



The HPWBANA News

Volume 1, Number 10

December 2005

www.hpwbana.org

President's Message

by Nadene Morning

This past year has been full of successes by the various HPWBANA committees. It was the dedication on the board members that made things happen and we thank our retiring President Frances Allen and the other retiring board members for their dedication and hard work. The neighborhood association transitioned to new board members at the Annual Meeting/Picnic at Perry Park and the new board will work hard to keep the momentum going. I encourage everyone to become active in HPWBANA by serving on a committee or helping at an event. The Picnic at Perry Park was such a success with neighbors that we are considering making it an annual event. Contact a board member and tell them if you think it should be held every year or to make a suggestion.

Visit the www.hpwbana.org website to review the committee highlights from the last year.



Musician and new HPWBANA Board member Lurleen Ladd and her band entertained neighbors at Annual Meeting on October 30.

Annual Meeting Picnic at Perry Park a Big Success

by Carolyn Robinson

HPWBANA held its annual meeting on October 30 at a "Picnic at Perry Park." About 100 people gathered on a beautiful fall afternoon to enjoy the park. Lurleen Ladd and her band brought Perry Park to life with wonderful musical entertainment. The children of the neighborhood were "treated" by the Board to cookies and other goodies. Many thanks to Russell's Bakery and Upper Crust Bakery for their gracious donations of cookies and baked goods.

The meeting was called to order by retiring President Frances Allen. Other retiring board members were recognized including Past President David Pharis, David Seaton, and Jessica Winslow. Frances reviewed the various accomplishments of the committees, all of which were very active this past year. Susan Rauch provided a financial update for the year. It is your membership dollars that provide the funding for the committees and we thank you.

The Highland Park Elementary PTA representative, Cathy McHorse, was on hand to inform everyone about upcoming work at Perry Park and to thank the Board for helping with park beautification.

A contest for the kids is a favorite at the HPWBANA events. Greg Morning worked the "count the candy corn contest" table that had over 30 eager contestants. The winner was Caroline Frankenfeld who took home a cow bank as the prize. Guesses ranged from 28 to 300,000!

David Seaton introduced the nominations for the coming term who were unanimously elected to serve on the HPWBANA Board. The Board members for the 2006 term are the following:

Nadene Morning, President
Carolyn Robinson, Vice President
Susan Rauch, Treasurer
Jennifer Smith, Secretary/Newsletter Editor
Sam Haddad
Lurleen Ladd
Mark Moore
Tonianne Soster
Blake Stanford

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our monthly meetings:

November 28

January 23

Yarborough Library

2200 Hancock Drive

7:00-8:45 pm

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

Highland Park West Balcones Area

Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center	974-2000
Emergency Police	911
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)	311
Social Services (during work hours)	211
Dana Munguia, Senior Patrol Officer	974-5440
David Crowder Jr., Senior Police Officer	974-5545
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line	210-698-1709

2006 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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Vice-President - Carolyn Robinsoncarrob99@hotmail.com, 302-5417
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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. www.hpwbana.org

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.

Coyote Update

The coyote problem is popping up again in the general area. The *West Austin News* recently ran an article about coyote sightings and activity in Tarrytown. Residents there reported seeing an increase in the number of missing cats and coyote attacks on dogs. Coyote sightings and sounds have been observed in green belts around Bright Leaf and along Shoal Creek. Please eliminate food sources to discourage coyotes from getting comfortable around people. Protect pets by keeping them indoors, secure trash can lids, and keep pet food inside. Report all coyote sighting and activity to 311 to ensure the officials tracking coyote activity will be aware. The existing coyote control program has been successful to influence coyote behavior.

Yarborough Library

We will again host our annual Winter Holiday Party - fun, food, and music - on Tuesday, December 6, 6:00-8:00.

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Perry Park Track Workday is a Success!

By Nadene Morning

A Perry Park Track Workday sponsored by the Highland Park Elementary PTA was held on November 5 where well over 50 volunteers gathered to fix the running track. The track has been in need of repair for some time now due to ongoing erosion problems. Deep ruts and washed out areas plagued those who used it, but no more! Rocks, limestone and crushed granite were brought in to create drainage bars in strategic places. Volunteers moved all the materials to shape each bar and then a large rolling machine was used to set each bar into place.

Thanks go out to Tom McClure and Kevin Golliher who coordinated the repair with funds and assistance from the Highland Park PTA. It takes a lot of time and preparation to pull this type of event together and it is greatly appreciated by both the school and the community. And of course a big thanks go out to all the volunteers and PTA members who spent a beautiful Saturday morning and afternoon helping out.

This will temporarily fix the problem until a comprehensive erosion study is complete. Both AISD and the PTA want to ensure that the final repair of the running track will be a permanent one.



Volunteers improved the Perry Park track on November 5.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School—Part 3

By Mike Cox

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 in 1839, the area remained open country.

That changed starting in 1947, when Perry developed Highland Park West, described as “one of Austin’s best new residential subdivisions... high in the hills...with lots that give a panorama of the city on one side and a scenic view of the Colorado River on the other.”

As the Austin *American-Statesman* later reported, Perry “laid out the place to include a modern park and playground, a community center and a school. Today Highland Park West and its entrance, a 35-acre tract known as Highland Park east of the Missouri Pacific tracks, are being developed as another show place in Austin.”

After Hoff’s initial presentation to the school board in April 1946, it had voted that if suitable property was presented to the school district, the board would build a school there “if the area develops and when this area is incorporated in the City of Austin with all necessary facilities [utilities] provided.”

The need for a new school in the area, and others, was coming faster than the board realized.

By the end of May, nine months after V-J Day, the monthly number of births recorded in the U.S. had increased from 206,387 to 233,452. Only five months later, the monthly birth count had increased more than 50 percent to 339,499. Demographers at first thought the baby boom was only a temporary spike. But the numbers continued to rise.

In January 1947, Hoff appeared before the full board to update members on plans for the new subdivision. He said the addition initially would have 500 homes, with another 1,000 residences planned. A half million dollar contract had been let for utilities and paving.

Hoff asked the board to build a school to serve the new neighborhood. Despite its earlier vote, this time the board stopped short of promising bricks and mortar. An expert had been hired to survey the district’s future needs, Hoff was told.

According to the minutes, “The board agreed that no commitment could be made...as to the location of a school in this area, since it would not be wise to make any commitments for any school site until the survey now being made is completed.”

Jac L. Gubbels, a landscape architect with the state Highway Department (now the Texas Department of Transportation) who had a consulting business on the side had his report completed by June.

“The School Board...has taken an initiative in planning which...is far-reaching in scope,” he wrote in the introduction of his report. “The selection of school sites for elementary, junior high and high schools to fill the need for twenty years hence has unfolded valuable information which will become the determining factor in the development of future Austin.”

Gubbels was not overly hyping his work. His 54-page study proved to be highly accurate in its predictions. Many sites he recommended as future school locations were used, with other facilities eventually built in the general vicinity of locations he suggested. His population projections also were not far off the mark, even two decades out.

The report’s growth estimates were based on seven-year-old data from the 1940 U.S. Census. Of 28 Census tracts, Tract 25 included the future location of Highland Park.

Despite a “lot of rugged terrain in this tract,” Gubbels wrote, “it is desirable for residential development.” He projected a population of 3,900 in the 1,325-acre tract by 1956 and 6,625 residents by 1966. Basing his

calculations on a density of 5 persons per acre, Gubbels concluded the area would have a school age population of 16.9 per 100.

Gubbels went on to recommend eventual construction of 32 elementary schools, one of which he felt should be “adjacent to and east of” Big Bend Drive in Perry’s newly-platted subdivision. The site was near the center of the Census tract and likely would have a student population of 290 in a decade and 440 by 1966, he said. At the time, the city had only 18 primary schools.

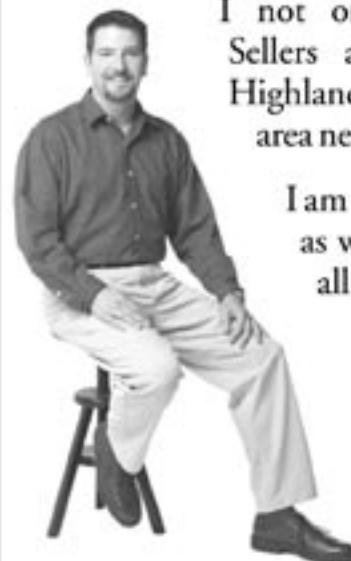
By the fall of 1948, people were living in the new subdivision. Coming up with the name had not taken a lot of creative effort. The development climbed the eastern side of the Balcones Escarpment, Austin’s own highland. No one was going to get a nosebleed living in Highland Park, but compared with the Hyde Park area to the east, the subdivision stood on high ground. Indeed, many of the earlier houses afforded spectacular views.

Perry had more on his plate than his new subdivision. In 1948, he built and moved into the first downtown hotel constructed in nearly a quarter century, a high-rise at 8th and Brazos he named after himself. Still, the old cotton broker was a hands-on businessman. At the school board’s October 22 meeting, board president W.I. Kocurek relayed the details of a telephone conversation he’d had with Perry.

Kocurek said Perry told him that many of the new homeowners in Highland Park had made their decision to buy on the assumption that a

(Continued on page 5)

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Limestone to Bricks - (Continued from page 5)

school would be built to serve the area. Worried that these home owners might feel they had been misled, Perry offered to sell the school district approximately six acres of land around the old quarry. This was a reversal in thinking on his part. For reasons not explained in school district records, Perry earlier had rejected an offer from the school district for the same amount he now proposed to accept for it.

By winter the deal was on. Perry sold the district 5.81 acres for \$11,420 — slightly less than \$2,000 an acre. The deed conveying the land to the city (the school system was a city department until 1954) was dated Jan. 6, 1949 and filed for record the following April 7.

That fall, the school board voted to authorize superintendent Irby B. Carruth "to proceed with preliminary plans for...an elementary school in the Highland Park Area." On December 1, 1950, the cost-conscious board voted to hire the architectural firm of Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger to draw up a plan for a 16-room school "in such a way that the plans can be used for another building if it is possible to do so."

The two architects had their blueprints ready by early summer, showing them to the board on June 11. The trustees accepted the plans and the architects said they could be ready for bid submission by the end of the month.

A year later, on July 12, 1951, the board voted to award the construction contract to the low bidder as determined by the district's business manager. The job went to J.M. Odom Construction Company of Austin.

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School - Part 3 is being reprinted with the permission of the author, Mike Cox.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Highland Park Elementary News

Character Education- Focus on *Caring*

During the first two weeks of December, Highland Park will be taking donations for two local charities. Donations may be dropped off in the school's office.

December 1-7 New socks and underwear collection for Manos de Cristos

December 5-9 Diapers will be collected for SafePlace

'06-'07 Incoming Kindergarten Playdates

Children who will enter kindergarten next year are asked to join other '06-'07 Kindergarten Scotties for playground fun every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 3pm on the Perry Playground (behind the school by the tennis courts). The next playdate will be Wednesday, December 14 at 3pm. This is a great time for kiddos and their parents to get to know one another before school starts next August. To find out more, please contact Bunny Pierce, HP registrar, at 414-2090.

Kudos

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out during HP's Track Workday. Repairs were made in areas affected by erosion so that the entire track can be used once again by our students. Your help is appreciated!

A Salute to the Retiring Board Members

by Nadene Morning, HPWBANA President

The HPWBANA Annual Meeting held on Oct 30th brought some changes to the board line-up. We thank the following board members that have retired:

Frances Allen

Frances Allen was on the HPWBANA board for seven years and spent the last year as our dedicated President. She is often the smiling face greeting people at our events so many of you have met her at one time or another. Frances lives close to MoPac and became involved in the neighborhood association to address the many issues of living next to this very busy highway. After seven years she knows who to call in the city to get things done.

David Pharis

David Pharis was also a board member for 7 years. It is noteworthy that most of these years were spent as President. With a background in urban planning, David was instrumental in conducting our first neighborhood survey with a corresponding neighborhood plan that is used today. Like Frances, years on the board have provided first hand knowledge of the various issues the neighborhood association has addressed.

Jessica Winslow

Jessica Winslow was a board member for 3 years, most of those as our Secretary. Board activities have been collected and archived with a watchful eye on the bylaws. The HPWBANA News saw a significant change from a quarterly newsletter to a monthly newsletter under her direction, even acting as the newsletter editor for a period of time. She originally joined the board as co-founder of the beautification committee which has landscaped several neighborhood green spaces for all to enjoy.

David Seaton

David Seaton joined the HPWBANA board with strong community interest in issues surrounding Highland Park Elementary and Perry Park. He will continue his involvement with the school and Perry Park through the Friends of Perry Park committee which he helped form.

Frances, David, Jessica, and David - We thank you for your years of service and deep interest in the community. The many years of experience and dedication will be missed.

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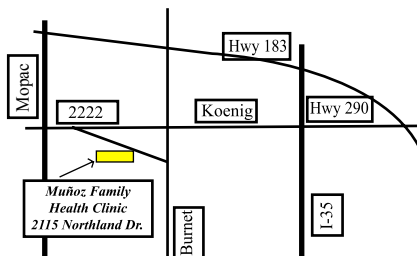
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We need your support! Please renew your membership or become a new member of HPWBANA today.

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