

The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 4

April 2006

www.hpwbana.org

Message from the Board: Membership Matters Susan Rauch, Treasurer, HPWBANA

Welcome, members! We've just completed a very successful HPWBANA membership renewal drive. In January the association mailed out 1,800 letters asking neighbors to send in dues and join us. Many of you returned the letters – even more of you than we'd hoped – and on behalf of the association I say, "Thank you very much!"

It's thrilling that so many of you responded. Your dues and donations make possible the special events, beautification projects and information distribution efforts that our neighborhood association board and volunteers work so hard to make happen. As a non-profit organization, we are careful what we spend asking for your membership and strive to utilize your donations to best do the association's work.

It's also exciting to see so many of you join your neighbors in supporting our community. While dues and donations make our association possible, your membership is really the most important factor. Your willingness to be part of our member roster, to receive emails and newsletters from us and to share that information with your neighbors is critical to keeping our neighborhood association vital. A large body of members makes our neighborhood association stronger and gets us noticed when we speak out about issues and changes.

HPWBANA was formed with the goal of preserving and enhancing our neighborhood in northwest Austin. It's not every day or even every year that we have to rise up to "fight city hall." We're fortunate that the majority of our work is about the more pleasant aspects of keeping our neighborhood a nice place to live. But it's still important that we keep our numbers strong so that we maintain a presence in Austin.

By the way, although hundreds of you are now active members of HPWBANA, our boundaries encompass well over a thousand homes. Maybe you've thought about joining the neighborhood association but haven't gotten around to it. I hope that you'll take a minute to do so – it's never too late. There's a form printed in this newsletter, or you can visit our website at www.hpwbana.org.

I invite you to find out more about HPWBANA this year. Our monthly board meetings are open to all, and we have special events planned for this spring and summer designed to bring neighbors together. Come enjoy being a part of our organization! And thanks again to all members present and future for your support of our neighborhood association.

HPWBANA Board Meetings Please attend our next monthly meeting: April 24th Yarborough Library 2200 Hancock Drive 7:00-8:45 pm

Perry Park Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15 9:30 a.m.

Don't Be Late!!!

Age groups: 0-2 years 3-4 years 5-7 years 8 & up

> Prizes Awarded for the Golden Egg in each Age Group!

See the Easter Bunny! Jelly Bean Guessing Game!

Volunteers still needed email carrob99@hotmail.com



Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center	
Emergency Police	
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)	
Social Services (during work hours)	
Dana Munguia, Senior Patrol Officer	
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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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 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^{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^{th} St.

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APF - It's My Park Day!

Our local Perry Park is on the list of parks that are participating for this annual Austin Parks Foundation city-wide event.

Saturday, April 22

9:00 am

Perry Park (4900 Fairview Dr)

PARD plans on cutting specific ligustrum the week before the event. Volunteers are needed to drag the ligustrum to a designated pick up area. Other park improvements will be noted on our website at www.hpwbwana.org.

Sign up at www.austinparks.org.

Contact Nadene Morning with questions or if you have a park improvement idea.

Mayfield Park Guided Tours

Guided tours and nature hikes of Mayfield gardens will be held in March. Further tours will be held, also on Saturdays, on April 8th and April 22nd, and May 13th and May 27th. The tours are free and open to the public. The meeting place is the picnic tables near the parking area at 9:30 AM. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes.

Tours will include a brief history of Mayfield Park and the Mayfield –Gutsch family who lived there, a tour of the gardens with emphasis on plant identification, and information on the homestead and other structures. Pond life and native habitat will be explored. Hiking the nature trails will be optional as time permits.

Tours are also available by appointment by calling 467-1868.

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)

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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Perry Park gets New Park Benches!

Visitors of Perry Park can now sit and relax while enjoying the views of the wooded sections of the park and playing fields. Four new park benches were installed around the quarry and woods area. They are a very welcoming and graceful addition to our local park located behind Highland Park Elementary, 4900 Fairview Dr.

The benches were made possible with the help of HPWBANA and a grant from Austin Parks Foundation (www.austinparks.org). APF's Neighborhood Grant Program is there to help strengthen community and investment in Austin's green spaces. HPWBANA applied for the grant last summer and agreed to match the APF grant with both funding and volunteer hours. This is an example of the HPWBANA putting your membership dues to good use.

The beautification committee coordinated the project and worked with the Friends of Perry Park for bench placement. Volunteers cleared ligustrum, reestablished the trails and built the bench platforms as part of the



Nadene Morning and Mitchell Stanford build bench platforms at Perry Park. Mitchell helped with three platforms.

volunteer hour match for the grant. Even the volunteer hours the PTA spent repairing the running track last fall were logged. Over 330 volunteer hours at Perry Park were logged to the Parks and Recreation Department over the last six months alone.

Many thanks go out to the volunteers who helped with the bench project: Friends of Perry Park Dave Woods, David Seaton, Tom McClure, and Kevin Goliher; and volunteers Carolyn, Rhett and Cash Robinson, Greg and Nadene Morning, Blake and Mitchell Stanford, Jennifer Miller, Chad Williams, Nathenial, Michael Strover, Claire O'Connell, Crenshaws (for the use of water) and the many people that stopped by to offer assistance.

A huge thanks go out to Austin Parks Foundation – without their grant this bench project would not have happened.

Thanks also go out also to Max Moore of the City of Austin PARD who helped with all aspects of this project.

- Nadene Morning, Beautification Committee





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A Rainy Bright Leaf Workday

The February invasive plant removal workday was originally scheduled for Feb. 11th, but was postponed because the temperatures that day hovered near freezing all day long. The next Saturday, the 18th, was our scheduled 'rain date' and did it ever! After the winter drought, we were glad to see rain, but it meant the volunteers who did come out were displaying some fashionable rain gear. We couldn't delay the workday one more weekend because the Golden Cheeked Warbler season lasts from March until mid-summer. Whether Bright Leaf is under TPWD rules or we are under the Austin Community Foundation, we don't want to remove larger shrubs and trees at the times these birds are nesting. Such activity could disturb these endangered birds. On this workday, we had eight volunteers who used weed wrenches and other tools to remove many Nandina and some Photinias. Lunch was provided by the Friends of Bright Leaf with a donation from HEB. If any groups would like to help us in this effort, trailing Vinca and Nandinas can be removed at any time of year. Just give Bright Leaf a call at 459-7269. For a list of invasive plants in Austin, pick up a 'Grow Green' guide at an area nursery or go to: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/invasive.htm. -Nancy Woolley

Visit Bright Leaf at the next event:

Austin Nature Day Saturday, April 15th 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Friends of Bright Leaf



One thing you can count on

when the rest of the afternoon has let you down.

512-251-5522

Allandale Neighborhood Association Candidate Forum for AISD School Board Candidates

Date: Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Gullett Elementary School (6310 Treadwell Blvd)

Candidates for places 4, 8 and 9 are invited to speak from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. followed by questions from the audience. Areas 8 and 9 are district wide at-large seats. District 4 is the district that includes the following schools: Anderson High, McCallum High, Lamar Middle School, Murchison Middle School, Pillow Elementary, Doss Elementary, Brentwood Elementary, Davis Elementary, Hill Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Gullett Elementary and Rosedale School

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

Good Gossip Someone Told Me That...

The McCallum High School performance of Chicago was wonderful! Congratulations to all involved! An anonymous neighbor sends out a special thank you to paramedics Connor and Greg at Station #19. These gentlemen (along with three firemen) responded to a life threatening situation and were awesome! Congratulations to Montana Manske for getting a Superior Rating on her dance solo at the recent competition. Please use this "Good Gossip" column to say something nice about people in the neighborhood. Email me at carrob99@hotmail.com and I' ll make sure they get the recognition they deserve for being a good neighbor, AND a good person!

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Spring forward with Curb Appeal

by Tonianne Soster

It's that time of year again to tackle spring maintenance. Here are some helpful tips to spruce up the exterior of your home:

- 1 Pruning: The best time is now, before buds start to swell and when the threat of frost is past. Clean up shrubs by removing any broken or dead branches, since decay invites disease. Trim long unbranched stems to encourage lower side branches to develop. Remove old, weak, rubbing, or wayward branches where they merge with another branch, the main stem or base of the plant.. This opens the interior of the shrub to more sunlight and encourages growth.
- 2 Planting: Flowering gardens always add a fresh look to a garden as well as flowering window planters.
- 3 General Lawn Maintenance: Bagging up any fallen leaves always spruces thing up. The basic edging and mowing add a clean touch.
- 4 Powerwashing: High pressure washing can eliminate any dirt, grime, mildew, oil etc. on walkways, patios, driveways and even decks. Most painters have their own powerwashers and if your the "Do It Youself" type person you can rent one from any equipment rental place in town.
- 5 Outdoor lighting: Plays many roles: delivers electricity to a patio, illuminating yards and paths, and providing safety and security. Both pratical and aesthetic—and great for porches, sidewalks, driveways, decks and landscaping.
- 6 Sandblasting: This process can be used to clean those tough areas that have accumulated rust, dirt and old paint or varnishes. Abrasive sand is propelled at high speeds by compressed air which cleans the surface. Works really well on Masonry areas like chimney stacks, walled fences, stone patios and even on the exterior walls of your home. It removes most stains giving the natural look of the stone back.
- 7 Paint: Touching up on exterior paint even if it just involves the trim work can really complement your home. Of course colors selections are a personal choice but to prevent color selections from overpowering your home design experts advise using neutral colors to soften the look.

Of course there are other things you can do to spruce up your the exterior of your home and get ready for spring. These are just some of the few that are fairly easy, manageable and inexpensive that will make a dramatic improvement. Have fun springing forward with Curb Appeal.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association Newsletter - April 2006 5

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School – Part 5

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
- Part 4 The HPWBANA News, March 2006
- Continuing from part 4...

Still active in Austin civic affairs, Kocurek said he and his colleagues had their hands full trying to keep up with the city's growing population.

Indeed, Highland Park was one of 18 schools built in Austin between 1947 and 1956 to accommodate the post-war generation that came to be called the Baby Boomers. These "spacious one -story schools have been built...with educational utility and economy in mind," the American-Statesman noted in a January 15, 1956. Beneath an aerial view of Highland Park, the newspaper said, "Architectural cheesecake was eliminated from functional buildings, like Highland Park Elementary."

The school may not have had any striking design flourishes, but each classroom had closet and cabinet space "scaled to the pupils' size." Classrooms were "illuminated as much as possible by natural light, amply supplemented by good artificial lighting." The library was "a bright, cheerful room equipped with reference materials, attractive books, and bulletin board space." And the librarian, the open house brochure continued, "is always ready to assist pupils with their questions."

Kocurek said nothing stood out in his mind about the dedication that day other than the fact that he and his wife had purchased a lot in Highland Park West. They never built on it, though.

"We sold it," he said.

The only thing else he remembered about the early days of Highland Park was finding it "very surprising that someone would put a development on such a rock," Kocurek laughed.

It was rocky, but Perry's real estate venture changed the shape of the Austin map. Still, his grandson contends he never profited from it.

"He didn't know anything about the hotel business, but he built a hotel anyway," Edgar Perry III later recalled. "He didn't know anything about the office building business but he built an office building. He subdivided all of Highland Park...but he never made any money on it."

In fact, folks thought Perry was crazy for putting in a subdivision "so far out." Naysayers warned him that he would "never be able to sell lots that far out in the wilderness...nobody will live out there."

But people did move to his suburb, and Austin began a growth toward the northwest that would continue all the way to Williamson County and keep going.

"The people with land around him made money," Perry said. "He was before his time on everything."

The new school in Perry's subdivision opened with ten teachers. Six transferred from Bryker Woods Elementary: Mrs. Elta J. Clark, Miss Martine Holbrook, Mrs. Wilma Jones, Mrs. Bessie Faye Logan, Mrs. Ann Worley and Mrs. Mabel White. From Robert E. Lee came Mrs. Kay Wiseman and from Wooldridge, Mrs. Louise L. Greenwood. Two new hires were Miss Barbara Denning and Mrs. Jackie Jones.

(Continued on Page 7)



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Limestone to Bricks -(Continued from page 6)

Their annual salaries seem more like monthly salaries today. A probationary teacher earned \$2,650 a year, picking up another \$50 a year once they reached "regular teacher" status. A teacher with 18 years experience could bring home \$4,410 a year, while a master's degree was worth \$4,635 a year. A PhD. could earn a teacher \$5.085 yearly.

Class size ranged from 29 to 32 students. Most of the students came from Bryker Woods, which until Highland Park opened had been Austin's northernmost elementary school.

One of those students was sixth grader Pete Lowry, now a visiting district judge.

"We were really excited to be at a new school," he recalled. "We'd never had that experience."

He lived at 4712 Highland Terrace. He and his family came to Austin in 1946 and moved to Highland Park West the following year, Lowry said.

"Ours was one of the first houses in the neighborhood," he said.

When not attending classes, Lowry and his friends spent a lot of time at the old quarry. "There wasn't any vegetation around it back then," he said. "We climbed all over it. I remember getting stuck about halfway up one time. We shot lizards with our BB guns."

Another big draw for kids, long before the quarry was developed into a park, was the Hobby Horse Stables and the northern portion of the Camp Mabry reservation, he said.

"It was a sad day when they shut down the stables to make room for more houses," he remembered.

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School - Part 5 is being reprinted with the permission of the author, Mike Cox.

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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, & theAnnual 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.

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.

Traffic Concerns

The neighborhood association has recently received several calls regarding problem intersections and speeding in various parts of the neighborhood. We've contacted the city regarding the areas listed below, but if you notice a problem and want to find out who to talk to at the city, contact a board member and we will help you get started.

Crestway/Ridge Oak vield intersection Speeding on Perry Lane (between Balcones and Mopac) Highland Terrace & Valley Oak

Good Neighbor Program

Just in case you were not aware, Randalls has a great program for giving back to communities called the Good Neighbor Program. HPWBANA is signed up and we direct all the funds received from this program towards beautification projects in our neighborhood.

The next time you're at Randalls, pick up a Remarkable Card application at the courtesy booth to fill out and link your card to our account. Randalls will pay us a percentage of our account total, so be sure to use your card every time you shop. By using your card, you will also be eligible for exclusive discounts, giveaways, enterto-wins, direct mail rewards and Airmiles.

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