

Volume 1, Number 6 August 2005

# President's Message By Frances B. Allen

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY REVIEW

WOW! 250 neighbors celebrating Independence Day! I was so proud and pleased to be a part of the celebration at Perry Park/ Highland Park School. What a joy to watch the children, all decorated in their red, white and blue, manning bikes, wagons, scooters and even a cardboard box - all ready and eager to march behind the boy scouts who carried the flags with Fire Engine # 19 leading the parade. Oh, yes, I forgot to mention there were also well-behaved, decorated dogs.



There was a great program beginning with patriotic songs like "Yankee Doodle" and "Grand Old Flag" by the Barber Shop Quartet, Deacon Aires from Highland Park Baptist Church.

Elliott Naishtat, our State Representative, lead the reading of the Declaration of Independence reminding us that it was written 229 years ago. Adults and children then continued to read sections of the declaration: "When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands....." and "We hold these truth to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.....". It reminded

me that it had indeed been awhile since I had read the declaration — The Declaration of Independence that founded our country and that we celebrate on the 4th of July.

Our emcee, Debbie King, announced the winners in the Best Decorated contests:

#### Wagons

- Heather, Holly & John Mason Hughes
- Olivia Campa
- Hannah Thomas-Clarke
- 4<sup>th</sup> Benjamin & Harrison Pargmann

#### **Scooters**

- Cash Robinson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Carolyn Schriber
- 3rd Madeleine Goulet

#### Tricvcles

- 1 st Samantha Wilson
- $2^{nd}$ Anna McClellan
- Charlie Stone

#### **Bikes**

- 1st Laurel Hughes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thea Jackman
- Annie Walker
- 4th Mac Perkins
- 5<sup>th</sup> Steven Bailey

#### Dog

1st Molly Walker

#### Costume

- 1st Charlotte Thomas-Clarke
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Goulet
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Charlotte Thompson
- 4th Rebecca Smaha

Then, the program was followed by the fun of mingling and visiting with neighbors and eating hot dogs, snow cones and watermelon. That



is what celebrating the 4th of July is all about. JUST A WONDERFUL DAY! This event was sponsored by Highland Park West Balcones Neighborhood Association (HPWBANA). A big thanks to the capable chairperson, Carolyn Robinson, and her hard working committee. Our next event will be our Annual Meeting in October. Check the newsletter and plan to attend that event.

#### August 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting

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

#### 2005 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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David Pharisdavidpharis@yahoo.com, 453-2155
Carolyn Robinsoncarrob99@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 Hannal Drive All reighbor on invited to otten differences months

2200 Hancock Drive. All neighbors are invited to attend. Upcoming meeting dates are June 27th and July 25th.

HPWBANA 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.

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Helpful Phone Numbers	
Austin Citywide Information Center	1
Abandoned Vehicles	5
APD Dana Mungia; Central West District974-5440	0
Barking Dog Complaint	0
Boats/Trailers in the Street	5
Bulky Trash Pickup494-9400	0
Coyote Sighting	1
Dead Animals in the Street	0
Downed Street Sign	5
Graffiti Complaint 974-1028	
Loose Dog Complaint	0
Mosquito Infestation 972-5692	2
Oak Wilt Information	
Pothole Repair 974-8750	0
Rodent Control 972-5692	2
Street Light Repair	7
Tall Weeds in a Vacant Lot	
Tall Weeds on City Property440-5150	0
Water Conservation	9
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line210-698-1709	9

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#### Non-Native Plants Removed at the Ridge Oak Reservoir

By Nadene Morning and Mark Moore

It started out as a simple email from Nancy Woolley, President of Friends of Bright Leaf SNA, to HPWBANA for help removing non-native plants along the fence that borders Bright Leaf SNA at the Ridge Oak Reservoir. These plants, mostly china berry trees, ligustrum and photinia, have been reseeding Bright Leaf and just had to go. This is city property so approval was the first step. But, after just two months, five different groups mobilized to tackle the problem.

The City of Austin Water Utility Department representative, George Greene, was extremely supportive of the effort and really came through with manpower to remove the big non-native trees. The Park Manager of Bright Leaf SNA, Jeff Hershey, and Nancy of Friends of Bright Leaf SNA addressed issues that applied to the park, including the hole in the fence and the use of herbicides. HPWBANA helped coordinate things and really focused on removing the dead brush and trash from the wooded area there. Brian Block of Keep Austin Beautiful (<a href="https://www.keepaustinbeautiful.org">www.keepaustinbeautiful.org</a>) acted as our liaison to city departments including arranging for prompt removal of the very large brush pile.

The volunteer workday occurred on June 18th with several people removing the smaller non-native plants and hauling them to the street. It was a small group but just the right size with Jose, a city resource with the chain saw, cutting what and where we needed.



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Woman-Owned Business Enterprise, HUB and State of Texas Certified And so with the help of five committed groups the Ridge Oak Reservoir has a new look, a look that causes fewer problems for its neighboring park and residents. The beautiful view of the 360 bridge is one of the special aspects of the area and it is now more open and framed



with native plants and trees.

Many thanks to all those involved! We extend a special thanks to the Water Utility personnel whose efforts were outstanding!

What is next for that area?

- The stumps will be removed.
- The trees marked with blue inside the fence area are targeted for removal.
- Erosion issues on the bank will be addressed.
- The fence will be repaired.



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#### **BACK TO SCHOOL**

Calling all Scotties!! Highland Park Elementary School is planning many events as we get ready for an exciting school year.

During **August 1 - 5**, from 8:30am-3:30pm, parents can take all necessary paperwork to the school office to register your child for school. The office will be open on August 3 from 8am-6pm. Call 414-2090 for more information.

Saturday, **August 12** from 8:30-11:30am is an opportunity to spruce up the landscaping at the school before the 1<sup>st</sup> bell rings on August 16. Students can count this as Community Service hours for the year. Rally Day is **August 15** from 3-4pm. This is a chance for your child to meet his teacher and share a Popsicle with old friends and new classmates. Parents bring your checkbooks as you can join PTA, buy Scottie T-shirts, join the grocery card program and pick up the '04-'05 yearbook. Don't miss it!

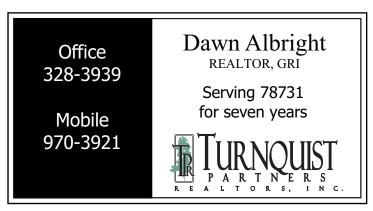
Dust off the alarm clocks! Classes begin at 7:45am on Tuesday, **August 16**! Drivers please be aware of school zones! After dropping your children off the first morning, stop by the library for a Back to School Coffee from 7:45-8:30am.

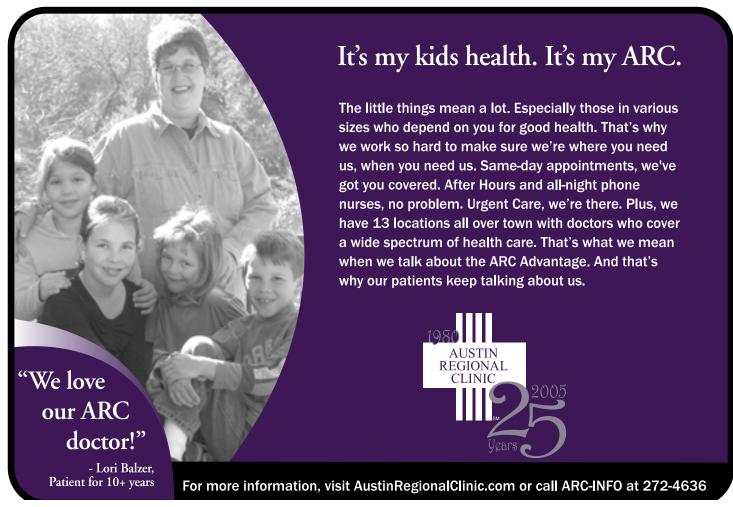
Line up those babysitters for **Back to School Night** where you will meet with your child's teacher to learn all about the upcoming year and sign up to volunteer in your child's class. **The dates and times** 

are:

5th Grade Wednesday, August 17, 6-7pm K, 1st, 2nd Grades Thursday, August 18, 6-7pm 3rd, 4th Grades Thursday, August 18, 7:15-8:15pm

Highland Park is the awesome school that it is due in part to the many volunteer hours put in by our parents. Contact PTA President Becky Knapik at 453-3632 to let her know how you'd like to help. See you in August!





#### **National Night Out**

Neighborhoods throughout Austin are being invited to join with thousands of communities nationwide on Tuesday, August 2nd, to participate in the 22nd Annual 'National Night Out'. APD officers, firefighters and City Council Members will attend neighborhood parties throughout Austin and participate in a neighborhood walk.



#### 'National Night Out' is an opportunity to:

- Heighten awareness of drug and crime prevention efforts
- Generate support and participation in crime prevention efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Send a message to criminals to let them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

For the past 10 years, Texas had led the nation in citizen and police involvement. Your participation in the Austin area 'National Night Out' will show neighborhood strength, increase the police officer/citizen bond and make our community a safer place to live.

To officially participate in National Night Out events, you must complete the **National Night Out Application** and mail it to the address on the form. You may also fax your application to (512) 974-6222.

For additional information, please contact Rosie Salinas at the Community Liaison Office at (512) 974-4900 or by e-mail at nno@ci. austin.tx.us.

Information about the HPWBANA Crime Watch Program is available on the www.hpwbana.org website, or call Mark Moore at 771-7177.

APD NNO website address: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm (Editor's Note: This information was taken directly from the APD website.)

#### **Organize Your Own Block Party**

Westfield Dr. Will Have Their Usual Neighbors Night Out Tuesday, August 2 4812 Westfield Drive

Contact: 454-2113

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#### **'ROUND THE HOOD**

By Jeanne M. Sievert

Recently I made the very bold pronouncement that I had seen a Red-Headed Woodpecker and that it was eating out of my bird feeder. I wondered if this were a common or uncommon phenomenon. I also reported that I'd seen a very Speedy Texas Alligator Lizard that seemed incredibly fast compared to his slow moving cousin Bob. But knowing my ignorance of the wild things that live among us, I invited those with more knowledge to set me straight.

And, I am happy to report that my plea for help from a neighborhood naturalist did not go unheeded. And it is a good thing too! A lot of my information was wrong. According to neighbor Nancy Woolley, Capital Area Master Naturalist and President of Friends of Bright Leaf, red headed woodpeckers are extremely rare in Austin. She thought what I probably saw was a **Red-Bellied Woodpecker**. (I have subsequently had this confirmed by a geographer friend visiting from Louisiana who is an avid and expert birder).

Nancy says these woodpeckers will come to feeders. She has also had good luck in attracting them with unsalted peanuts; leave them in the shell and throw them on the ground under the feeder. Just don't let the Blue Jays and squirrels get there first!

Nancy provided the following additional information: Using the binoculars she keeps by the window, she can observe her birdfeeders and birdbaths. This spring she had a pair of Red-Bellied Woodpeckers

hollow out a nest in a tree outside one of her windows. The male has a streak of red from his neck to his beak. The female has a red streak too, but it doesn't go all the way to her beak.

Using her bird ID books, she has seen over 42 species of birds in her backyard. She has even seen a male Golden Cheeked Warbler! To learn more about a Texas Backyard Habitat go to <a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/wildscapes/">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/wildscapes/</a>

I guess I'll have to consult a bird book or check out the web site before I attempt to identify any more bird species!

Nancy was also very knowledgeable about that speedy lizard I saw. She wrote:

"And that fast running lizard, maybe it was an Eastern Tree Lizard? For more info, try <a href="http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/lizards/urosaurus.ornatus.html">http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/lizards/urosaurus.ornatus.html</a>. I've seen them around here and they can run fast. They are good to have around; they eat ants."

Do you want to see your name in print? Just find a topic you like and email me a story. Send it in Word before the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month and you too can make your presence known 'round the hood!



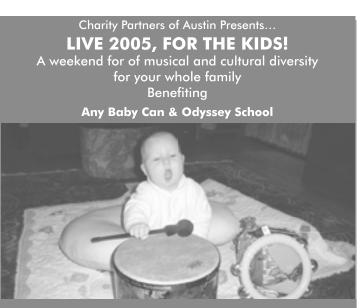


#### WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY !!!

Mayfield Park, at 3505 W. 35th St.(next to Laguna Gloria) will be having guided walks of the historic ponds and gardens surrounding the 1870's cottage, two Saturdays in September, October, and November. A call is out for docents to lead these hour long tours. Anyone interested in serving as a guide, should call Betty Hendrix at 467-1868. She will have a short training session so you might learn about the heirloom plants, birds, and history of this nature preserve, to share with visitors. This is an opportunity to give a little of your time to experience and share the beauty and tranquility of this special West Austin park.

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