



The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 3

March 2006

www.hpwbana.org

HPWBANA Beautification Committee Wins Keep Austin Beautiful Award

by Nadene Morning

The HPWBANA Beautification Committee is very proud for being recognized for their hard work by the Keep Austin Beautiful organization. Each year KAB recognizes efforts made by individuals and groups in eight different categories for their efforts to clean, beautify and educate our community. After KAB reviewed over 90 applications the HPWBANA Beautification Committee was selected as winner for the Beautification Award Category! It was the investment in the community shown by the many volunteers throughout our neighborhood that made a big impact in the selection.

KAB AWARD CATEGORY

Beautification

Winner:

HPWBANA Beautification Committee

Honorable Mention:

Austin Parks Foundation

This is quite an achievement for the committee. Beautification committee members Nadene Morning and Carolyn Robinson attended the KAB award luncheon on February 8th to receive the award. It was a huge event and the neighborhood should be proud to be represented.

The beautification committee had a very active year working with volunteers and organizations to improve six public green spaces in our neighborhood. Here is a brief summary.

The efforts at Perry Park are the most striking. This past year volunteers removed dead wood, bamboo, ragweed, vines and a huge amount of ligustrum. Even the mulched trails were restored. Benches around the



Carolyn Robinson and Nadene Morning accept the Keep Austin Beautiful Award for the Beautification Committee.

running track and woods should go in soon.

The Ridge Oak Reservoir has beautiful scenic views that are now open again after two passes to remove the china berry and ligustrum trees that were out of control. The committee coordinated the project and worked with five different organizations to make this happen.

Barrier rocks at the Ridge Oak Reservoir were added in a visually pleasing and natural way to prevent vandalism of the green space.

The Foothill Terrace median had a large tree donated and moved into the green space by a local home owner and a builder. The committee worked with the builder and neighbors.

The landscape bed and trees at the corner of Hancock Dr. and W Frances Pl. are cared for on a regular basis.

The landscape at the Balcones/Parkercrest

median also requires our regular attention. This was the committee's first project about three years ago.

The Highland Terrace concrete median is also being investigated to create a green landscape.

And who is the beautification committee? We are your neighbors. Here is a list of committee members since the committee started three years ago, and their areas of interest:

- Nadene Morning - chairperson - gets involved with all the green spaces
- Carolyn Robinson – Balcones/Parkcrest median and volunteer recruiter
- Susan Adler - Balcones/Parkcrest median and Highland Terrace/Perry median
- Pam Penick - Hancock Bridge area landscape and trees.
- Jennifer Miller – involved with almost all of our green spaces.
- Jessica Winslow, Lynn Adams, Sherry Dickey, and Deb King - planting and pruning.
- Sam Haddad – Highland Terrace/Perry median.
- Mark Moore - green spaces on Ridge Oak Dr.
- Greg Morning - special requests and heavy work.
- John Westkaemper - Foothill Terrace median.

The HPWBANA extends a big THANK YOU to Keep Austin Beautiful for recognizing the hard work of the HPWBANA Beautification Committee and all the volunteers that got involved to help keep our neighborhood looking great.

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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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.

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Message from the Board

As we start planning for events this year ideas start to flow. Would the community like a tour of the various art galleries in the area? Would families be interested in watching movies outside at Perry Park? Do neighbors want to see outdoor sculpture displayed in our green spaces? Do we want our bus stops to be more welcoming to visitors? Do business sponsors want networking events? These ideas are just a few.

Of course sometimes the idea is the easiest part. It takes volunteers to coordinate these projects. If you like these ideas or have one of your own and want to get involved give me a call or send me an email. The HPWBANA can help find other volunteers and we'll see how the idea develops. We help shape our community through involvement.

Nadene Morning, HPWBANA President

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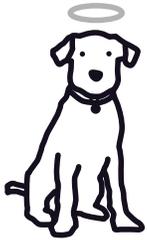
Here comes Peter Cottontail!!!

The annual Perry Park Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m.

- Prizes awarded to the person in each age category who finds the Golden Egg
- Jelly Bean Guessing Game
- Don't forget your camera because the Easter Bunny will be there!!

Donations of candy and plastic eggs are welcome, and volunteers are needed to hide eggs and stuff eggs. Please email Carolyn Robinson at carrob99@hotmail.com or call 302-5417 if you can volunteer to help or if you can donate eggs or candy.

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Trowel and Error:

Mayfield Park Gardening Symposium

Saturday, April 1, 2006 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mayfield Park 3505 W. 35th Street (next to Laguna Gloria Art Museum)

On April 1, historic Mayfield Park combines topics dear to the heart of Central Texas gardeners in a series of "must hear" lectures.

- Ellen Zimmermann, Certified Herbalist, [Growing Local Herbs For Practical And Medicinal Use](#)
- Christi Green, Nursery Manager, Big Red Sun, [Landscaping From A Unique Perspective](#)
- Molly Ogorzaly, Creative Director, Growing Gardeners, [Butterfly Gardening In Central Texas](#)
- What's a garden event without a **plant sale**? Mayfield has the best deals in town for hard-to-find heirlooms, water lilies and other perennials and annuals perfect for the April garden.
- As always, **Trowel and Error** benefits one of Austin's favorite and enchanting parks, historic Mayfield. Guests tour the restored Mayfield-Gutsch home, surrounded by stone-walled gardens patterned in the 1920's after the cottage gardens of England. Towering palms, flowering trees and perennials line meandering paths set among ponds filled with water lilies and fish. Gregarious peacocks supervise overflowing flower beds planted and maintained by community volunteers.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks, a non-profit organization, TROWEL AND ERROR is the solitary fund-raiser for historic Mayfield Park. Although admission is free, a \$5.00 donation is requested. For more information call Karen at 453-7074.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Proud to Be Your Neighbor

By: Congressman Lamar Smith

The Highland Park West Balcones neighborhood area is home to Texas' 21st Congressional District office. As your Representative and your neighbor, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I also want to give you an update on some of the things that are happening in Washington and here in our own backyard.

Our community is one of the most vibrant in Texas. The Austin-area is home to some of the most prestigious technology firms and laboratories in the world. The people and businesses that make up this community stand on the forefront of science and technology.

I have long had a personal interest in both of these fields, which is why I chose to serve on the House of Representatives Science Committee and as Chairman of the Congressional Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property.

One of the most important issues before my Subcommittee is



Congressman Lamar Smith

intellectual property rights (IP). IP represents the single largest sector of the United States economy, employing 4.3 million Americans and accounting for 40 percent of our economic growth. From software developers in Austin, to cyber security experts in San Antonio, it is vital that we encourage the continued growth and protection of intellectual property. My committee has crafted legislation that deals with digital rights, copyright, patent protection and cyber-security.

As a member of the Science Committee, I plan to introduce legislation that will support the development of plug-in hybrid vehicles. The City of Austin and Austin Energy are leading a campaign to show other American cities that there is a market for alternative fuel vehicles. Plug-in hybrids can help people save money on fuel, conserve energy, reduce harmful emissions and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil.

By embracing these alternative fuel vehicles, our area is setting an example for the rest of the nation. I want to make sure Congress is doing its part to support that effort. I am also focused on improving our area roads to alleviate traffic. Last year, I secured \$15 million in federal transportation funding that will go to construction of new roads, public transportation systems and bike paths in the Austin area.

I also worked to obtain \$100,000 in federal funds for the City of Austin Police Department. These funds will provide the department with the latest in law enforcement training technology.

There is a lot going on in Washington, but some of the most important work is done right here in Highland Park West. Here at the district office, my staff and I assist residents of the 21st District who need help dealing with federal agencies or programs. We help solve problems and answer questions regarding the Internal Revenue Service, immigration, Social Security and grant applications, to name just a few.

I encourage you to contact me at the office here in Highland Park West if you need assistance with a federal matter. I would also like to hear about the issues that matter to you and your family. The office is located at 5608 Parkcrest Drive, Suite 260. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. You can also call the office at 402-9743.

I am proud to be a part of a community that is setting the pace for the rest of the nation. Please stay in touch, and always let me know when I can be of help.

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Highland Park News

Congratulations to Reading Specialist, Kathy Sederholm, for recently being awarded Teacher of the Year at Highland Park. She will now be entered into AISD's district-wide competition for Teacher of the Year. Good luck, Mrs. Sederholm!

Highland Park will be hosting a playdate for '06-'07 incoming Kindergartners: Wednesday, March 8th at 3:00 at Perry Park playground.

Playdates at Perry Park occur the second Wednesday of every month at 3:00.

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting:

March 27th

Yarborough Library • 2200 Hancock Drive

7:00-8:45 pm

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.

Good Gossip Someone Told Me That...

Someone did something good in the neighborhood! Do you know someone who has done something noteworthy in the neighborhood? Perhaps it's your neighbor who brought in your trashcan when you were on vacation? Or the man in front of you at Randalls who let you go ahead of him (because your kids were screaming)? Or maybe you just saw someone helping out someone else and would like to "report" them. Parents, feel free to recognize your own kids here for their accomplishments, too. Please use this "Good Gossip" column to say something nice about people in the neighborhood. Email me at carrob99@hotmail.com or call me at 302-5417 and I'll make sure they get the recognition they deserve for being a good neighbor, AND a good person!

- This month Nadene Morning thanks Andrew Baldwin and Max Kuhlem for spending community service hours in Perry Park clearing ligustrum!
- Thanks to Pam and David Penick for planting the mountain laurel near the Hancock Bridge landscape and to Jennifer Miller for the use of her Blush wedding floral business to get a great price.
- More congratulations to the McCallum Blue Brigade for their wonderful performance at competition in Dallas!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School – Part 4

By Mike Cox

To see earlier parts of Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School:

Part 1 - The HPWBANA News, October 2005

Part 2 - The HPWBANA News, November 2005

Part 3 - The HPWBANA News, December 2005

Continuing from part 3...

Though one authority on the Baby Boom later wrote that the sudden upswing in births following World War II caught American educators by surprise, the Austin school board clearly had been thinking ahead. And that was a good thing.

By the early 1950s, the Census Clock in Washington, D.C. registered the statistical advent of a new birth every seven seconds. The top-10 list of names was as American as apple pie—and motherhood. The most popular names for boys were Robert, John, James, Michael, William, Richard, Joseph, Thomas, Steven and David. For the girls, the ranking was Linda, Mary, Barbara, Patricia, Susan, Kathleen, Carol, Nancy, Margaret and Diane.

The first wave of children hit the nation's kindergartens in 1951. Pupils born in 1946-47 accounted for a 38 percent increase in enrollment in the 1951-52 school year.

"Our Board of Education kept a busy schedule over the summer approving plans for new buildings, letting the construction contracts, and authorizing a major renovation project for Austin High," the Austin Public Schools *Messenger* reported in October 1951.

Highland Park was one of three new elementary schools under construction. Work also had begun on a new high school for South Austin (Travis) and plans for a new high school in North Austin (McCallum) nearly were complete. Construction of a new high school for East Austin (Anderson, the "separate-but-equal" all black secondary school) was awaiting federal government allocation of still-scarce steel. A new junior high school for West Austin also was being planned, as were two other elementary schools.

By February 1952, the new facility at the old quarry was considered half complete. The school board visited the site for an inspection on February 15.

At its March meeting, the board voted to name West Austin's new junior high school after short story writer O. Henry (William S. Porter, who had spent time in Austin in the 1880s and 90s before his imprisonment for bank embezzlement). The new elementary school adjacent to the abandoned quarry would be called Highland Park after the subdivision it had been built to serve.

Trustees wrangled more over the name than they had at any other stage in the development process.

Though one board member said he thought schools should be named for teachers or educators, he was not exercised enough to vote against the proposal to name the school Highland Park. "Mrs. [O.D.] Weeks," the board's minutes relate, "said that she felt the Board's action in naming" (Continued on Page 7)



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Limestone to Bricks *-(Continued from page 6)*

[sic] schools for geographical areas was taken with the thought in mind that changes could be made later if an appropriate name was suggested. The motion passed Unanimously.”

The board formally accepted the new school on September 2, 1952, just in time for the start of classes.

Built for \$553,234.87, the Highland Park 16 classrooms, a physical education room, a cafeteria-auditorium combination, a library and administrative office. The price included \$40,674 for “Heating & Ventilating” but the new school lacked one feature now considered standard in any building: air conditioning.

Though children began attending classes in September, the official open house was from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 19. Two other new elementary schools, Brentwood and Maplewood, were dedicated the same day. On hand for the festivities that day was the school board and its president, W.I. Kocurek, better known as Willy Kocurek.

“You are invited to visit in the classrooms to see the attractive, functional equipment and facilities provided for the pupil’s learning and health,” the program handed out that day said. “Adjacent to the school is an area the City plans to development into a park. The combination will make an ideal community recreation center.”

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School - Part 4 is being reprinted with the permission of the author, Mike Cox.

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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