



The HPWBANA News

Volume 1, Number 1

March 2005

Neighbors Clean Up Perry Park

By Nadene Morning, David Seaton, Carolyn Robinson

HPWBANA held its first Perry Park workday/cleanup on January 15. More than 50 adults and children pitched in and made the cleanup of our neighborhood park a great family event.

We have been working with the City of Austin PARD, Highland Park Elementary, and neighbors in the area to improve this wonderful section of our neighborhood. One concern had been the accumulation of dead wood, ragweed, brush, and vines throughout the entire park. Neighbors worked together to make several large piles of brush that were fed into a chipper by PARD personnel, who were onsite for the event. Even the large, dead tree that was in the old quarry for years was (or will be) removed. Another concern had been the bamboo that was growing densely into the wooded area. It was so thick in one spot that a full-size couch was concealed in it. This entire bamboo grove was cut down and hauled off.

Removing brush, bamboo, and trash was our focus for this cleanup, and you can see a big difference. But we are not finished. More Perry Park workdays are being planned to give this park the attention it needs. Thanks to everyone who helped out. Your efforts made a big difference! (Note: The workday did not involve the running trail. Improvements to the running trail are the focus of the Highland Park PTA, which is working with drainage and trail experts for solutions.)



Perry Park Clean-Up

Easter Bunny Comes to Perry Park



Join us on Saturday, March 26 at 9:30 a.m. for the Perry Park Easter Egg Hunt. All children through fifth grade are invited to participate. Volunteers and donations of candy and plastic eggs are needed. Contact Carolyn Robinson at 302-5417 to help with the event. See you there!

March 28 Board Meeting
Please attend our monthly Board Meeting:
Yarborough Library
2200 Hancock Drive
7:00-8:45 p.m.

View the Highland Park West Balcones
Area Neighborhood Newsletter
each month online at
www.PEELinc.com

Highland Park West Balcones Area

2005 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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 Nadene Morning ntmorning@hotmail.com, 467-8132
 David Pharis..... davidpharis@yahoo.com, 453-2155
 Carolyn Robinson carrob99@hotmail.com, 302-5417

The HPWBANA Board meets on the 4th Monday of each month except December. Meetings are held from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. at the Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. All neighbors are invited to attend. Upcoming meeting dates are March 28, April 25, and May 23.

HWPBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles.....	280-0075
Barking Dog Complaint.....	974-4800
Boats/Trailers in the Street.....	280-0075
Bulky Trash Pickup.....	494-9400
Dead Animals in the Street	494-9400
Downed Street Sign	457-4885
Graffiti Complaint.....	974-1028
Loose Dog Complaint.....	972-6060
Mosquito Infestation	972-5692
Oak Wilt Information	440-519
Pothole Repair.....	974-8750
Rodent Control.....	972-5692
Street Light Repair.....	505-7617
Tall Weeds in a Vacant Lot.....	494-9400
Tall Weeds on City Property	440-5150
Water Conservation.....	974-2199
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line	210-698-1709

Advertising Information

- Please support the business that advertise in the Highland Park
- West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association Newsletter. Their
- advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a
- newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are
- used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to
- support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales
- representative, Kelly Peel, 512-589-5471 or kelly@PEELinc.com
- for ad information and pricing.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Frances B. Allen

My term begins with the introduction of a new newsletter delivery service to all of the residents in the HPWBANA area by Peel, Inc. The HPWBANA board felt strongly that it is important to have the entire neighborhood know of events and work that goes on with the active membership of HPWBANA. We will be able to bring you current news of the associations work.

I am privileged to work with board members that have very active committees. Please take a look at the committees and if you have issues or would like to work on a committee please contact the committee or me.

Membership-Resident: Susan Rauch, Carolyn Robinson, David Seaton, Sam Haddad

Membership-Businesses: Jessica Winslow, Frances Allen

Planning & Zoning: David Pharis, Jessica Winslow

Crime & Safety: Mark Moore, Sam Haddad, Nadene Morning

Traffic & Transportation: Frances Allen

Communications: Newsletter, Jessica Winslow

Yahoo, Susan Rauch

Web, Nadene Morning

Beautification & Parks: Nadene Morning, Carolyn Robinson, Sam Haddad

Events (July 4th, Egg Hunt, Annual Meeting): Carolyn Robinson, David Seaton, Susan Rauch, Sam Haddad

Community Liaison: David Pharis, David Seaton

These committees will continue to serve the best interest of our neighborhood. I am very proud of our neighborhood association and look forward to a busy and fruitful term. Come join us.

Proposed Revisions to ByLaws

The HPWBANA has proposed some changes to the bylaws that govern the neighborhood association. The intent of the revisions is to simplify the language of the bylaws and to make them more appropriate for our association. The proposed changes, along with the original version of the bylaws, are posted on our website www.hpwbana.org. If you would like a hard copy of the bylaws, please call Jessica Winslow at 773-6893.

We welcome your comments on the proposed bylaws. Please submit you comments by March 20, 2005, to:

Jessica Winslow, Secretary

HPWBANA

PO Box 2610

Austin, TX 78755

Jwinslow@austin.rr.com

Business Classifieds

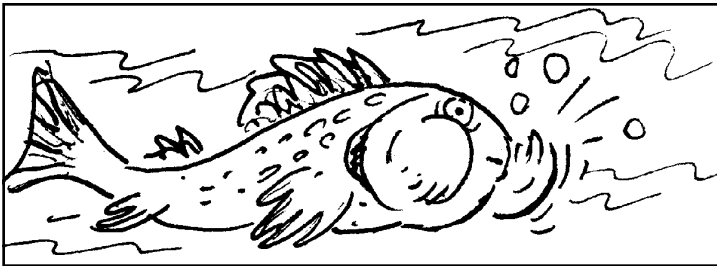
Business Classifieds are \$45.00. Please contact Kelly Peel, kelly@PEELinc.com; 512-589-5471.

Urban Coyote Update

Neighborhoods to the north of us are experiencing serious problems with urban coyotes and we are getting reports of the similar problems in our area (missing cats for some time now but also attacks on dogs and adult deer).

The city is implementing control methods. Call 311 to report coyote incidents (911 - emergency).

Coyotes are very common in the natural areas within our boundaries and we all need to be aware of this problem and help out with solutions. Check out our website www.hpwbana.org, the wildlife page for information. Note the **Wildlife Services Fact Sheet about Urban and Suburban Coyotes** for recommendations on how to discourage coyotes from becoming comfortable around people.



When full grown the Brazilian hiccup fish can reach a length of 12 feet and its hiccups can be heard a mile away.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND SERVICE

HPWBANA THANKS.....

David Pharis for six years on the Board, four as President. David coordinated the residential surveys in 2000 and 2002 that were used to formulate the Neighborhood Plan. Through this plan the Board has been able to make decisions based on an understanding of neighbors' responses. Then David guided the neighborhood after the Camp Mabry alert in 2001 and its effects on the neighborhood. David oversaw the formation of new and active committees such as the Beautification Committee, which has made itself very visible in the neighborhood. We are glad that David is remaining on the Board.

Drake Besheer for six years as a Board member: Drake was active in the Crime and Safety Committee and worked with the City on traffic signs and sidewalks in the neighborhood. Drake, we will miss you.

And for five years Pam Penick made a committed contribution as editor of the newsletter. Pam, we will miss you and your professional work.

All have participated in the events sponsored by HPWBANA, 4th of July Celebration, Easter Egg Hunt, Park and Beautification Work Days and the Annual Meeting.

Once again big THANKS FROM HPWBANA for your time and service.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

HPWBANA Introduces

a New Neighborhood Watch Program

HPWBANA is trying to increase awareness of neighborhood crime in our community. An increase in residential and automobile burglaries in the neighborhood has prompted interest in expanding our Neighborhood Watch program. Because research shows that the most effective programs are those that involve neighbors in small, localized groups, we are establishing a crime contact network using Neighborhood Watch Groups (NWG) within our boundaries. This will assist in disseminating information about crime and safety issues to as many residents as possible.

Our neighborhood has been divided into six NWG areas to start this program. See our website www.hpwbana.org for a map of the six areas. Community volunteers have come forward to join our NWG crime contact network. Contact a HPWBANA board member to see who in your area is currently involved.

We have already put this program to use in communicating an ongoing problem on a large median in our neighborhood. The median on Ridge Oak Drive and Lake View Drive has been vandalized for years now. A recent incident prompted us to send out a Neighborhood Watch Notice to our NWG contacts and also communicate solution options directly with a letter to residents.

Our established methods of communicating crime issues, such as our Yahoo email group, website notices, newsletter articles, and neighborhood meetings will also be expanded to include more crime topics. With the introduction of neighborhood watch groups we can distribute crime and safety topics directly to as many residents as possible. With added attention to crime concerns we can all work together to maintain the safe community we live in today.

With over 1700 homes in our neighborhood association boundaries we need help from residents to make the program worthwhile. If you are interested in helping with the program or joining the Neighborhood Watch Group as a contact, please contact Crime and Safety Committee members Mark Moore, Sam Haddad, or Nadene Morning.

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Welcome to Your Neighborhood Association

Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Associations (HPWBANA) purpose is to create projects and support activities that promote a strong sense of community for individuals living in our neighborhood. We encompass homes located in the area bordered on the north by R.M. 2222 and Northland Drive, on the south by 35th Street, on the west by Mt. Bonnell Road and on the east by MoPac and Bull Creek Road between Hancock Drive and 45th Streets. Our neighborhood includes Highland Park Elementary, Camp Mabry and Bright Leaf State Natural Area. Your membership supports the following activities and annual events:

- **Neighborhood Crime Watch**
- **Neighborhood Beautification Projects**
- **Monthly Newsletter**
- **4th of July Parade and Party (on Monday, July 4, 2005)**
- **Easter Egg Hunt (on Saturday, March 26, 2005)**
- **Monitoring City Planning Projects (MoPac activities, sidewalks, etc.)**
- **Maintaining HPWBANA website (www.hpwbana.org)**
- **Maintaining relationships with Camp Mabry & Bright Leaf State Natural Area**
- **Perry Park cleanup twice a year**

New this year, we are changing to an annual membership renewal cycle. If you are currently a member of HPWBANA, your membership payment is now due. All membership dues are payable on or before March 1, 2005, and are valid until the end of the year.

If you are not currently a member, please join HPWBANA today! Your Neighborhood Association is only effective with your support and involvement. One-member household memberships are just \$10 and Family memberships are only \$15. You may join online with PayPal at www.hpwbana.org or by mailing a check payable to HPWBANA to: **HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, TX 78755.**

All neighbors are invited to attend Board meetings, which are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at the Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. You are welcome and encouraged to join one of the many committees working to improve your neighborhood.

Please check www.hpwbana.org for additional information and activities. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please call or email me or any member of the board.

Thank you for your support.

Susan Rauch, Membership Chair

srauch@austin.rr.com

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Mopac Sound Wall Progress

By Frances B. Allen

On January 18, MoNAC was very pleased to have Bob Daigh, TxDOT's District Engineer for District 14 speak with neighbors concerning, what else, the MoPac corridor. The agenda was to discuss Managed Lane concepts and the Development of Sound Walls.

This is a highlight of the information presented by Mr. Daigh:

Managed Lane Concepts

A "Managed Lane" is a technique for actively moving traffic with variable policies as to who can use the lane. For example, busses can use the lane during peak hours then other traffic at other times. It can be tolled or non-tolled. It can be high-occupancy or single-occupant vehicles. Essentially, it is a way to keep the lane filled using economics.

Development of Sound Walls

Mr. Daigh began by saying he would not have all the answers at this time. Before the sound walls can begin, a new engineering consultant team must be hired. This is in process and will be done by spring. The consultants will work on plans for the corridor keeping in mind the specifications that came out of the CAMPO Special Committee in 2001 (take no more ROW, no elevated lanes, etc.)

In addition, the MoPac corridor would need added capacity (i.e., managed lanes) to trigger funding for the Sound Walls.

Bottom line: Added Capacity = Sound walls

Mr. Daigh's estimate is that this could well be done in 1-2 years. There is some sound measurement occurring now and there will likely be "sample" walls constructed in the interim.

The neighbors in MoNAC are certainly disappointed that the timetable is not as soon as we thought for the long-needed sound walls. However, as Commissioner Karen Sonelitner said last night, "It is a new Daigh with TxDOT," and went on to say that she has found Bob Daigh to be very open to work with. That is the impression that he left with the MoNAC meeting, that the neighbors' interests would be considered at every turn. Now it is MoNAC's job to work closely with the project.

Thanks to our 2005 Business Sponsors

We are grateful to acknowledge the support of the following businesses that have joined our Business Sponsor Program.

Crenshaw Athletic Club
5000 Fairview Drive

Michael's Hair Company
3307 Hancock Drive

Northwest Veterinary Hospital
3817 Dry Creek Drive

Pak Mail of Tarrytown/Pak Mail Balcones
5501A Balcones Drive

Use Your Randalls Remarkable Card to Benefit Beautification

Thank you, neighbors who linked their Randalls Remarkable Card to the HPWBANA Randalls Good Neighbor Program number last year. You helped us earn more than \$50 to benefit neighborhood beautification. Now that spring is here, however, more money is needed to fund new plantings and clean-up work. Linking your card to our neighborhood organization is an easy way to fund the efforts to beautify our public spaces.

It's a snap to do. On your next trip to Randalls, simply ask for a Remarkable Card form at the Customer Service desk. If you already have a Remarkable Card, you only fill out the bottom half, and add HPWBANA's Good Neighbor Program number: #10586. (If you're already linked to other organizations like a school or church, don't worry. You can link your card to up to three numbers.) If you don't have a Remarkable Card, fill out the form completely and add HPWBANA's number to the bottom. Every time you shop, Randalls donates money to our neighborhood association. Even pharmacy purchases qualify!

The more neighbors who link to our number the more dollars we'll receive. Every cent earned is used to buy plants, mulch and other supplies for HPWBANA Beautification projects. Stop by Randalls and link your card today.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Hancock Bridge Area Gets a New Look

The Hancock bridge area is looking great these days with new landscaping at the southwest corner of Hancock Dr. and W. Frances Place. After the HPWBANA Beautification Committee worked for several, yes several, months with the City of Austin staff, our persistence paid off and we obtained approval to improve the area. The native perennials and trees we planted last October will provide seasonal color and shade in years to come.



Volunteers and new landscaping at the Hancock bridge

The Beautification Committee coordinated all aspects of this project, including design, approvals, fundraising, materials, and labor. A local builder donated the rocks that border the perennial bed. A small business helped out by getting us great prices on plants. And a neighbor volunteered to provide the water needed to get the plants established. Overall, this made a significant improvement to the wild area of high grasses that once grew there. For a listing of the native plants used in this landscape, which require little water or maintenance, visit the Beautification page of our website at www.hpwbana.org.

We extend our thanks to the many contributors to the project:

- The neighbors near Hancock Drive and W. Frances Place for donations
- Pam Penick for the landscape design
- Carol Greenhalgh for water
- Blush Floral Design (www.blushfloraldesign.com) for the discount on plants
- Michael Deane Builder for the rocks
- Austin Parks and Recreation for assistance with city approval
- HPWBANA business sponsors for miscellaneous funding
- Beautification Committee members for coordination, planting, and material donations

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Become a Member!

The *HPWBANA News* is the official publication of the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association. Your annual membership ensures that you receive the newsletter, plus provides funds for our free neighborhood events:

- Spring Egg Hunt
- July 4th Picnic and Parade
- Annual Meeting
- Candidates' Forums

We need your support! Please renew your membership or become a new member of HPWBANA today.

Send \$10 for one adult or \$15 for two adults in the same household to:

HPWBANA, PO Box 26101, Austin, TX 78755.

Name _____

Name of second adult _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

Email _____

You may also join online with PayPal at www.hpwbana.org.
Questions about membership? Contact Carolyn Robinson at 302-5417 or Susan Rauch at 419-9710.

Highland Park Elementary Hosts New Students and Local Filmmaker

Highland Park Elementary continues to create a buzz. While maintaining Exemplary standing since 1995 and ranking first out of the 74 AISD elementary campuses in students passing the TAKS test, HP will now be seen on the big screen! Director Robert Rodriguez recently filmed scenes for his latest movie, *The Adventures of Shark Boy and Lava Girl in 3D*, on the HP campus. The children saw filmmaking in action and played in the snow created for the shoot.

Now that the Hollywood stars have moved on, HP is gearing up to welcome the newest class of Scotties for 2005-2006. Come to a Prospective Parent Orientation (Tuesday, March 8, noon-1:00 p.m., or Tuesday, April 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.) to ask questions and hear about HP and some of the programs that make it stand out. New incoming students are invited to attend Scottie Pup Camp (Tuesday, April 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.). The children will hear a story in the library with principal Jane Knowles, eat a snack in the cafeteria, and play on the playground. (For both events, call the Highland Park office at 414-2090 or email epierce@austin.isd.tenet.edu to RSVP. Please check in at the front office.) New students and families can also meet at the playdates held at 3 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Perry Playground next to the school.

Kindergarten and First-Grade Roundup will be held on Tuesday, May 3, at 8:30 a.m. Register for the 2005-2006 school year while children have the opportunity to visit a classroom. You will need to

bring your child's Social Security Card, original birth certificate, current immunization record, and proof of residency.

More information about Highland Park and a current-events calendar are on the PTA website at www.hppta.org. You can also contact the Welcome Committee Co-Chairs, Cathy McHorse (451-7112, cmdhorse@sbcglobal.net) and Megan Rankin (451-7112, meganrankin@austin.rr.com).



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