



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 1, Number 8

October 2005

[www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org)

## President's Message

*By Frances B. Allen*

My apologies that many did not receive the HPWBANA Newsletter until after the meeting on Monday, August 22. Several have voiced concern about the meeting with Varsity Properties. We did have about 25 neighbors in attendance, although Varsity Property representatives were unable to attend.

We have formed a Neighborhood Association committee chaired by Tonianne Soster. She will be reporting on the direction of the committee.

Meanwhile I have had several calls of concern about what might be happening across the street. Here is a web site that will let you put in that address and know the permitting.

[www.ci.austin.tx.us/pierivr/permit\\_menu.cfm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/pierivr/permit_menu.cfm)

I have seen and heard the problems of rebuild and remodeling in other neighborhoods from here to the river. Perhaps we can learn to be vigilant.

Thank you for your concerns.

## Special Committee Formed for Student Housing Issues

*By Tonianne Soster*

During the 8/22 HPWBANA meeting a special committee was formed in an effort to address the detrimental impact that student housing facilities have on the character of our community and the current issues involving them. This committee will address a growing number of complaints regarding noise disturbances, parking problems, poorly maintained properties and potential zoning and/or housing infractions. The committee will consist of 5 members each residing in affected neighborhoods. The committee plans to meet for the first time this month and will discuss how we plan to prevent the rapid growth of student housing facilities in our quiet residential neighborhoods.

We also plan to facilitate action and go before City Council to request a change in the current ordinance which allows up to a maximum of 6 unrelated people to reside in a Single Family Dwelling. This number should be less in certain neighborhoods and not be the same across the board. What is allowed on West Campus should not be allowed all over Austin. Student housing facilities do not promote a compatible pattern of land use when it's not typical for the area. As homeowners it is our responsibility to preserve the image, perception and character of our neighborhoods not disrupt it. Noise disturbances and Nuisances affect the quality of life and enjoyment of our property. With the support of each neighborhood association, the ANC and affected property owners we stand a better chance in successfully addressing these issues and preserving our neighborhoods. For anyone presently dealing with these issues please feel free to contact me. The more involvement the better.

[te883@austin.rr.com](mailto:te883@austin.rr.com)

512-825-3773

## HPWBANA Board Meetings

**Please attend our monthly meetings:**

**September 26**

**October 24**

**November 28**

**Yarborough Library**

**2200 Hancock Drive**

**7:00-8:45 pm**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**October 30, 3:00-5:00 pm**

**Perry Park**

**(see inside for details)**

**View the Highland Park West Balcones  
Area Neighborhood Newsletter  
each month online at  
[www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)**

## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### 2005 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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Carolyn Robinson ..... carrob99@hotmail.com, 302-5417

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.

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

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Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line ..... 210-698-1709

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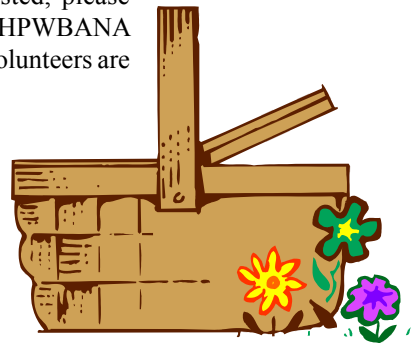
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371-3119

## HPWBANA Annual Meeting and Picnic in Perry Park

Please join us for the HPWBANA Annual Meeting and election of officers. The meeting will be a "Picnic in Perry Park," and will be held on Sunday, October 30 from 3:00-5:00. Neighborhood resident singer/songwriter, Lurleen Ladd, will entertain the crowd. The meeting will focus on accomplishments in the past year, including a focus on the recent landscaping improvements to Perry Park by the beautification committee. The new board candidates will be introduced, and the election will be held that afternoon. Remember that your HPWBANA dues must be current in order to vote in the election. If you are interested in serving on the board or if you know someone who may be interested, please contact Frances Allen, current HPWBANA president at 454-2113. New volunteers are always welcome!

Bring your family's picnic goodies and blanket or lawn chairs, and we will provide snacks and drinks. Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and receive a "treat" from HPWBANA. See you in Perry Park!



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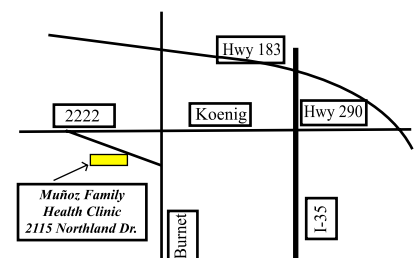
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## Landscape Day is a Success at Highland Park Elementary!

*By Nadene Morning*

The landscape beds at Highland Park Elementary were in great shape to welcome back students and parents for the fall session in mid-August, thanks to Landscape Day on August 13. Landscape Day is an annual back-to-school event where children and parents gather to pull weeds, trim, add mulch to beds and clean up the yard. Travis County volunteers fulfilled community service hours by weeding, spreading mulch and hauling off debris.

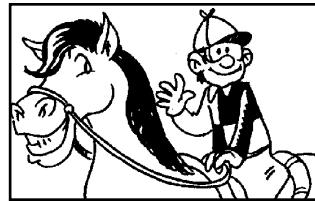
Children earned community service hours for their hard work. Each student needs a total of eight community service hours for the school session. Thanks go out to the following participants: Liz Janss, Coordinator, Phil Hardage and Olivia (Kinder), Julie and Grahame Jones and Gabby (Kinder), Marcie Goulet and Madeline (3rd), Susan Olson and Kelly (3rd), and Nadene Morning.

Liz, who heads the Highland Park PTA's landscape committee, coordinated the event. In this role Liz oversees the landscaping at the school and depends on volunteers for maintenance. It is a big task, so if you are interested in helping out consider the school's adopt-a-landscape-bed program. Sign up for a designated bed and watch over it throughout the year keeping in good shape. Contact Liz at [ejanss@austin.rr.com](mailto:ejanss@austin.rr.com) for more information.

Thanks to everyone for keeping our school looking great!



*Madeline, Gabby, Kelly and Olivia help spruce up the landscape beds at Highland Park Elementary*



*Jockey Albert Adams won nine consecutive races over a three-day period at a Maryland track in 1930.*

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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School – Part 1

By Mike Cox

*Starting this month we will periodically run excerpts from this book published in 2002 to commemorate Highland Park's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

In a way, the story of Highland Park Elementary School began in Philadelphia — halfway across the continent from Austin, Texas — at 12:00:01 a.m. on January 1, 1946.

That's when the wife of a machinist employed at the Naval Yard in the City of Brotherly Love gave birth to Kathleen Casey. Though the Caseys surely were excited about the new addition to their family, what neither they nor anyone else realized at the time was that the history of America had just changed. Kathleen would not grow up to become President, but so far as is known, she was the first child of the post-World War II baby boom.

The end of the war changed America as rapidly and profoundly as had its surprise beginning on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Four years later, the Allied victory in the Pacific sealed with the world's first two atomic bomb explosions, men and women by the hundreds of thousands left the military and came home.

Almost everyone saw the end of the fighting as a new beginning. Returning soldiers, sailors, aviators and marines were ready to begin

or finish interrupted college educations and to settle down and raise a family.

In Austin, veterans whose education was paid for by the GI Bill crowded classrooms at the University of Texas. Housing, both for single students and newly married couples, was as scarce as classroom space. Though Austin had fared better than many cities during the economic depression that had ended with the start of the war, the pace of business picked up considerably.

The northern city limits extended no farther than Koenig Lane in 1945, but that, too, was about to change.

At its regular meeting on April 8, 1946, the Austin school board heard from building committee member Gus Moos that Barnes Hoff was planning a new residential addition "out near the Hobby Horse Stables on the Bull Creek Road." Moos told his colleagues that Hoff had said "that possibly the owners of this property would give land for a school if the Board would be interested in a school in this location at some time in the future."

His name was not mentioned at this particular meeting, but the businessman behind the project was Edgar H. Perry. His friends called him Commodore.

Born in Burleson County on January 4, 1876, Perry grew up in Rockdale and attended Baylor University in Waco. After graduation he worked for a cotton brokerage in Waco. In 1904, still employed by the same brokerage, he moved to Austin to supervise eight cotton buyers who served Central Texas. Six years later, he organized his own firm, E.H. Perry and Company.

Perry later sold his cotton business and the various mills he had acquired and began investing in real estate in Austin. "Even then prices in the center of the city were so high, I had to go out a piece and buy," he later recalled. One purchase he made in 1926 is interesting in light of the later location of Highland Park: He bought 10 acres around an old stone quarry at 41<sup>st</sup> and Red River Streets—later described as "an eyesore...full of deep holes and dead tree stumps"—and transformed the exposed pit into a sunken garden. In the middle of it he put up a 23-room house.

Another piece of property Perry had an interest in, as the Austin *American-Statesman* later explained, was "300 acres of land on the Bull Creek Road west of the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks. Part of the acreage was of rough terrain and had been used as a gravel pit [actually, an old limestone quarry] by a general contractor." That tract would become the heart of Highland Park.

Judging from his real estate transactions, Perry seems to have been a man capable of looking at a scarred piece of landscape and seeing more than a hole in the ground. *(to be continued in future issues)*

*Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School is being reprinted with the permission of the author, Mike Cox.*

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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### HOOT Carnival

Highland Park Elementary School

October 14 from 5:30-8:30pm.

Mark your calendars for a night of Halloween food and family fun- don't forget to wear your costume!



Highland Park Principal Jane Knowles with Mark Gil, aka Police Ice.

### Bright Leaf State Natural Area to Change Hands

By David Pharis

On August 25, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission voted to turn the Bright Leaf State Natural Area over to the Austin Community Foundation (ACF) for future management. Such a transfer of authority is permitted in Georgia Lucas's will which prescribes in detail how the gift of the Bright Leaf property is to be managed. Donations to the Lone Star Legacy Fund of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. in the name of the Bright Leaf State Natural Area will be turned over to the ACF for the continued development of the Bright Leaf State Natural Area. ACF is an endowment management organization that is not in the business of running parks so it is expected that it will seek a park management organization through a competitive RFP application process.

Initially, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission intended to transfer management authority effective October 1, but the Friends of Bright Leaf asked for a longer transition period to work out details of the transfer. At this point the effective date of transfer has not been determined.

In the meantime the operations of the Bright Leaf State Natural Area will continue as they have been for the past several years. The Friends of Bright Leaf will continue to conduct monthly hikes. There will be an Open House at the Bright Leaf State Natural Area on October 15 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Information about hikes can be obtained by calling 459-7269.

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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Yoga with a View...

For one evening in each of the last few months people have gathered at the Ridge Oak Reservoir for free Full Moon Yoga and meditation. The classes are free and are open to anyone, even pets. Interested in joining them? The next class is on October 16, at 6:45 pm. Contact Charles MacInerney at 459-2267 for information.

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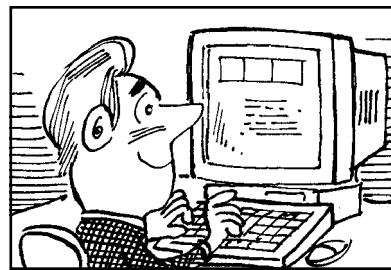
## Sticker Burrs Everywhere

The sticker burr seeds today are the sticker burr plants of next year. The burrs keep kids from playing in areas and stops pets in their tracks. The burrs been a problem for years at the Ridge Oak Triangle and they are also at Perry Park.

The beautification committee has been talking with various agencies and nurseries for solutions and will try to get rid of these irritating plants. It may take a few years or more. You can help out by pulling up the plant when you see it and throwing the plant with seeds in the garbage. The plants with seeds forming are pretty easy to spot.

We extend a big thanks to Jack Thompson who will be helping out with this problem also. He will be applying fertilizers, spreading seed, and applying seed pre-emergent at the appropriate times.

Wish us luck – this is a tough problem.



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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### Tennis, Anyone?

Interested in helping out with the two tennis courts at Perry Park? Coach Dave Woods is looking for a volunteer(s) to do regular check-ups on the tennis courts to ensure the wind screens are tied to the fence, remove any trash and make sure the tennis nets are set at the correct height.

He is also looking for someone to help with applying for grant money for some improvements. Improvements include permanent benches outside the courts with shade cover and upgrades to court lighting.

Contact Coach Woods at [dwoods@austinisd.org](mailto:dwoods@austinisd.org) for more information or to volunteer. The two tennis courts at Perry Park are used frequently and we appreciate assistance from residents to keep them in great shape!

### Classifieds

**MISSING LARGE GRAY CAT:** "Kit" has been missing since August 31<sup>st</sup> from West Frances Place near Hancock Dr. He weighs 17 lbs., is solid gray, neutered and declawed. If you have any information about Kit's whereabouts please call Tessa at (512) 743-6075.



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