



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 1, Number 5

July 2005

## Progress On Mopac Sound Walls

Frances B. Allen

At the June 6 CAMPO meeting, Mayor Will Wynn visited with me during a committee break. He reports that the test sound walls will most likely be at Camp Hubbard so all can drive by and have a look and sound test from both sides. The date that they will go up depends on the hiring of the consultant team. I also spoke with Joseph Carrizales of TxDOT, who is the interim project manager for Loop 1. The contract between TxDOT and the Consulting Company will not be completed until the end of July. Best Guess—test sound walls will be more like early fall.

CAMPO passed the Mobility 2030 plan on Monday night. This is what is in the plan for Loop 1 (MoPac Blvd) RM 2222-Cesar Chavez. *Evaluate extension of managed lanes to central business district. TxDOT to coordinate with the city, county and neighborhoods to minimize impacts. Construction of managed lanes will take place within the existing corridor right of way and will be at or below grade. Project will include construction of noise walls and will provide adequate space for future ASARD commuter rail operation.*

MoNAC meeting is July 19 at 6:30 PM at Westminster Manor, Harris Bell Hall. Ginger Daniels from Texas Transportation Institute will give a presentation on “managed lanes”. We hope to introduce the TxDOT Project Manager and the Engineer for the consulting team.

## President's Message

by Frances B. Allen

It is delightful to see our membership list growing each month. And we are very pleased to have the newsletter delivered to your home each month. Now I would like for you to consider ways you might be more involved with HPWBANA

- Serve on the board of directors
- Serve on the neighborhood planning team
- Attend Events: 4th of July, Easter, Annual Meeting
- Work with the Beautification Committee
- Report neighborhood history or happening for the newsletter
- AND YOU CAN BE CREATIVE AND THINK OF MORE

Contact me, Frances Allen 454-2113 or [fba100@juno.com](mailto:fba100@juno.com) with ideas.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Celebration 9 A.M.

Highland Park Elementary School

### Parking Lot

Join your neighbors for the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Celebration at Highland Park Elementary School and Perry Park.

Prizes will be awarded for the following categories:

- Best Decorated Tricycle
- Best Decorated Wagon
- Best Decorated Bicycle
- Best Patriotic Costume
- Best Decorated Scooter
- Most Patriotic Pet

### Other activities not to be missed:

Celebrate American History and enter the Patriotic Trivia Contest!

Celebrate American Culture and eat Hot Dogs and Sno Cones!

See Fire Engine #19

Join HPWBANA and have a Happy July 4<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!

**July 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**  
**Please attend our monthly Board Meeting:**  
**Yarborough Library**  
**2200 Hancock Drive**  
**7:00-8:45 p.m.**

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## 2005 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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The HPWBANA Board meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month except December. Meetings are held from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. at the Yarbrough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. All neighbors are invited to attend. Upcoming meeting dates are June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center .....	311
Abandoned Vehicles.....	280-0075
Barking Dog Complaint.....	974-4800
Boats/Trailers in the Street.....	280-0075
Bulky Trash Pickup.....	494-9400
Coyote Sighting .....	311
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 .....	440-5195
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

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## Welcome New Members to HPWBANA!

Becky Beaver and John Duncan  
Tara and Cooper Blankenship  
Nell Broadbent  
Michael Chitty  
Mary and Michael Crouch  
Linda and Sam Eaves  
Jan and Ron Habitzreiter  
Susie and Morton Krumholz  
Lynda and Gaylon Oswalt  
Catherine and Michael Steffano  
Blanche Strickland  
Demp Toney  
Cathy and Marc Trifirio  
Ginnie and Keith Wilcox

## Many Thanks Montana!

The Beautification Committee extends a thank you to Montana Manske who volunteered to help out in a couple of our neighborhood green spaces earning community service hours. She weeded at the Foothill Terrace median and also helped remove Bermuda grass at the Hancock Bridge landscape.

## Advertising Information

- Please support the businesses 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](mailto:kelly@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing.

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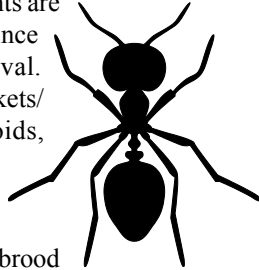
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## Pharaoh Ants

Pharaoh ants are also known as sugar ants or piss ants. These ants are very small, yellowish-orange with the abdomen being darker. Pharaoh ants are associated with human habitation because they are dependent upon artificial heating. These ants are often found in kitchens and bathrooms since they require a moisture source for survival. They have been found nesting in light sockets/electrical outlets, potted plants, wall voids, behind baseboards and in attics.

Pharaoh ants tend to have large colonies that multiply by "budding." "Budding" is where groups of workers leave the nest with brood (eggs, larvae and pupae) and move to a new nest site. Queens may also move to the new site; if not, workers can rear new queens from the brood.

Pharaoh ants feed on a variety of foods, preferring grease, meats and sweets. These ants enjoy mint apple jelly which you can use to your advantage and make your own bait (2 level tablespoons of boric acid powder to 10 oz. mint apple jelly). This bait can be placed out using soda straws cut into 1/2" pieces. Place baits where ants are foraging and don't wipe away their chemical trails.



### To manage pharaoh ants follow these tips:

- Wipe up any spills and crumbs regularly
- Remove garbage regularly
- Clean garbage can inside and out regularly
- Use baits; do not spray!! This will break the nest up further and make it more difficult to control
- Under sinks in kitchens & bathrooms, poke a small hole to enable you to puff a thin layer of boric acid dust into the wall void
- If ants are trailing, do not wipe up trail before placing baits- this will enable ants to find bait faster

For more information, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension agent at 512.854.9600.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Cooperative Extension or the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is implied.

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- Norman Chenven, M.D.  
Founder/Executive Vice President  
and patient for 25 years.

For more information, visit [AustinRegionalClinic.com](http://AustinRegionalClinic.com) or call ARC-INFO at 272-4636

## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### Not your average tree planting...

Watching a 40 foot tree being picked up and moved about a hundred yards is not what I do everyday. But it was a major event that occurred last month at the median on Foothill Terrace located in the southern part of our neighborhood. The new owner of the property next to the median had a very large live oak tree in his yard that just didn't fit the landscape plan. So, instead of cutting down the tree, he found a new home for it in the median. And the move was something to watch!

Located just north of 35<sup>th</sup> street, the median, a large crescent shaped green space on the small street of Foothill Terrace, has a long history of being maintained by the neighborhood. Fifty years ago it was just a large mound of dirt. Then neighbors approached the city to create a median by curbing the area and putting in a water source and meter. It has since been completely maintained by neighbors. This includes adding plants, watering, weeding, and trimming — everything. For decades, yes decades, the maintenance this has been done by neighbor John Westkeamper.

A couple of years ago, John approached the neighborhood association Beautification Committee for assistance with the median's maintenance and we started working with him. It is a really large space



so we talked to Brian Grundy about implementing some improvements as his Eagle Scout project. With donations from businesses and neighbors in the area and a lot of hard work, he made a significant improvement and, in the process, got his Eagle Scout rank. The landscape is now easier to maintain but still requires attention from time to time.

Recently, construction began on a new home on the lot near the median. The homeowner and the builder, Michael Dean Homes, discussed helping out with the median on a larger scale as the landscape of the new home was being developed. Eventually this included moving a large oak tree from the lot to the center of the median — the event that took place on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The tree is beautiful... and large. It is a grand, multi-trunk, live oak tree that is about 45,000 pounds and over 40 feet tall!

The move was accomplished by Davey Tree Expert Company, a professional tree service company that specializes in moving this size tree. And the move was truly amazing to watch. A huge root ball is essential for this process; so first the tree was prepared to be moved. Then a crane slowly lifted the 40 foot tree onto a trailer. The trailer moved the tree to the median. Again the crane was used to position

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Tree Planting - (Continued from Page 4)

the tree into its new spot. The tree is now quite prominent – right in the middle of the median. For the next couple of years, the tree will require specific care and watering. In time, we hope that it will replicate the tree canopy that is very common to that neighborhood.

More improvements are planned and they will occur throughout this summer. These improvements are consistent with the community spirit that has continued to keep the green space looking great. They include installing a sprinkler system that covers the entire median. This will help ensure the tree's survival and ease the maintenance of the median over the coming years. The goal is to continue the community involvement by adding beauty to this neighborhood green space.

We extend a thank you to the new neighbor for this very generous offer. Moving a tree this size and adding a sprinkler system is very expensive. We also extend a thank you to Monte Goetz of Michael Dean Homes, Inc. for working with the neighborhood on these improvements.

And as changes are made to the median, we don't want to forget all the time and effort which has kept this median beautiful for years. I would particularly like to acknowledge and thank John Westkaemper for his long-term interest in and care of this wonderful green space.

*Nadene Morning*

*Beautification Committee*

## Foothill Terrace Median History

*by John Westkaemper*

When we moved here over 50 years ago, the median on Foothill Terrace was an uncurbed pile of mostly caliche, too poor to support more than a few weeds. The neighborhood kids liked to ride bikes over it, although there was heavy traffic from people cutting through to 35th to avoid the last part of Balcones (there was no MoPac then). The houses in the neighborhood were all very similar in size, about 2000-3000 sq. ft.

Sometime in the 60s, Roberta Crenshaw bought the house close to the median. She convinced the city to install curbing around the caliche mound with the understanding that they would not have to maintain it. A water line was also added. Although she bought ground cover which several of us helped her yard man plant, it did not cover very rapidly. Shortly thereafter, for some reason she had the yard man remove the plants and it reverted to native grass and weeds. Several of us mowed it when it got too wild. As residents aged and moved away, I was doing most of it.

In 1992, I cut back to part time teaching and started putting in some low-maintenance plants. In 1998, I stopped teaching entirely and was able to devote more time. Shortly after that, the Beautification Committee became active and started to help with the median. Much was accomplished with the help of Brian Grundy through his Eagle Scout project.

It now looks as if the new owners of the home being built close by will work with the Beautification Committee to make more improvements. A planned sprinkler system will widen the possibilities as well as lower the maintenance needed.



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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 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic and Parade, Annual Meeting, and 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.**

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Name of second adult \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

You may also join online with PayPal at [www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org).

Questions about membership? Contact Carolyn Robinson at 302-5417 or Susan Rauch at 419-9710.

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## City Planner Explains Zoning Issues

By Jessica Winslow

At the May 23, 2005, HPWBANA General Meeting, Mr. Greg Guernsey, Assistant Director of the City's Neighborhood Planning Department, provided a detailed overview of the City's zoning policies and procedures. In addition, he stated that HPWBANA will be included in the City's Neighborhood Planning process in 2006. This is a significant change from the City's prior policy that focused on neighborhood associations in the downtown area.

The City uses zoning to guide the use of property and its development. However, there are only five zoning inspectors for the entire City of Austin. Homeowners may also have development restrictions in private deed restrictions or subdivision plats. The City does not enforce either of these.

There are two types of residential zoning districts in our area, SF-3 and the more restricted SF-2. Most residences west of Mopac are zoned SF-3, while much of the area within our boundaries lying east of Mopac is zoned SF-2.

Mr. Guernsey's talk addressed some relevant subjects:

### *Home Occupation:*

- Must be accessory to residential use of the property
- No changes to the building (such as installing a commercial kitchen)
- Business owner must live on the property
- One employee is permitted
- No retail sales from the residence, although mail order is allowed.

### *Building Permits:*

- For an addition under 200 sq. ft., no permit is required
- Cannot build in easements, such as along the street
- Setback requirements vary depending on zoning
- Call 974-2380 for questions about additions
- Database of permits issued since 1980 is online

### *Garage Apartments and Duplexes:*

- Permitted in SF-3 zoned areas
- Not permitted in SF-2 areas
- Height limited to 30 ft (based on average of highest and lowest points on lot)
- A maximum of 6 unrelated people may live on the property

### *Impervious Cover:*

- Allowed percentage determined by lot boundaries
- One-half credit for deck, pea gravel or decomposed granite
- Surface area of pools considered pervious cover

Greg Guernsey left several handouts that might be helpful. The handout addresses:

- The Development Process
- Zoning Research
- Historic Zoning
- How to File a Petition of Protest
- and other information

If interested please contact Frances Allen 454-2113 or [fba100@juno.com](mailto:fba100@juno.com) to have one mailed to you

Also check out the Planning Department's comprehensive web site which contains a wealth of information on these topics <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zoning/>

## Healthy Kids for a Healthy Summer

By Savannah Williams

For kids to have a healthy summer, they need to stay hydrated, eat a good diet, and apply sunscreen. The purpose of my article is to give you tips on how to be healthy this summer.

### **Water, please**

Staying hydrated means you must drink enough fluids to stay healthy. Some kids think that whatever they drink will keep them hydrated, and that is not true. Water is the best, however; sport drinks and juices are good, too. According to WebMD, kids are more likely to drink flavored drinks. You should avoid drinking caffeinated drinks like sodas and ice tea. You should also drink plenty of fluids during each meal. This is especially true if what you're eating is salty like pizza and fried foods. One warning sign that you're not drinking enough water is that you are tired all the time.

### **Good food means good life**

A good diet means that you eat food that keeps you healthy and gives you energy.

Eating a good breakfast is a good start. I like to eat oatmeal or a big bowl of cereal in the morning. You shouldn't eat cereal high in sugar. Lunch is important because it gives you energy in the middle of the day. Leftover pizza is a popular food to eat in the summer. In *A Smart Girl's Guide to Starting Middle School*, they suggest eating a slice of pizza for energy (don't forget to drink plenty of water with

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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**If so, please contact me:**

**Barbara Jackson**

**(a HPWBA neighbor)**

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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### *Healthy Kids - (Continued from Page 6)*

it!). For dinner, it is important to eat lots of colored foods because the colors mean vitamins!

You should try to stay away from fast foods. Most fast food is high in fat. A diet high in fat does not fill you up and it does not provide your body with the nutrition it needs.

#### **Use sunscreen!**

Most kids know that sunscreen helps prevent you from getting skin burned. If you are fair skinned like I am, then you should put on a good amount and keep doing it. I use sunscreen with an SPF of 45. But what does SPF mean? On the About.com Web site, SPF is defined as Sun Protection Factor. I think every kid should use the highest SPF sunscreen.

Follow my tips and suggestions for a healthy summer. The more you stay healthy, the more you can enjoy your summer.

**Editor's Note:** Savannah Williams is a 10 year old girl who is entering the fifth grade at Highland Park Elementary School. Her hobbies are swimming, writing, hanging out with friend, and watching movies with her brother, Conor.

### **Business Classifieds**

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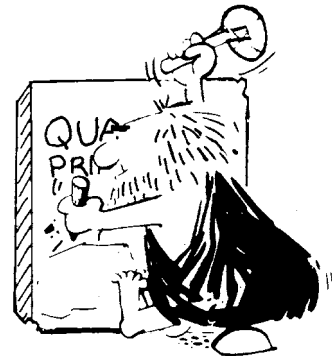
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