

Volume 1, Number 9

November 2005

www.hpwbana.org

President's Message By Frances B. Allen

Take this quick test on your neighborhood:

- Do you know the boundaries of HPWBANA?
- Do you know the History of Mount Bonnell?
- Do you know the restaurants in the neighborhood?
- Do you know about the annual events in the neighborhood?
- Do you know the history of Perry Park?
- Do you know how to find the minutes to the HPWBANA Board Meetings?
- Do you know where to find helpful numbers for the City and Police?
- Do you know where to find the answers and much more information?
- Take a look at www.hpwbana.org

The webmaster is Nadene Morning. She has done an excellent job of establishing and keeping the website. Please use it frequently to keep up with current events in the neighborhood.

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

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our monthly meetings: October 24 November 28 **January 23** Yarborough Library 2200 Hancock Drive 7:00-8:45 pm

HPWBANA Annual Meeting "Picnic in Perry Park"

News

Join the neighborhood association for a fun picnic in Perry Park.

Meet the 2006 Board Members and Officers.

Bring your own picnic goodies, and HPWBANA will provide drinks & other snacks.

Listen to live music provided by HPWBANA neighbor singer/songwriter Lurleen Ladd!

> Kids—wear your Halloween costumes and receive a HPWBANA treat!

> > Sunday, October 30 3:00-5:00 pm **Perry Park**

Call any board member for more information.

HPWBANA Awarded Austin Parks Foundation Grant

HPWBANA is thrilled to be a grant recipient of the Austin Parks Foundation's 2005-2006 Neighborhood Park Grants program (www. austinparks.org). This APF program was created to strengthen community investment and involvement with Austin's green spaces. The funds from this grant will be used for benches at Perry Park. Visitors to the park will be able to sit down, relax and enjoy the area. Placement of these benches is being discussed by the affected groups including Friends of Perry Park, Highland Park Elementary, the HPE PTA, HPWBANA, residents and Austin Parks and Recreation Department. The APF funds must be matched with funds from HPWBANA and volunteer hours.

We will hold a workday this winter for those who can help out with projects in Perry Park. Many improvements are happening at Perry Park this fall. If you are interested in what is going on in the park check out the Perry Park / Friends page at www.hpwbana.org.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center	974-2000
Emergency Police	911
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)	
Social Services (during work hours)	211
Dana Munguia, Senior Patrol Officer	974-5440
David Crowder Jr., Senior Police Officer	9745545
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line	10-698-1709

2005 HPWBANA Board of Directors

President - Frances B. Allen	fba100@juno.com, 454-2113	
Vice-President - David Seaton	ds@tc-tx.com, 567-1704	
Treasurer - Susan Rauch	srauch@austin.rr.com, 419-9710	
Secretary & Newsletter Editor		
- Jessica Winslow	jwinslow@austin.rr.com, 773-6893	
Sam Haddad	haddads@io.com, 454-8286	
Mark Moore	mark@aveone.com, 472-5803	
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. <u>www.hpwbana.org</u>

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



Keeping Austin Healthy! Call (512) 377-3400

- ✓ Urgent and Primary Care Service
- ✓ Saturday Hours
- ✓ Same Day Appointments
- ✓ No Insurance Needed



www.MunozFamilyHealthClinic.com

Yarborough Library News

By Bonita.Snyder-Jones

The Yarborough Library (2200 Hancock) will host the Annual Winter Holiday Party - fun, food, and music on Tuesday, December 6th from 6:00 -8:00 pm. Those of you who have joined us for past celebrations know what a great community social event this is. I will try to schedule those longtime favorites - the bag pipe band and the bluegrass group. If anyone in the community would like to volunteer to help out, give me a call at 454-7208or email atBonita.Snyder-Jones@ci.austin.tx.us.



Highland Park Scotties raised \$2000 for the American Red Cross during a week-long "Quarters for Katrina" drive and Bake Sale. HP Scotties presenting the check to the Red Cross are Sarah Carroll, Matthew Carroll, Adam Iscoe, Rachel Redmon, Emily Goulet, Kelly Olson, Madeline Goulet, and Paige Redmon. Photo taken by Connie Redmon.



AvenueOne

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

Update Of The Mopac Corricor

Frances B. Allen

The MoPac Neighborhood Association Coalition (MoNAC) will hold its next meeting on October 18 at Westminster, Harris Bell Hall, at 6:30, and will host John Carrizales of TxDOT, and John Kelly and Karen Savage of DMJM Harris. They will make a presentation of the Scope of the Loop 1 (MoPac) Study and the procedure with the Deliberative Polls.

DMJM Harris is the consulting company that TxDOT has contracted with to study transportation options for the MoPac corridor. Recently I met with both John Kelly and Karen Savage. John comes to this project with experience that seems to make him the right engineer for the MoPac Study. Before joining DMJM Harris, he held positions as engineer for the Dallas North Central Freeway and as TxDOT San Antonio District Engineer. Karen is the Planning Project Manager and will be conducting a community survey and assessment using a new technique called Deliberative Polls.

Meanwhile the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Rail District is making great strides on the commuter rail for SA to Austin. This will also come through the MoPac corridor replacing the freight trains.

I remind you that the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) 2030 plan states that the MoPac corridor from Town Lake to Hwy 183 will evaluate:

- adding a managed lane, at or below grade level
- installing sound walls in the existing right of way
- · retaining room for commuter rail

Now I say WOW - that will be a show to watch. I have been doing it for 15 years so why stop now?

Bamboo Removed at Perry Park

Thanks very much to Andrew Baldwin for helping remove bamboo stumps at Perry Park. These stumps were a tripping hazard and had to go! Andrew's volunteer time also met his school community service requirement.

Thanks also go out to Craig Deats who has been cutting back new bamboo shoots since the grove was cut down last January. Continued cutting of new shoots is the method we are using to eradicate the bamboo grove that was taking over part of the park. We are glad to see that this method appears to be working.

This bamboo removal project was a neighborhood effort so thanks go out also to the neighbors who have been cutting bamboo in their backyards: the Deats, the Triferos, the McVeys and the Smiths. And, of course, we are grateful to those who cut down the bamboo grove last January.

Thanks everyone!

Beautification Committee

Catering &

Birthday Cakes

At no time will any source be allowed to use the HPWBANA Newsletter contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the HPWBANA and Peel, Inc. The information in the HPWBANA Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of HPWBANA Neighborhood residents only.

5503 Balcones Drive, Suite 5503

512-374-0102

Ice Cream Sundae

-Under New Management Since April 2005-

Scoop must be equal to or smaller than the • Does not include toppings or waffle cones

• Offer is only valid for 5503 Balcones Drive Location

only \$1.99 +tax



• Offer expires Nov. 30, 2005

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School—Part 2 By Mike Cox

The history of the Highland Park neighborhood and the elementary school built to educate its children, of course, goes back a lot farther than Edgar H. Perry's acquisition of the property. The first person with title to the land that one day would become Highland Park was Stephen F. Austin, also the first Anglo colonizer of Texas. All of what is now the City of Austin originally was part of Austin's second land grant from the Mexican government, also known as Austin's Little Colony.

After Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836, Daniel J. Gilbert received a long strip of land fronting on the Colorado River and continuing north for some 4 miles. Any abstract of title involving property in the Highland Park West subdivision traces to this original grant, executed when Texas was a separate nation.

Little is known of Gilbert other that he came to Texas when it was still a Mexican province. In Nacogdoches in July 1835 he went through the process of being certified as a person of good character, a prerequisite to land ownership. He was listed as single with no family. Whether Gilbert ever lived on any of this land has not been determined, but many of these grantees never occupied their holdings. Whatever his story, he was one of 397 original land owners in Travis County.

When a three-member commission appointed by President Mirabeau B. Lamar concluded in 1839 that the area along the Colorado River called Waterloo would be the best location of the capital of the Republic of Texas, the acreage that would become Highland Park was



pure wilderness. Whitetail deer, mountain lions and bear roamed the hills west of the new log cabin settlement named Austin. And like any wilderness, it was dangerous. Twenty-nine people died in Indian attacks in Travis County from 1833 to 1845.

The first landmark anywhere near the future school to draw the interest of early settlers was Mount Bonnell, 1.3 miles southwest of present Highland Park. Rising 780 feet above sea level, or nearly 200 feet above most of the rest of Austin, the peak first was known as "Antoinette's Leap" for a woman who supposedly jumped from it to escape a worse fate at the hands of a party of Indians who had just killed her lover. Later, the prominence was named Mount Bonnell for surveyor George W. Bonnell, who came to Texas in 1836.

A trail, probably made by Indians, led to the mountain before it was widened into a road. By the mid 19th century, because of the striking view it offered, Mount Bonnell was well established as a picnicking place. Later, it became a popular lover's lane.

The first road in the vicinity of the future Highland Park was named after the stream that flowed into the Colorado River just on the other side of the escarpment, Bull Creek. Mormons intent on establishing a colony in Texas blazed the road in 1846, connecting Austin with a mill they built on the creek. The Mormons soon moved farther west, but the road remained as the principal route northwest from Austin until the development of Burnet Road in the 1850s.

Other than the view from high ground like Mount Bonnell, two things drew people to the Austin-side of the hills along the Balcones Escarpment: mountain juniper, more commonly but incorrectly known as cedar, and limestone.

Cedar was harvested for fence posts, building material and for transformation into charcoal used as a source of heat before the commercial availability of electricity. Those who made their living chopping cedar were the first folks to live in the hills. Many of these people hailed from the mountain country of Tennessee and Kentucky, and like their forebears, these hill people tended to keep their own company and live by their own code. In addition to selling cedar, they were known to produce and illegally peddle moonshine–distilled spirits. Locally, they were known as "cedar choppers," a derisive term that survived until the virtual disappearance of the industry in Travis County through urbanization.

Deep layers of limestone brought others to the hills west of town. In recommending Austin as the site for the capital of the Republic of Texas, the commissioners chosen by President Lamar noted that "On the site and [in] its immediate vicinity, stone in inexhaustible quantities and great varieties is found almost fashioned by nature for the builder's hands..."

As Austin began to grow in the 1850s, contractors looked to the hills for building material. Quarries dotted the northwestern part of Travis County. Limestone taken from a quarry at what is now Northwest Pool, 3 miles northeast of Highland Park, furnished building material for the limestone capital built in 1853.

Highly combustible and fast-burning cedar fired the kilns used to transform limestone into the mortar used to build the new statehouse and other buildings.

In December 1876, the International and Great Northern Railroad

(Continued on page 5)

Limestone to Bricks - (Continued from page 5)

reached Austin from Round Rock. The track ran to the northwest and west of town, curving into the city along the Colorado. Train whistles could be heard from the quarry on the Daniel Gilbert one-third league as steam engines brought passengers and freight to the Capital City. The Missouri-Pacific Railroad later took over the line.

Beginning seventeen years after the I&GN came through, another sound occasionally echoed across the quarry–cannon and rifle fire. Seeing dollar signs as clearly as red, white and blue, a "public minded and patriotic committee of citizens" purchased and donated to the state 80 acres three miles northwest of the Capitol as a permanent summer encampment site for the state's militia. Citizen-soldiers from across the state conducted what the newspapers called a "sham battle" on the property in the summer of 1893 and annually for years after that. When Adjutant General W.H. Mabry died of disease in Cuba four months after the Spanish American War, the camp was named in his honor.

Though Mount Bonnell, the railroad and Camp Mabry brought people to and through the eastern slope of the Balcones Escarpment, for more than a century after the incorporation of Austin, the area remained open country.

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School - Part 2 is being reprinted with the permission of the author, Mike Cox.

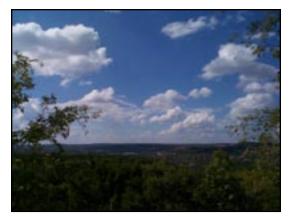
We ship anything anywhere! Substantiation Custom Packing and Crating Domestic and International Shipping Packaging and Moving Supplies Substantiation Substantin Substantiatin

Mopac/2222 5501 A Balcones Dr. **512-323-2300**



Ridge Oak Reservoir – What a View!

By Nadene Morning



At the Ridge Oak Reservoir, beautiful scenic views of the Loop 360 bridge, Bright Leaf SNA and the rolling hills of West Austin were once blocked by china berry and ligustrum trees.

Thanks go out again to the City Water Utility Department, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Friends of Bright Leaf for the final pass in mid-September at removing non-native plants at the Ridge Oak Reservoir. The neighborhood benefited from this effort with the opening up of beautiful scenic views of the Loop 360 bridge, Bright Leaf State Natural Area and the rolling hills of West Austin. This view was once blocked by a grove of china berry and ligustrum trees, invasive species that are causing problems in the neighboring Bright Leaf SNA.

If you haven't checked out the view or watched the sunset at this location it may be a worth the visit. The reservoir is located at 4400 Ridge Oak Drive.

Friends of Bright Leaf:

For those of you new to the area, Bright Leaf State Natural Area is a wonderful 217 acre area of natural land that resides within our neighborhood boundaries. The Friends of Bright Leaf (FoBL) is a very active group of volunteers that assists in conserving and enhancing Bright Leaf. They coordinate many events, offer educational information and provide a great way to get involved and enjoy the area, including monthly guided hikes. <u>http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fobl/</u>.

Interested in joining FoBL? - You can find a membership form on their yahoo group site or go to <u>www.hpwbana.org</u> and click on the Bright Leaf / Friends page.



Highland Park Happenings

Parents who are interested in learning more about Highland Park Elementary are invited to attend a Prospective Parents Orientation on Wednesday, November 16 at noon in the Library. For more information, contact Megan Rankin at <u>meganrankin@austin.rr.com</u>.

Also coming up in November- the annual Science and Invention Fair, International Day, and a Veteran's Day performance by HP 4^{th} graders. Join us!

Crime Statistics Available Online

Crime statistics in the city of Austin are available online from the Austin Police Department <u>http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/</u> <u>crimeinformation.htm</u>. Our neighborhood statistics are noted in the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association selection.

• • • • • • •

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the HPWBANA
Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all
residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No neighborhood
association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters.
If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising,
please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-989-8905 or

• *advertising@PEELinc.com* for ad information and pricing.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

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, Charlie & Ann's Exxon, Children's Therapeutics of Austin, Crenshaw Athletic Club, Cross/Recek Architects, Griffith, Small Animal Hospital, Highland Park West Shopping Center, Michael's Hair Company, Northwest Veterinary Hospital, Pak Mail of Tarrytown/Pak Mail Balcones, Randalls

It's my health. It's my ARC.

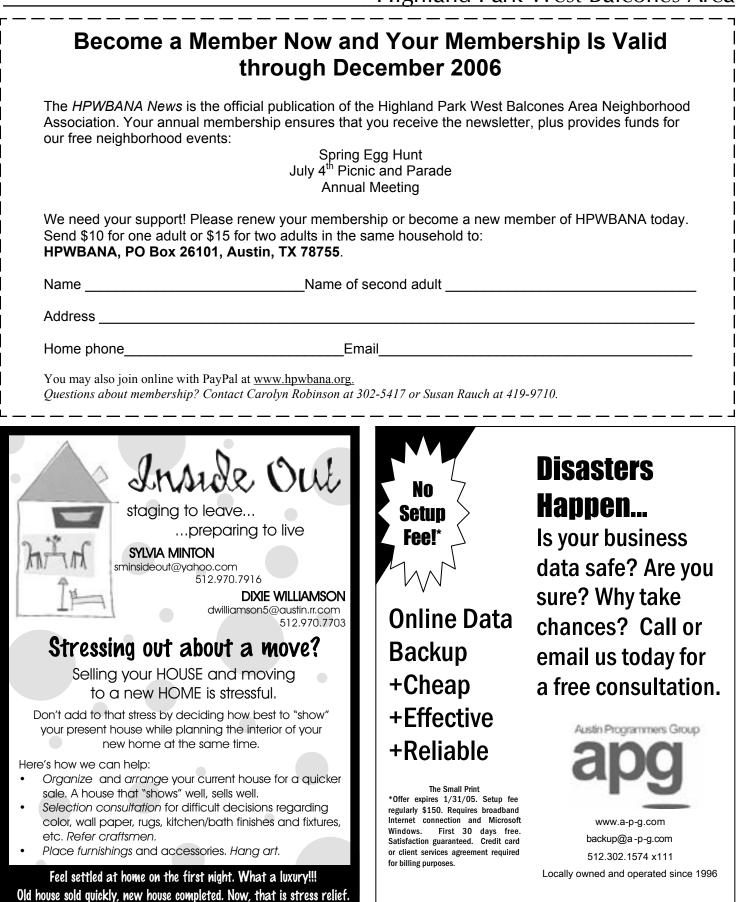
We know our patients are people that depend on us for help, advice and comfort. And we appreciate the trust placed in us everyday by thousands throughout the Austin area. We work hard to make sure we are where you need us, when you need us. With most insurance plans accepted, 13 locations all over town, all-night phone nurses, After Hours and Urgent Care we think you'll like what our patients call **the ARC Advantage**.



"Kindness and compassion are alive and well at my ARC"

-- Terri W. ARC Patient for 3+ year

For information, visit AustinRegionalClinic.com or call ARC-INFO at 272-4636







Littlefield, Texas 79339

Presorted Standard U.S. Postage **PAID** Littlefield, Texas 79339 Permit #59

T Voice 512-989-8905

🖳 www.PEELinc.com