



The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 2

February 2006

www.hpwbana.org

Message from the Board

HPWBANA board members accompanied neighborhood children to Fire Station 19 last month. Station 19 on Balcones Drive is the only fire station within the HPWBANA boundaries and if a fire were to occur in our area they would be one of the first responders. They are well aware of our area conditions including those identified as high risk and are well prepared to address any fire emergency.

Station 19 is headed by Captain Rob Hayden and has about 10 firemen per shift stationed there, along with 2-3 paramedics. Four other fire stations service our area: Station 31 on FM 2222, Station 10 on Windsor Drive, Station 12 on Hancock Drive and Station 21 on Spicewood Springs.



*Firemen Brad and Mark give Wyatt and Cash
a tour at Fire Station 19*

Our neighborhood is filled with beautiful trees, established landscaping, steep slopes, green belts along with the Bright Leaf preserve and Camp Mabry. These natural features all add beauty but also introduce fire concerns during drought conditions. Our neighborhood would be impacted greatly by a large urban fire and we all should be aware of the hazards and what we can do to prevent fires and minimize the impact.

Check out these City of Austin websites where fire safety tips are provided and the urban fire concern is discussed in detail, along with identification of high risk areas:

www.ci.austin.tx.us/fire/safetytips

www.ci.austin.tx.us/disasterready/aboutwildfire.htm

Many fire safety tips are easy to implement such as having a safety plan, removing dead brush, leaves and limbs, cleaning out gutters and removing cedar trees near homes, just to name a few.

Zoning Concerns and Update

by Ann Denkler of NWACA Zoning Committee

The Northwest Austin Civic Association, the Neighborhood Association to the north of HPWBANA, has been fighting two rezoning requests on Northland and Balcones Drive at our boundaries.

HPWBANA joined with NWACA in supporting Limited Office (LO) for the rezoning of the former Cosmetology Building at 5717 Balcones Drive. The doctors filing the rezoning had wanted Community Commercial (GR) for medical offices which if granted could mean a 60 feet high building, 90% build out of the site and, most importantly, 2,000 additional car trips daily at the intersection of Balcones and Northland.

Public Works conducted traffic studies recently that showed the two lane road was carrying 12,000 trips on a road designed to handle no more than 5,000. Recent developments north of the site will add an additional 5,000 trips once construction is finished. Adding another 2,000 trips would make the intersection even more dangerous than APD stats are showing since the Cosmetology building will not be given access by TxDot to the 3 lane exit MoPac exit ramp.

On first reading, Council supported GR-CO zoning limiting the uses to medical uses rather than retail, limiting the height to 30 feet, build-out to 70% of the site and car trips to 1,250 a day. 2nd reading is scheduled for January 12th.

The second zoning case involves the Bradfield Cummins property at 3400 Northland and 5701 Highland Hills, catty corner to the former Cosmetology building. In this case, the developer/owners want to turn the undeveloped single family lot and the small office into a 2 lane drive through bank. Approval of this rezoning request for GR would compromise the primary access out of the neighborhood for Highland Hills residents, establish a precedent for commercial on the

(Continued on page 3)

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting:

February 27th

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

2006 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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Tonianne Soster te883@austin.rr.com, 825-3773

Blake Stanford blake@swhuman.org, 452-5260

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 Yarbrough 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.

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Check out National Blue Ribbon Nominated Highland Park Elementary

Congratulations to Highland Park Elementary for being the *only* school in AISD and one of 26 schools in the state of Texas to be nominated for the National Blue Ribbon Award under the No Child Left Behind Accountability System! Winners will be announced next September.

Do you have an incoming kindergartener? Come see what makes Highland Park so special. There are on-going activities in which you and your child can participate.

Please join us on Feb. 8th for our monthly incoming kindergarteners playdate, held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:00pm on Perry Playground. It's a fabulous opportunity for your child to become familiar with the school and meet future classmates.

Highland Park Elementary will also sponsor a Prospective Parent Orientation on Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 12-1. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Parents will have the opportunity to take a tour of the school and visit with school staff, PTA representatives and other Highland Park parents. For the kids, be sure to attend our Scottie Pup Camp on Feb. 7th, 9-10am. The children play games, enjoy story time with a staff member, have a snack in the cafeteria and play on the playground.

If you are interested in attending the Orientation or Scottie Pup Camp, please call the HP office at 414-2090 to RSVP. For other Welcome events at HPE, please refer to the neighborhood website. All events are listed on the Meetings/Events page.

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.

Classified Ads

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Zoning Concerns -(Continued from cover page)

northern side of Northland and add an estimated 1,560 vehicle trips to the intersection of Balcones and Northland. This case is scheduled to be heard on January 26th at the Council Chambers at 301 West 2nd Street at 4pm.

We urge members to contact council members to support LO zoning for the Cosmetology Building and no change in zoning for the Bradfield Cummins tracts. You can email council members at the following addresses:

Danny.thomas@ci.austin.tx.us

Will.wynn@ci.austin.tx.us

Lee.leffingwell@ci.austin.tx.us

Jennifer.kim@ci.austin.tx.us

Betty.dunkerley@ci.austin.tx.us

Raul.alvarez@ci.austin.tx.us

Brewster.mccracken@ci.austin.tx.us

MoPac Update

MoPAC is making news these days in various newspapers and neighborhood association newsletters. One important item of interest is the building of sound walls this spring for evaluation by the community. There will be opportunities for the public to provide feedback through public meetings, surveys etc so watch for news on this topic. We will keep you informed through our newsletter and our website, www.hpwbana.org. Background information has been provided by Sid Covington on our MoNAC / MoPAC page. This is an important topic that will impact our neighborhood.

Super Duplex Topic Update

Board Member Tonianne Soster continues working with the super-duplex issue. This issue involves a recent introduction into our neighborhoods of homes being converted to allow for the absolute maximum number of residents allowed within current zoning limits. These homes are then targeted for rental to college students. Tonianne formed a neighborhood committee to focus on this problem and is currently discussing possible resolutions with the Austin Neighborhood Council and City Council members. Contact Tonianne with questions about this topic. te883@austin.rr.com 825-3773

Thanks to Balcones Exxon Automotive!

The HPWBANA beautification committee would like to recognize Balcones Exxon Automotive (formerly Charlie and Ann's Exxon) for providing the water for the median on Balcones/Parkcrest during the recent drought. Without this water source the landscape would not have survived. They have provided water and assistance with the median since it was planted. Many, many thanks!

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



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Take a Walk Through History at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

By Pam Penick

The narrow, gravelly lanes of Austin Memorial Park wind among the headstones, offering visitors a place to take a quiet stroll, to reflect on the memory of those who lie here, or to investigate Austin's history. The city-owned cemetery, which opened in 1941 after Oakwood Cemetery grew full, anchors our neighborhood's northeast corner.

Though people often think of cemeteries as places of sorrow and remembrance, they can also be places of beauty. Certainly that's true of Austin Memorial Park. You enter through an iron gate between old stone pillars. Among the towering red oaks, sinuous live oaks, and fragrant cedars, headstones mark the graves and reveal hints about the lives of Austinites from all walks of life. Several famous Texans are buried here, including author James Michener, golf instructor Harvey Penick, and actor Zachary Scott. I haven't found their headstones yet, but I always look. Many graves are decorated not just with flowers but also with garden ornaments, benches, and other tokens of care and love. In one area there stand several headstones carved in Asian letters. Perhaps they are Korean, perhaps Vietnamese—I can only guess. Listen and you'll hear the tinkling of wind chimes hanging in the trees.

The cemetery entrance is located at the corner of Hancock Dr. and Bull Creek, at 2800 Hancock Dr. Visiting hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.; weekends, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Literacy Austin

New Year's Resolution to clean up and clear out the old? Literacy Austin will gladly take your gently used books to stock our shelves for BookFest 2006. We take both hardbacks and paperbacks so long as they are in good condition (damaged books just don't sell). We will also take CDs, DVDs, and videotapes (commercial only), in good condition. No text books or magazines, please.

This year we are sorting books in advance at the Literacy Austin Center (address below) so we will gladly take your book donations there during regular business hours (Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.). Or contact Lynda Nesenholtz, Literacy Austin Board Member, 5109 Lucas Lane, 420-0670, to arrange for pick-up.

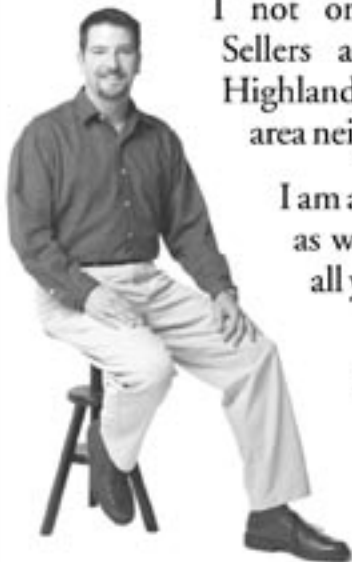
When and where will BookFest 2006 be? Good question. The search is on to find a large, centrally located site available to us at minimal cost sometime this spring. Stay tuned!

For further information about BookFest or Literacy Austin in general, please contact:

Lisa Kay Pfannenstiel
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Texas Events - February

7-12—AUSTIN: *Peter Pan* In her farewell performance, Cathy Rigby takes flight in the 100th anniversary of this immortal tale. Bass Concert Hall. www.broadwayacrossamerica.com 512/478-4265, 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

9-12, 16-19, 23-26—BULVERDE: *Feather of the Eagle* Napoleon called him the Bravest of the Brave. He called himself Pinion de L'Aiglon ... only a feather of the eagle's wing. S.T.A.G.E., 1300 Bulverde Road. 830/438-2339

10—AUSTIN: *Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder — An Evening of Bluegrass* Begins at 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

10—AUSTIN: *Strings Attached with Monte Montgomery* Montgomery is recognized by critics and musicians for his stunning six-string work and his abilities as a singer and a writer of original songs with a deep roots sensibility. Begins at 8 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church. www.stringsattached.org 512/775-2371

10—ROUND ROCK: *Valentine Dance* Features live music and spaghetti dinner. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Senior Center. 512/218-5499

10-12—AUSTIN: *Needle Arts Show & Boutique* Eileen Bennett is the featured guest teacher and lecturer. A special exhibit is Michelangelo's Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, a 40-inch by 80-inch depiction in cross stitch. Includes merchants, exhibits, boutique, tea room and classes. Northwest Recreation Center. www.austinstitchers.org 512/858-1506

10-12, 17-19—FREDERICKSBURG: *Wine Lover's Trail* Travel through the Hill Country and taste new vintage wines and enjoy different kinds of activities in celebration of the season. Wineries feature dinners, pairing of wines/foods and entertainment. www.texaswinetrail.com 888/997-2300, 830/997-6523 or 866/621-9463

11—AUSTIN: *Dave Douglas Quintet* A master composer, innovative arranger and powerhouse trumpeter, Douglas carves new and inventive terrain from the inspirational glory of jazz legends. Begins at 8 p.m. Hogg Auditorium. www.utpac.org 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

11—NEW BRAUNFELS: *14th Annual Hill Country Doll Show & Sale* Includes antique and modern collectible dolls, bears, miniatures, accessories, supplies, books and restoration. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. New Braunfels Civic Center. www.dolldr.com 830/606-5868

12—AUSTIN: *Lily Tomlin* Tomlin is a cultural icon whose performances on life, love and pop culture keep the audience laughing. Paramount Theatre. www.austintheatrealliance.org 512/472-2901

14—AUSTIN: *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater* This groups' daunting breadth of stylistic and technical feats take audiences to unexplored territory, making each encounter fresh and exhilarating. Begins at 8 p.m. Bass Concert Hall. www.utpac.org 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

14—AUSTIN: *Bobby Caldwell — Valentine's Day* Shows are 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre. 512/329-6753

16-17—AUSTIN: *Cowboy Junkies* Begins at 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

16-19—AUSTIN: *Ballet Austin's New American Talent* The work of the three finalists from Ballet Austin's emerging choreographers

competition is performed. Paramount Theatre. www.balletaustin.org 512/476-2163

17—AUSTIN: *Ojos de Brujo* This collective of Spanish musicians use the tools of traditional flamenco as a foundation for cross-genre experimentation. Begins at 8 p.m. Hogg Auditorium. www.utpac.org 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

17-19—FREDERICKSBURG: *Trade Days* Includes more than 300 vendors, five barns, acres of antiques and more, biergarten and music. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Hwy. 290 E. across from Wildseed Farms. www.fbgtradedays.com 830/990-4900 or 210/846-4094

18—AUSTIN: *February Pops* Includes the Spinners and conductor Peter Bay. Begins at 8 p.m. Riverbend Centre. www.austinsymphony.org 888/462-3787 or 512/476-6064

18-20—AUSTIN: *Pop Go the Texans!* Features music inspired by Texas and the West and the rich heritage of music composed by Texans. www.austinchambermusic.org 512/454-0026

19—AUSTIN: *Freescall Marathon* This is the 15th largest marathon in the country and draws nearly 10,000 runners to Austin. Northwest Austin to Auditorium Shores. www.freescalleastinmarathon.com 512/478-4265

23—FREDERICKSBURG: *Van der Stucken Music Festival* Series of songs, skits of comedy and pathos tell the stories of historical characters presented by the Fredericksburg Chorale, Hermann Sons Mixed Chorus and the Arion Men's Choir of Fredericksburg. St. Joseph's Halle, 212 W. San Antonio St. E-mail: kenknopp@kctc.com 830/997-3273

24—AUSTIN: *Maynard Ferguson & his Big Bop Nouveau Band* Begins at 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

25-26—ROUND ROCK: *A Sami Show* This is an arts & crafts show. Dell Diamond. www.samishow.com 512/441-7133

28—AUSTIN: *Diverse Diversions* Welcome Quinton Morris, Young Eight violinist, back to the stage for the fourth annual concert displaying rich, varied and rarely heard works by African-American composers. Huston-Tillotson University. www.austinchambermusic.org 512/454-0026

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Establishing a Web Site 101 -- for Business or Fun-

By Kaylee Kolditz

As we've likely all figured out by now, the Internet is here to stay. Many of us use it daily and the rest use it at least occasionally. From weather and news to shopping and chatting with family and friends, the Web has become as much a part of our lives as the telephone and the automobile.

The good news for businesses and individuals looking to establish themselves as an entity on the Web is that building a basic Web site has become easy and affordable. Getting started is just a matter of knowing what you need to do. So, here are six steps for launching a basic site that can be uniquely you:

1. Select a domain name .

The domain name is the address for your site -- also called the URL (for example www.companyname.com). Come up with a list of several names you can choose from; each of which should indicate to Web visitors something about your site or your business (i.e. SmithFamilyPhotos, BusinessName, WhatIKnowAboutXYZ, etc.). You can be creative, but make sure that the name is easy to spell and easy to remember.

2. Register your domain name .

Now it is time to see if the name you want is available and get it registered. You can accomplish both tasks by visiting a domain name registrar (a Google search will give you many to choose from). You


will have the option to choose from a variety of extensions (that is the part after the "dot"; i.e. com, net, biz, org). The registrar should provide guidance on the appropriate use for each extension. Dot com tends to be the most frequently used extension, so if you really like the domain name you've selected and it is already registered using ".com", consider using .net or one of the other alternatives.

3. Find a Web host/design service.


There are numerous services that can provide both the design and the hosting of your site. Again, an online search will reveal many services you can choose from. Shop around -- review prices as well as offerings. (Keep in mind that if you want a lot of bells and whistles on your site or are developing an eCommerce site, you'll need to do a bit more research and should consider using a Web developer and/or designer for your site build.)

4. Select a template.

Perhaps the easiest way to build a site is to use the templates provided by the online design and hosting company you choose. The selection is getting broader and some services even allow limited customization, such as choice of color or addition of your own graphics. Make sure you review the selection of templates and find several options you're willing to use before you purchase your service.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Website 101- (Continued from page 6)

5. Develop your content.

Content is basically the words of your site. What will your site say to your visitors? Keeping your content short and to the point will increase your chances of having it read. Additionally, adding some personality to your words -- showing a bit of who you are or what your company culture is -- can help make your site more inviting.

6. Share with the world! - The adage "If you build it, they will come" does not apply to Web sites. If no one knows your site exists, no one will visit. So, start spreading the news. Send an email to friends, family, colleagues — everyone. If yours is a business site, look into search engine marketing and other online advertising opportunities. Know who you want to visit your site and find a way to let them know the site is now live and waiting for them!

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HPWBANA Home Sales

by Jennifer Smith

Have you seen all the moving vans? How about all the dumpsters? 2004 and 2005 were busy real estate years for the HPWBANA area, and that success is sure to continue. Our community, as you know, is a well-established Austin neighborhood that offers great schools, great location and great neighbors, of course. Buyers recognize the value of this neighborhood and that is reflected in the 2004 and 2005 area home sales statistics listed below. Take pride in the neighborhood and take note of your home's value. The HPWBANA area is definitely one of Austin's most desired neighborhoods!

	2004 Statistics*	2005 Statistics*
No. of properties sold	67	69
Avg. price/sqft.	\$162.44	\$170.40
Avg. Sales Price	\$341,986	
	\$355,994	
Lowest Sales Price	\$55,900	\$75,000
Highest Sales Price	\$699,000	
	\$1,500,000	
Avg. Days on Market	66	50

**Statistics gathered from Austin Board of Realtors and include subdivisions within HPWBANA boundaries.*

Reminder – **January** is HPWBANA dues renewal month.

Become a HPWBANA Member

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 neighborhood activities:

Spring Egg Hunt
July 4th Picnic and Parade
Annual Meeting
Beautification Efforts

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

Send \$15 for a Household membership or \$10 for a Single Member Household membership (only one adult in household):

HPWBANA, PO Box 26101, Austin, TX 78755.

Name _____ Name of second adult _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Email _____

You may also join online with PayPal at www.hpwbana.org.

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

Peel, Inc.

Printing & Publishing

We currently publish newsletters
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Austin

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Cherry Creek on Brodie Ln.	Highland Park West Balcones Area
Circle C Ranch	Lakeside Estates
Courtyard	Ridgewood
Coventry	Scenic Brook
Davenport Ranch	Settlers Park/Crossing/Overlook
Estates of Shady Hollow	Stone Canyon
Granada Hills	Westcreek

Houston

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Cypress Mill	Village Creek
Fairfield	Villages of Langham Creek
Harvest Bend, The Village	Waterford Harbor
Hastings Green	Willowbridge
High Meadow Ranch	Willowlake
Lakes on Eldridge	Willow Pointe
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