



The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 1

January 2006

www.hpwbana.org

Yield To Pedestrians In Crosswalk – STATE LAW –

Ribbon Cutting for New Balcones Dr / Parkcrest Dr Crosswalk

Pedestrians crossing this very busy 4 lane street will find it easier with the new crosswalk completed mid November. Traffic at this intersection has only increased over the years making the safety concern very real for those that want to cross the street to the local businesses. Mary Ann Schroeder, who lives in that area and is visually impaired, discussed the topic of a safe crossing at this location with various city officials for several years. A crosswalk was also the focus of previous HPWBANA Board Member Drake Bresheer years ago.

It was Mary Ann Schroeder and Carol Chamberlin who live in the Highland Park West condominiums who started the discussion again. They attended a HPWBANA board meeting after reading about the city sidewalk project on Balcones Dr in our newsletter. They came prepared with data on the number of elderly, children, and disabled that need a safe place to cross. Frances Allen, HPWBANA president at that time, took it from there and submitted the request to the Lino Rivera of the Public Works Department who was extremely receptive to helping out. Plans were quickly drawn up for a median crosswalk and construction was tacked onto the end of the sidewalk project.

It is important to note the following Balcones/Parkcrest intersection changes have been made:

- A new **median** was installed.
- New **yellow signs** point to the pedestrian crossing.
- New **street striping** is in place for the pedestrian crossing zone.
- New signs post "**Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk – State law.**"



This last item is important – drivers must yield to pedestrians crossing in the crosswalk – this is state law. For safety purposes pedestrians should watch to ensure traffic is actually stopping before entering the crosswalk.

We extend a thank you to Lino Rivera and Michael Curtis of the Public Works Department for working with the community on both the sidewalk and crosswalk projects. A special thanks goes out to Mary Ann Schroeder and Carol Chamberlin for championing this cause. We also thank Carolyn Robinson and Jennifer Herbert for coordinating the ribbon cutting publicity to get the word out. And a thank you also goes to Imad Salem, the project manager who designed the median, who was able to attend the ribbon cutting event.

Happy New Year!

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

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our monthly meetings:

January 23

Yarborough Library

2200 Hancock Drive

7:00-8:45 pm

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

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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.

Who Are the People on Your Neighborhood Board?

New Board Members:

Jennifer Smith and her husband, Jon, moved to HPWBANA in January of 2002 with their two children, Jonah and Julia Kay. Jennifer is a Real Estate Agent with Keller Williams and Jon is a partner in the law firm of Kincaid, Horton & Smith. They love being in the area and enjoy the benefit of walking their son to Highland Park Elementary everyday. In fact, Jennifer joined the board to increase awareness of the school zone and encourage drivers to slow down as they travel through the neighborhood. She has also volunteered to take on the secretary position and coordinate the monthly newsletter. The newsletter is a great way to keep HPWBANA residents informed of what is going on in the neighborhood. Please contact Jennifer at jennifer.smith@kw.com if you have an article to submit, or if you would be interested in serving on the newsletter committee.

Lurleen Ladd and her husband, Dan, moved to HPWBANA in 2004 with their two children, Caroline and Danny. Lurleen is a performing singer/songwriter who provided the wonderful entertainment at the HPWBANA annual meeting in October. Dan is a doctor and owner of Austin Skin Dermatology Clinic. Lurleen joined the board because of her interest in HPWBANA business sponsorship. She looks forward to her duties on the committee this year and finding new ways of getting businesses involved with HPWBANA. Lurleen is also very interested in neighborhood events. She joined the events committee

(Continued on page 4)



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Message from the Board It's Dues Renewal Time! Support HPWBANA with your Membership

What changes will we see in our neighborhood this year? January is here to once again mark the start of a new year and a new cycle in the life in Highland Park West and the community along Balcones. Long-time residents will move out and new neighbors will move in. The city will make decisions that affect the safety of streets and sidewalks. Plants and trees put in medians by the beautification committee will mature and grow. Holidays and special events will bring opportunities for neighbors to gather and get to know each other better.

The Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association was created in 1997 with the aim "to preserve and enhance" our neighborhood. Since then, the association has worked with an all-volunteer board and many neighbors donating their time to accomplish hundreds of projects that directly contribute to the quality of life in our little corner of northwest Austin. These include presenting a single, united voice for us with Austin city government; hosting special events that bring neighbors together; and implementing beautification efforts that enhance our public areas.

You are an essential part of this process. It's important for neighbors to join and stay active in HPWBANA. Our numbers make us a stronger force with the city and allow us to tackle many more

projects that will continue the association's original charter. Even if your only involvement is to contribute membership dues, you are helping to make a difference in our neighborhood.

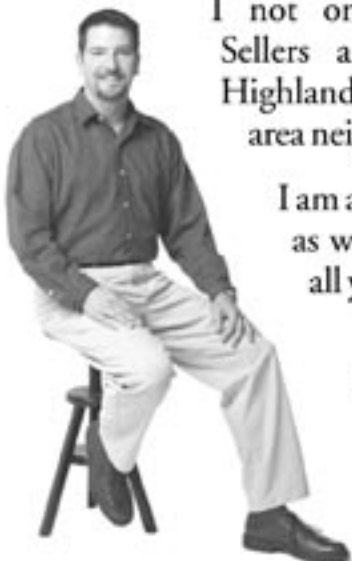
This January is Dues Renewal Month for HPWBANA. Rather than requiring members to keep track of when memberships expire, we decided to ask for your dues once a year at the first of the year. The process is much simpler and less expensive than sending monthly reminder postcards.

In a few days you'll receive a letter asking for your membership dues. It's the only notice you will receive this year. When the letter arrives – or right now, as you're reading this newsletter – please take a moment to drop a check in the mail. And get ready for all the great things that will happen in our neighborhood this year.

Renew Today!

Our dues remain \$15 for a household, or \$10 for a single-member household. Please make checks payable to HPWBANA and send to P.O. Box 26101, Austin TX 78755. For more information, visit www.hpwbana.org or email Susan Rauch, Treasurer, at srauch@austin.rr.com. Thanks for your membership!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Board Members - (Continued from Page 2)

to energize neighbors and generate more attendance at the wonderful events HPWBANA organizes each year. Lurleen and her band will hopefully perform for HPWBANA in the future. In the meantime, look for her ads in the HPWBANA and Northwest Austin News for more performance dates.

Tonianne Soster and her husband Kurt moved to Austin in 1991 and now live in the neighborhood with their son, Paul. Tonianne is a licensed Mortgage Broker, Real Estate Agent and General Contractor. She specializes in purchasing properties and remodeling them to sell. Kurt, is a self-employed Real Estate Investor. Tonianne's interest in joining the board was spiked when she was personally affected by a neighboring property that was recently acquired by an investor who turned it into a student housing facility. Tonianne has since found that this problem affects several. She hopes during her term on the board she is able to offer her time constructively and raise awareness of this problem. Tonianne is already working hard with HPWBANA residents and other neighborhood associations to bring this topic before city council. This is a real concern for HPWBANA, and for more information or to help with this issue please contact Tonianne at te883@austin.rr.com

Blake Stanford and his wife, Kristi have lived in HPWBANA since 1991 and have two children, Kate and Mitchell. Blake is the CEO of Southwest Human Development Services, a private, non-profit corporation that sponsors family child care homes for the USDA Child

and Adult Care Food Program in Texas. Kristi owns the San Antonio Culligan water-conditioning franchisee. In 1999, Blake moved his business location to the neighborhood. As a neighborhood business owner, Blake is certainly interested in generating more business sponsorships. He has also volunteered to help with the neighborhood issues of planning/zoning and crime/safety. Blake has served on several non-profit organization boards. He brings experience and great enthusiasm to the HPWBANA board this year. Blake looks forward to working hard on the board and generating more business and resident memberships this year.

Returning Board Members:

Nadene Morning started helping with beautification of the neighborhood after the 2002 neighborhood survey. With the help of other interested gardeners, she transformed six public green spaces in the neighborhood. Nadene's beautification work continues and she knows first-hand how many people it takes to keep up the neighborhood. It is so rewarding for Nadene to see the strong community interest. Serving as President of the HPWBANA board this year, Nadene's goal is to keep the momentum going from the previous board's successes. She strongly encourages every neighbor to join HPWBANA and find where they can volunteer.

Carolyn Robinson and her husband Rhett have lived in the neighborhood since 1999 with their two children, Montana and Cash. This year Carolyn will serve as Vice-President of the Board.

(Continued on page 5)



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Board Members - (Continued from Page 4)

In previous years as a board member, she organized the first Perry Park Easter Egg Hunt. It was a huge success, and Carolyn continues as the Events Committee chairperson. She is always planning new events for neighbors to get together and have some fun. The events committee puts on three major events each year and is always eager for volunteers to help out. Events are not all she's concerned with, however. Carolyn will join the crime and safety committee this year and try to get more involvement from the community and keep our neighborhood safe.

Susan Rauch has been with the board for 5 years and serves as Treasurer and Resident Membership committee Chairperson. She is also very active with the events committee. As the seasoned board member, Susan is relied upon heavily for her background on how things are done. Susan joined the board with an interest in community involvement and improving sidewalk safety, especially around her home near the intersection of Balcones and Big Bend Drive. It's been exciting for her to see the fulfillment of the board's work with the city with the completion of a new sidewalk along Balcones from Perry Lane to Northland Drive. Being a board member has allowed Susan to meet and get to know so many neighbors. It has been a challenging and rewarding experience.

Sam Haddad continues on the board with his main interest being the median located at the intersection of Highland Terrace and Perry Dr. Sam and his immediate neighbors have been on a mission to

work with the city to make this a beautifully landscaped space. Sam also finds interest in the issues surrounding MoPAC, such as sound walls. Look for the work being done at the intersection as Sam and his neighbors continue their efforts.

Mark Moore continues on the board and his focus is on the beautification efforts in his immediate neighborhood near Ridge Oak Reservoir. In past years as a board member, Mark has worked on neighborhood crime and safety. He will continue his efforts on that committee this year and work to grow the crime watch network in the neighborhood.

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The Perry Park Trails are Open

By Nadene Morning

Grab your compass and head into the woods! Actually compasses won't be necessary. Our local Perry Park contains a natural wooded area that has recently been opened up with trails. Boy scouts introduced the trails years ago but over time they had become overgrown and lost. Re-establishing these trails was a natural project that evolved after the non-native plant species and dead brush removal efforts this year in the park.

We had lots of help. Andrew Baldwin and Jamie Freise-Wilson spent many community service hours opening up the trails and putting down mulch. The mulch was provided by PARD and came in two dump truck loads. Thankfully AISD had equipment to help move it around for us as they upgraded the playground area. Even so it took a lot of work to move it to all the various trails. Trailing lantana was trimmed back and a small native Texas garden was recovered and mulched. We don't really know who started the garden years ago. We even scattered some bluebonnet seeds to add some color this spring.

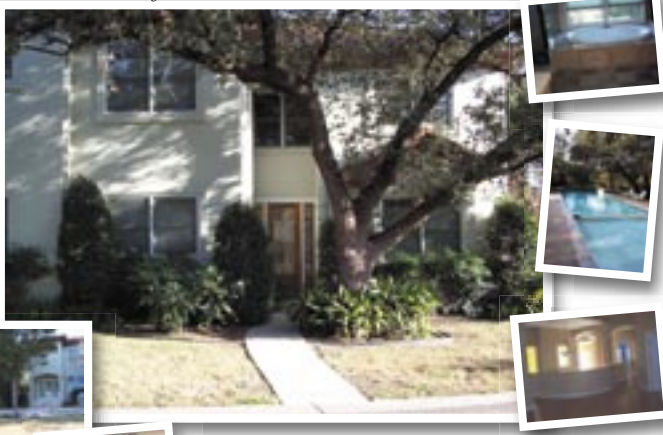
The Perry Park wooded area is small however it does provide a nice exposure to kids for that forest experience. The trails are worth exploring so on your next visit to the park take a walk in the woods. The mulched trails begin near the upper soccer field.

Thanks go to all those who helped with the project! This was a very nice community project that the neighborhood can enjoy.



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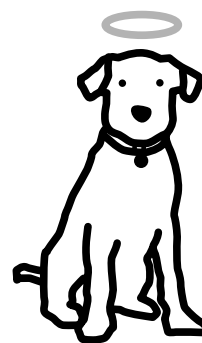
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Become a HPWBANA Member for 2006

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 4th Picnic and Parade, & the Annual Meeting.

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

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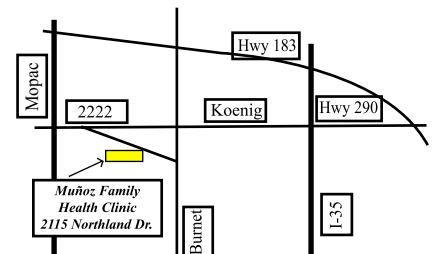
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