

The HPWBANA News

Volume 1, Number 2

Message from the President... Being Good Neighbors

Frances B. Allen fba100@juno.com

One of our rising neighborhood concerns is being a Good Neighbor when remodeling and adding on to your home (or when your neighbor is doing so). As you drive through the neighborhoods south of Highland Park/Balcones, you can already see the amount of infill that is happening. It is beginning to happen in our neighborhood. Let's be proactive in educating ourselves about zoning and other situations that might occur during construction. In the future we will have a General Meeting with someone from the City of Austin to talk with us about zoning and codes. All this is in an effort to continue to be Good Neighbors. Let us know if you currently have concerns. Please watch your newsletter for the date of the meeting.

The neighborhood association would also be interested in topics you might have for future General Meetings. Please let us know. And have a pleasant day.

Congratulations, Eagle Scouts

Congratulations go to two Life Scouts who recently attained the Eagle Scout rank. These two young men performed their Eagle Scout projects in green spaces in our neighborhood.

Jack Thompson planted 7 large trees on the median at Ridge Oak/ Lake View. He gathered donations from neighbors and businesses and coordinated the project, which required a lot of physical effort due to the soil conditions. The trees will add shade and beauty to the area.

Brian Grundy helped landscape the median at Foothill Terrace, a large weed-covered area. After obtaining donations from neighbors and businesses, he managed volunteer workers who weeded, added native plants, irrigated and mulched the area. Now the area is easy to maintain and looks great.

Many thanks to both Jack and Brian for helping improve our neighborhood!

And thanks also to the neighbors and businesses that supported their efforts.

Note: The Beautification Committee has other landscaping projects for future Eagle scout candidates. If you are interested, please contact Nadene Morning. <u>ntmorning@hotmail.com</u>.

New Newsletter Editor HELP ME!!!!!!!!! jsievert1@austin.rr.com

April 2005

Just kidding...kinda[©] Actually I really do need your help interesting stories, anecdotes, etc. Why now? Starting this month, the newsletter'll come out once a month, not once a quarter. That means we need more stories. HPWBANA Needs You!

SO how 'bout I get things started: Did you know that in the City of Austin, you can have up to 4 chickens in your yard? Why, in the small town in Louisiana where I come from, you can't have any chickens. Now it wasn't always that way. My mother tells the story (and watch her because she'll tell it more than once) that when she and my dad moved to Lake Charles in 1951, she was horrified to see chickens running loose on the main street! It was just as my grandmother had feared: They had moved from the sophistication of New Orleans to the country. How would my parents survive? Fear not, they (along with their eight kids) did just fine.

If you have a funny story, an interesting tidbit about the neighborhood (how things used to be, how you wish they were), or you just want to get something off your mind, email me.

Oh yeah, almost forgot to tell you, my name is Jeanne Sievert. I have worn many hats. A teacher. A lawyer. A student. A business owner. The list goes on. But I've never been a paid editor of any publication. When I mentioned this to the Board, the response was that I'm perfect for the job — this is not a paid position anyway!

So start those stories and articles coming! And if your article is time-sensitive, contact me about publication deadlines. See ya 'round the hood!

April 25 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

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Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association Newsletter - April 2005 1

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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 April 25 and May 23.

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

Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center	
Abandoned Vehicles	
Barking Dog Complaint	
Boats/Trailers in the Street	
Bulky Trash Pickup	
Coyote Sighting	
Dead Animals in the Street	
Downed Street Sign	
Graffiti Complaint	
Loose Dog Complaint	
Mosquito Infestation	
Oak Wilt Information	
Pothole Repair	
Rodent Control	
Street Light Repair	
Tall Weeds in a Vacant Lot	
Tall Weeds on City Property	
Water Conservation	
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line210-698-170	

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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.

Perry Park Clean-Up on April 23

Perry Park is participating in the Austin Parks Foundation's *It's My Park Day* on April 23 (from 9:00 to 1:00) in support of Earth Day. Residents are invited to join in this citywide effort to beautify our parks.

We will continue with the cleanup efforts started in January. The plan is to remove dead wood and brush and some of the ligustrum and non-native growth that is taking over the park. There is even something for the smaller children to do – move the small rocks back into the cement border around the play equipment.

Check out <u>www.hpwbana.org</u> or <u>www.austinparks.org</u> for details.

You are encouraged to bring gloves, loppers, saws, and small shovels/pails for kids. Hope to see you there!

What is Perry Park?

Perry Park is the only official City of Austin Park within our neighborhood association boundaries. Located next to Highland Park Elementary, the park is used frequently by children and is often enjoyed by adults, their pets and the neighborhood association for various events.

The park contains two large areas with playground equipment, a full-size soccer field, a kid-size soccer field located by the big playground, a running trail, trails through a natural wooded area, two tennis courts, picnic tables, a pavilion for gatherings, natural geological aspects (it was once a quarry) and drinking fountains.

It is maintained by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department with help from Highland Park Elementary. Many of the improvements over the years were initiated, funded and coordinated by interested residents. Major improvements that resulted from resident involvement and contributions include resurfacing the tennis court and installation of the running trail and an irrigation system. The playground equipment was donated by the school's PTA. This is significant because the playground area has many amenities that are not typically found at AISD schools. Some improvements were the results of hard work by local Eagle Scout candidates. These include development and marking of natural trails, installation of picnic tables, and planting trees.

Perry Park is located between Balcones Drive and Fairview Drive. The parking lot is behind Highland Park Elementary School on Fairview Dr.



APD Commander's Forum

By HPWBANA Crime and Safety Committee

At the Austin Police Department's Commander's Forum on February 22, Senior Police Officer Richard Vargas described how to obtain Current Crime Information using the APD web site <u>www.</u> ci.austin.tx.us/police/.

This site was recently improved to enhance the search capabilities by area, such as identifying an area by rectangle or within 500 or 1000 feet of a specific address. The information is fairly current with a delay of only 1-2 days (officer must file a report, not investigations). It is best to use high-speed access because of the large amount of data that is downloaded and to disable any pop-up blocker program.

Commander Calvin Smith spoke on a handful of crime topics. A new program using a bait vehicle with cameras is available to assist with investigating burglaries involving vehicles. Most police calls in our area continue to be burglaries, both residential and vehicle, although a wide variety of crime occurs. Camera systems are being investigated at known high crime spots such as Mt. Bonnell. A large number of traffic tickets and warnings were issued recently with DWI being a focus.

APD encourages residents to attend these forums so that neighbors and police can establish a dialogue about specific crime concerns. Topics discussed include graffiti trends, code questions and bike/car safety topics. Residents also recognized specific effective programs from APD and expressed appreciation.

The crime and safety committee discussed our neighborhood watch program with our two Central West District Representatives, Dana Munguia (974-5440) and David Crowder, Jr. (974-5545). They will be providing articles for our monthly newsletter focusing on crime related topics.

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 <u>www.hpwbana.org</u>. Questions about membership? Contact Carolyn Robinson at 302-5417 or Susan Rauch at 419-9710.

Neighborhood History

The McCary-Theil House, a 146-year-old home at 4712 Bullcreek Road, is believed to be the oldest structure in Northwest Austin. Built in 1859, the Greek Revival-style ranch house has 18-inch rock walls

and 18-foot ceilings. The house was built by rancher James D. McCary and later lived in by A. H. Longley, Union Army officer, publisher of the Austin Republican and city alderman during Reconstruction.

The home is currently owned by Highland Village Church of Christ and is used for a



fellowship hall. The church undertook renovation of the home in 1979. The City Council allows renovation under a restrictive covenant, requiring the owner to give the city 120 days notice before using the structure for a different purpose or demolishing it. The home remains unchanged in character since it was built. Renovation work included an addition on the back of the home that is in keeping with the home's original style. Project architect was Winfred O. Gustafson who paid attention to details of the Civil War period during which the structure was build.

Information from Lette Howell

Please submit articles of historic interest to Jessica Winslow jwinslow@austin.rr.com



I not only represent Buyers, Sellers and Investors in the Highland Park West/Balcones area neighborhood...

> I am a resident and neighbor as well. Please call me for all your real estate needs.

> > Mark F. Moore REALTOR*, GRI 512.771.7177 Cell mark@aveone.com www.aveone.com

> > > 901 West Ninth, Suite 110 Austin, Texas 78703

AvenueOne

Highland Park Elementary Happenings....

Gold Commended Performance. Our neighborhood school, Highland Park Elementary, was recognized in January as *the only AISD elementary school* to receive Gold Commended Performance from TEA in all five areas critical to the academic success of students:

- Science
- Reading/English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Writing
- Attendance Rate

Highland Park's success is attributable to exemplary staff and involved parents who provide enriching experiences for all students.

Highland Park is also highlighted in Dr. Mel Levine's new book <u>*Ready or Not, Here Life Comes.*</u> Last spring Dr. Levine visited the campus to view the All Kinds of Minds Fair where 4th & 5th grade students displayed projects exploring their own unique learning styles. Highland Park staff members have received extensive training in addressing learning styles and learning differences, and the campus has served as a pilot school in Central Texas for implementing All Kinds Of Minds Programs!

Upcoming Events on Campus:

April 7th ~ PTA meeting & Noche de Canciones

Kindergarten and first grade students will perform songs learned in Spanish class.

April 22nd ~ Kindergarten Rodeo!

Kindergarten students celebrate their study of Cowboys and Western Culture with their very own rodeo! Activities include square dancing, branding, stick horse racing, and a petting zoo.

Coming up in May \sim a Fiesta to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, First Graders go on an Ocean Odyssey including a visit to Sea World, Fourth Grade celebrates Pioneer Days, and Fifth Grade classes take a three day trip to Camp Allen!

Events for Families with students entering in August 2005:

Scottie Pup Camp ~ April 12th. Highland Park will host a Parent Orientation & Scottie Pup Camp for families with children entering in August 2005 on Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30. Parents will visit with PTA representatives, Principal Jane Knowles, and a kindergarten teacher while touring the school. Incoming kindergarten and first grade students will enjoy story time with Mrs. Knowles in the library! Please RSVP to <u>epierce@austinisd.org</u> or call 414-2090.

Kindergarten Round-Up ~ **Tuesday, May 3rd at 8:30 a.m**. Families with kindergartners or other new students entering in August can join us in the Highland Park Cafeteria. Children will visit classes while parents fill out registration forms.

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Highland Park Elementary School COME AND PLAY!

Join us for playdates to meet families with children entering Highland Park in August 2005! 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. April 13th, May 11th

> Weekend dates: Sunday, April 3rd 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 30th 4:00 p.m.

All playdates on Perry Playground, behind the school near the tennis courts.

For more information, contact the Highland Park Office at 414-2090.

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Each class includes instruction & discussion on value and keepsake project.

Thursday Nights - once a month from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m April 14th • May 19th • June 16th • July 14th • August 18th • September 15th Registration fee: \$210 ALL materials and tools included! Plus \$18 discount on beautiful traditions binder

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Tuesday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. April 12th - May 17th & May 24th - June 28th Registration Fee: \$108

scrapbooking! Beginner & Up

• series 1 April 21st & 28th: Tearing Technique May 5th & 12th: Spring time

· series 2

May 26th & June 2nd: Fun With Fibers June 9th & 16th: Enchanting Use of Eyelets

Thursday nights 7:00-8:30pm

Registration Fees: \$120 Includes costs to create 8-12 pages per series!

CONTACT: Margo 512-632-7198 • mhetrick1@msn.com • PinkBubbleScrapbooking.com Registration deadline for first series of classes is Friday, April 8th at 4pm

All classes to be held at the Northwest YMCA at 5807 McNeil Road Austin, Texas 78729 in the "Green Room"

Experiencing Coyote Problems? – Call 311

A second town hall meeting sponsored by Council Member Brewster McCracken was held on March 1 to address our urban coyote problem and the effectiveness of the coyote control program. Also attending the meeting were representatives from the wildlife services, animal control, and the city 311 call center. Wildlife biologist Randy Ferrar, who handles the coyote control measures, conducted a question and answer session with residents.

Highlights include:

- Coyote management via trapping began January 13
- Trapping location depends on the number of calls made to 311 reporting coyote incidents.
- Most of the calls were concentrated in specific areas north of 2222 and as of the meeting 11 coyotes were trapped and put down.
- The trapping areas are well marked and closely monitored. If you see animal control signs, please stay away from the area.

In areas with similar coyote problems, trapping four of five coyotes in a given geographical area has been effective in drastically reducing coyote sightings and their aggressive behavior. The trappings north of 2222 where the coyote problems are much more pronounced should produce these same results.

It is important that all coyote incidents be reported so the data can be used to identify coyote patterns. All calls to 311 or 911 regarding coyotes are channeled to Randy, although he will not respond to all calls directly. Within our HPWBANA area, there have been fewer reported sightings and no trapping. We do have aggressive coyote activity in our area and need to be aware of this problem to prevent it from reaching the level of those neighborhoods to the north.

This time of year is the coyote breeding season so the population is expected to increase. It is unknown how many coyotes live in our natural areas. It is suspected that the problem is affecting us now because the overall coyote population has grown to fill all available spaces. They have a high reproduction rate and many food sources.

The best prevention is to eliminate food sources outside your home that attract coyotes. Please note that coyotes eat almost anything. This includes pet food, bird seed and edible garbage. You should protect pets and watch children. Loud noises are effective in scaring off coyotes if they are spotted. A blow horn works well for this.

The goal is not to eliminate the coyote presence, but rather to instill a fear of humans so they stay away from us and our homes. Coyote background and prevention information is on McCracken's web page, <u>www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/mccracken.htm</u> and also our website, <u>www.hpwbana.org</u>.

Business Classifieds

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

Median Maintenance

By Nadene Morning



As new Business Sponsors of HPWBANA, Charlie and Ann's Exxon jumped right in and offered to maintain the adjacent median at Parkcrest and Balcones. Two years ago the HPWBANA Beautification Committee, in its first landscaping project, improved the median with native plants and mulch. The Beautification Committee is very grateful to Charlie and Ann's Exxon for taking over the maintenance of this very visible spot.

Since the 1950's Charlie and Ann's Exxon has repaired and maintained neighbors' cars with honesty and integrity at 5400 Balcones, across from Randalls. In the last year Charlie and Ann Katzer retired and passed the torch to the new owners, Lou Ann Lindley and Thomas Gay. To keep it in the family, son Gabe Gay and daughter-in-law Eva Koch manage the station. Gabe is wellequipped to do so, having 13 years in the automotive repair industry. Many of you know Lou Ann and Thomas as long time residents in our community.

Support of the community is a personal and business philosophy for the Lindley/Gay family. PIF LLP, standing for Pay it Forward, owns the Exxon. Charlie and Ann's Exxon is also a McCallum Baseball sponsor, employs three McCallum students and sponsors NWLL and various fundraisers at Highland Park Elementary and Lamar Middle School.

As a HPWBANA Business Sponsor, Charlie and Ann's Exxon and other business partners provide financial support to various activities of the neighborhood association such as the Egg Hunt, Independence Day Parade, beautification efforts, neighborhood watch and special events.

Thanks to our 2005 Business Sponsors We are grateful to acknowledge the support of the following businesses that have joined our Business Sponsor Program. Athens Group - 5608 Parkcrest Drive #200 Charlie & Ann's Exxon - 5400 Balcones Drive Children's Therapeutics of Austin - 3211 Hancock Drive Crenshaw Athletic Club - 5000 Fairview Drive Cross/Recek Architects - 3313 Hancock Drive Griffith Small Animal Hospital - 3407 Northland Drive Highland Park West Shopping Center - 3301 Hancock Drive, Suite 6 Michael's Hair Company - 3307 Hancock Drive Northwest Veterinary Hospital - 3817 Dry Creek Drive Pak Mail of Tarrytown/Pak Mail Balcones - 5501A Balcones Drive

Inspecting for Termites

By Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A&M University

Subterranean termites are the most destructive pest of wood in the United States, causing more than \$2 billion in damage each year. Termites are beneficial, breaking down wood materials that otherwise would accumulate, but when termites move into homes or other structures, they become a problem. A thorough inspection yearly can detect a termite problem and can be used to determine if treatment is required; this inspection may be done by the property owner or a professional.

- Outside:
- Inspect foundation for mud tubes
- Foundations should have 6-8 inches exposed for visual inspection
- · Inspect around garages, porches, patios, sidewalks
- Check for standing water or moist soil next to the structure These areas should be corrected so moisture does not sit near the
- structureCheck window and door frames; pipe penetrations
- Inspect roof eaves & gutters for leaks
- Inspect siding for decay or rot
- Check all wood to soil contact for termites or mud tubes
- If house on pier & beam, inspect crawl space area for mud tubes going up beams

Inside:

- · Inspect baseboards, wood floors, window & door facings
- · Check any known expansion joints or cracks in the slab
- · Look for blistering of paint or wall surfaces



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• Inspect plumbing, including the bath trap

- If there is no bath trap, cut an access to periodically inspect plumbing Inspect attic for mud tubes, water leaks or wood rot
- For more information, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension agent- IPM at 512.854.9600.

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