan would be paid for using funds from homeowners dues and other income from usage fees. Dues are projected to increase by five percent per year over the next several years. Approximately \$60,000 will be assessed to the Blue Wave Swim Team for usage fees. A report from the Swim Team's "Make it Happen" fund-raising campaign indicated that the effort has generated approximately \$60,000 to date in cash and pledges.

The Board voted to authorize BWC president Grant Hennig to sign a conditional commitment letter from a local bank that would begin the loan application process. A loan offer is expected to be received the week of Nov. 10. A board meeting is scheduled for Nov 11 Seton NW Hospital room 3A at 7 PM. At that time the Board could give final approval for the loan and to authorize construction, depending on the final loan offer.



BOOK CLUB

NOVEMBER: Tuesday, November 11

Gilead by Marylynnne Robinson

Host: Brenda Mendiola

DECEMBER: Tuesday, December 9

Best Laid Plans by Gail Parent

Host: Sheri Radomsky

JANUARY: Tuesday, January 13

Love in the Time of Cholera

by Garbriel Garcia Marquez

Host: Roberta Rosen

Have fun this Halloween and remember to stay safe!

- See! Don't use a mask that impedes your vision.
- Be Seen! Wear reflectors and carry a flashlight.
- Have a buddy!
- Drivers: Pay attention! Remember this is an exciting night for kids. Go extra slowly tonight!



Thanks to Elaine Heinzke-Hennig for organizing our Fall Neighborhood Garage Sale on Saturday Oct. 25. And thanks to all of the neighbors who participated! The \$5.00 Donation, included advertisement in Austin American-Statesman and Craigs List. Any profits made from the donations benefit the Youth Social Committee.

Night Out in Balcones Woods

National Night Out was October 7 and was a great success. The Aragon, Biscay, Cordova block party had about 40 people attend. They served hot dogs for supper and socialized with neighbors. Many other parties happen all over Texas as police tried to get neighbors out of the house and meet each other to help prevent crime. Texas moved the Night Out Event to October this year instead of August. This helped avoid the heat of the summer. Thanks to all the Balcones Woods residents that participated in National Night Out. A special thanks to Harrison Smith, Balcones Woods Vice President, for organizing the event.



Aragon, Biscay, Cordova (ABC) National Night Out Pictures



Boxelder Bugs

Boxelder bugs are dark brownish-black insects with orange markings around the edges of the thorax and wings. These bugs are about ½ an inch long as an adult. Nymphs, or immatures, look similar to adults, but are smaller, do not have fully developed wings which allows you to see their bright red abdomen.

While boxelder bugs typically do not cause damage to the landscape or structure, they may become a nuisance in and around homes from fall until spring. In the fall, adults and large nymphs gather in large numbers to move to areas to overwinter. Boxelder bugs spend the winter in cracks and crevices in walls, around door and window casings, tree holes and in debris on the ground. Sometimes they will try to move indoors to overwinter. On warm days from fall until spring, adult boxelder bugs will emerge from their overwintering location to warm themselves in the sun.

Removing female boxelder trees from the area may solve problems with large, repeated infestations of boxelder bugs. Hiding places can also be reduced or eliminated by removing debris such as boards, leaves and rocks from the area as well as sealing cracks and crevices around the home with caulk or expanding foam. If chemical treatment is desired treat overwintering areas with chemicals containing active ingredients such as pyrethrin, cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, carbaryl or acephate.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Also check out www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Directors meeting

November 11, 2008 at Seton NW
Room 3A, at 7pm

Operating Committee meeting

November 12, 2008 at Seton NW
Room 3A, at 7pm

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.



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Around the town

Free screening of “Lioness” at the Mexican American Cultural Center

Thursday, October 30, 2008: 6:30 PM - Reception

7:00 PM - Film screening and discussion

They went to Iraq as cooks, clerks and mechanics and returned a year later as part of America's first generation of female combat veterans. In LIONESS, Directors Meg McLagan and Daria Sommers give an intimate look at war through the eyes of women and the U.S. military policy that bans them from combat. Mexican American Cultural Center 600 River Street 512-478-6222



Volunteer Opportunity!

Santa is coming to town, and we hope he makes a special stop in Balcones Woods.

If you would like to be a “Santa’s Helper” please contact Sara Pedersen for assignment of duties. Biggest need is for elves to assist Santa for photo-taking.

Teens welcome! Behind the scenes cookie bakers and set designers also requested.

Contact Sara at smpedersen@sbcglobal.net; no phones after 8 pm please!

Christmas at the Caswell House November 8th - 13th

Contact Marianne Spencer, Member - Austin Junior Forum, 512-342-8171 for details or visit <http://www.caswellhouse.org> or <http://www.austinjuniorforum.org>.

The Austin Junior Forum hosts lunches, dinners, teas, and sponsored shopping nights in which attendees can complete their holiday gift purchases while supporting a great cause.

Zilker Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunday, December 7th at 6 pm



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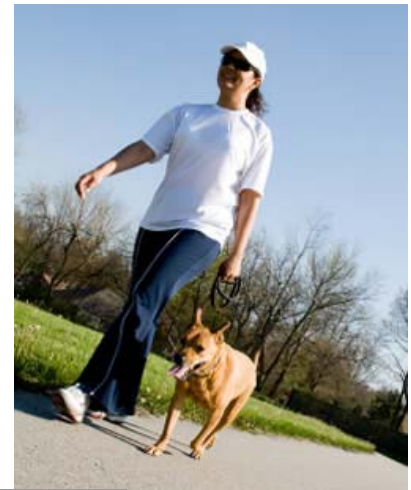
Quarries Update

The Hyde Park Baptist Church (HPBC) high school construction in the Quarries has started a 13-month schedule with plans for students to begin school there in 2009. If there are construction delays, students could move there in mid-semester. The site location is adjacent to the railroad tracks at the Quarries. The school is set to accommodate up to 450 students. Later in phase two, capacity would be increased for another 150 students. Initial plans are for the Santa Cruz entrance gates to remain closed for school entrance and exit. For more information, please visit their web site at www.hpbc.org or email Ray or Scarlett Spivey (Balcones Woods residents and new members of the HPBC / Quarries community committee--trying to do Tom Terry's old job) at capitol@io.com.

Also, the HPBC Quarries Church will open the Santa Cruz gates for limited use on Sunday mornings only for worship services.

Walking your Dog

More people are walking their dogs these days and some without a leash in the Quarries. The concern is that there could be an injury to your dog, or to a child or adult. If you are going to walk your dog there, please comply with the city leash law and keep your dog on a leash when you are enjoying the area. Thanks!



Good Neighbor Reminder:

Please help ensure that we can all enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Drive carefully on our neighborhood streets!



Don't be a Turkey.
SLOW DOWN
when driving.

Thanksgiving comes to us out of the prehistoric dimness, universal to all ages and all faiths. At whatever straws we must grasp, there is always a time for gratitude and new beginnings.
~J. Robert Moskin



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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<http://www.stampinup.net/esuite/home/stampingphyl/>

Mow, Chad, Mow!

Cordova college student looking for lawn work.
Mow, edge, rake, etc.
Many references available throughout Balcones Woods.

Call CHAD at 346-6465.

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. Please call 627-3822

Austin's Sitting Services

- Pet Sitting
- Plant Sitting
- House Sitting

Call Austin 345-8416

Three Sisters' Sitting Service

Call Shelby, Kelsey or Hailey at 345-0347

- o Anderson High School students
- o Feed and walk pets
- o Take in mail & newspapers
- o Water plants
- o Babysitting all ages
- o Very reliable and three sitters with one call!
- o Shelby also offering swim lessons ages 5 and up

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.

Babysitting, pet sitting, mail gatherer!
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Amy Olsen 349-9783

Austin's Sitting Services

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- Plant Sitting
- House Sitting

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If you want fast, reliable service, enter www.freewebs.com/housesc into your computer and view all of our services!

We offer cheap prices and are very versatile! But don't just take our word for it! Go to our website! -David and Marshall Geyer

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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