

*They call it the dog days of summer, but the dogs are disavowing any responsibility for this one.*

## Looking for A Few Good Neighbors for the HOA Board



The HOA Annual Meeting is coming up in November, which is the time we elect new members to the Board. Two positions are open for the 2024 through 2026 term.

There are a few specific requirements – 3-year term, current paid membership in HOA, and availability for monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. The meetings are held at the Balcones Country Club from 5 to 6 PM.

Other qualities include engagement in the community (email or FB group, 4th of July, block parties, helping neighbors), having a love of the neighborhood, and desire to continue the community spirit.

If you have questions and/or want to volunteer for this position, then click the button below and send an email to Caleb McLain, the president. He will answer questions and meet with people who are interested. The deadline for application to the Board is Friday, September 8th.

The current board members include a range of people who work for companies, are self-employed, and retired. Wondering about fitting in? You will come to the first meeting and leave with 8 new friends.

[Email President](#)

## Birds of the Neighborhood

*Linda Strickland*

Living at the edge of the City, surrounded by woodlands and park lands, we have great opportunities for adventures with birds. Once you see something interesting, you will be hooked.

A great resource is a handbook of the birds of central Texas. I keep mine next to the binoculars beside the backdoor for quick identifications.

Another source for our backyard birds is the Travis County Audubon site (link below). They've also been very helpful with questions.

I've seen a turkey hen cross Old Lampasas Road, a raven perch on the power pole for a chat, great blue herons flying by, a black



vulture land in the yard and saunter over for a sip from the pool, Red-Shoulder hawks (nest nearby) flying all around, and the list goes on.

We are on the Central North American Migratory Path and soon our Canadian friends will be going by. Geese can fly 40 MPH and up to 70 MPH with a tailwind.

Exotic birds show up, such as a white cockatiel in our woods one winter. It flew off and landed on the shoulder of a neighbor, who provided shelter for the night. Using the FB page for lost birds (link below), the bird was reunited with its human flock.

Have you heard an unfamiliar call? The Cornell site (link below) has just about everything you need to know. I discovered that one incessant nighttime call was a Chuck Will's Widow (nightjar family) and a different owl call belonged to a Great Horned Owl, which I've never seen but does drop by sometimes.

Who has visited you all? Maybe we should have a BVS birders' list.

[Travis County Audubon](#)

[Cornell Lab - All About Birds](#)

[FB Central Texas Lost & Found Birds](#)

## Save the Dates

COA Bulk item pick-up – begins Monday, August 21  
Deadline to apply for HOA Board – Friday, September 8  
National Night Out – Tuesday, October 3  
COA Large brush pick-up – begins Monday, October 23  
Annual HOA meeting – Thursday, November 2

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