



The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 5

May 2006

www.hpwbana.org

Highland Park Brownies Support HPWBANA Easter Egg Hunt

When HPWBANA asked for donations of candy and plastic eggs for the Perry Park Easter Egg Hunt Highland Park's Brownie Troop 1083 stepped up! The Troop, comprised of 2nd graders, donated 31 dozen candy filled eggs (372 eggs!) Each year plastic eggs are donated by neighbors and purchased by HPWBANA for the annual egg hunt, but never has there been such a wonderful donation by one group! Troop members include Hollis Amberboy, Sarah Bohls, Sarah Carroll, Holly Hodge, Chloe Jones, Allison McHorse, Laura Culleton, Caroline Frankenfeld, Addy Hernandez, Mackenzy Nikolakos, Carly Pappert, Izzy Rankin, Natalie Ray, Taylor Short, Isabella Shaw, Olivia Schnoor, Mia Sorrells, Ishanna Talesara, Mara Vandergrift and Katie Yatsu. Troop Leader 1083 is Catherine Jones. Many thanks to Brownie Troop 1083 for their support.



Brownies on a recent campout

Business Membership

Are you a business owner? HPWBANA business memberships are open to area businesses as well as business owned by HPWBANA residents. Supporting our organization entitles you to a one time free ad listing in our newsletter, reduced annual ad rates in the newsletter and event sponsoring opportunities. Membership costs are just \$50/year. Join HPWBANA as business member and discover a new partner in growing your business. HPWBANA encourages our member/neighbors to support member owned businesses. Go to the website to join!

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next
monthly meeting:
May 22nd
Yarborough Library
2200 Hancock Drive
7:00-8:45 pm

Message from the Board

Keeping it Safe This Summer
Blake Stanford,
Crime and Safety Committee

We are fortunate to live in very safe neighborhood. And we want to keep it that way so it is important to be watchful of what is going on in our area. Most crimes occur when neighbors forget to take common sense precautions. With the arrival of summer and many traveling away from home on vacation, it is a perfect time to review some "Keeping It Safe" tips provided by the Austin Police Department:

1. Install a deadbolt lock.

Deadbolts are usually locked with a key from the outside and a thumb turn on the inside. The cylinder should be pick resistant. Lock your doors every time you leave the house, even if you're leaving for just a few minutes during the day. The most popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours. In over 1/3 of burglaries, there is no forcible entry—someone forgot to lock the doors.

(Continued on page 3)

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.

Hello from Yarborough Branch Library

By Bonita Snyder-Jones, Manager and Carol Friedrich, Assistant
 Summer fun at your local library, Folks! All over town, children can participate in the annual Summer Reading Program. Watch out for special programs and prizes. At Yarborough Branch, we have the special Adult Summer Reading program – as in past years, you can submit an entry form listing books you have read and be in a drawing for coupons to local restaurants. The program runs the six weeks from June 1 thru July 13 – and you can enter once each week!

Meeting room sign-up for reservations 9/1/06 – 8/31/07 will start on July 7th. We will set out the reservation request forms that day; when you fill them out and turn them in, we will assign reservations in the order they are received; letters of confirmation will be mailed out the first week of August.

June 8th is Ralph Yarborough's birthday – stop in and share some tea and cookies with us that day to honor our namesake. We will also have a special exhibit by the Creative Arts Society which runs from June 9 through July 19. This will be followed by a show from local painter Ambray Gonzales, August 8 through September 15.

Good news - Look for great improvements to our parking lot in July. Our part of the creek excavation will be finished and we hope that the contractor will pave the entire lot by the end of June. Thanks to everyone for your patience and good humor during this trying time when we have had only a small number of parking spaces.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Message from the Board - (Continued from Cover Page)

2. Install solid doors.

Outside doors should be metal or solid hardwood and at least 1 3/4 inches thick. Frames must be made of equally strong material and each door must fit its frame securely.

3. Keep garage doors closed and locked.

4. Secure sliding doors and windows.

Cut a broom handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced. Also, drill one hole through both casings and sliding window and insert a nail or pin.

5. Secure sash windows.

To prevent wooden sash windows from being pried open, drill a downward sloping hole into the top of the bottom window through and into the bottom of the top window and insert a pin or nail. To prevent aluminum sash windows from being broken into, purchase a track lock that blocks the window track.

6. Mark your property.

Mark your valuables with an engraver. Marking your property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property. Make a property identification list. Put warning stickers on doors and windows.

7. Purchase a burglar alarm.

A home alarm system can be a very effective burglary deterrent

and fit into many people's needs. Remember to test your system monthly.

8. Leave a light on.

When leaving on trips, leave a light on in the bathroom. In the bedroom, attach a lamp and radio to a 24-hour electric timer set to go on at dusk and off at your bedtime. Close bedroom drapes or blinds.

9. Use proper exterior lighting.

Place a light over every door. Double cones lights on each corner of the house will also light up windows.

10. Work together with your neighbors.

When you are going to be away, tell trusted neighbors and ask them to watch your property. Have neighbors maintain your yard. When on vacation, have someone cut grass. Shrubbery should not hide neighbors' view of windows or doors. Have someone pick up newspapers and mail. Tell neighbors to call police if they notice anything suspicious.

When suspicious behavior is observed in your neighborhood please talk to police, talk to your neighbors and feel free to contact our Crime and Safety Committee. We can help with the APD contacts

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Scouts 'Pack 59 Project

Our neighborhood Scouts, Pack 59, ask for your help collecting items for service men and women to use and enjoy while they are deployed. Similar to last year's project, items should be small and not weigh too much as they will need to fit in quart-sized baggies. Once the baggies are filled, Operation Interdependence will distribute the bags of goodies to the troops overseas. Scout Pack 59 is hoping to get enough items to fill at least 300 bags!!!!

Below is a list of items you can donate to help them reach their goal of 300 baggies. For questions or more information, please contact den mom, Reenie Collins at 415-7665.

Donated Item Suggestions: Travel size shampoo, rinse and/or hair product, Toothbrush/toothpaste, Tissues/Handiwipes, Footpowders, Lotions/Perfume sprays, Combs/Brushes, Hats or Visors, Tshirts, Socks, Chapstick, Beef Jerky, Fruit Rollups, Small size cookies or cracker packages, Candies, Powdered drink Mixes, Cereal or Breakfast Bars, Beef Nuggets or Strips, Slim Jims, Hard Candy, Gum, Disposable Cameras, DVDs (they love any type of movies, used or new (Chick Flicks are popular and Walmart often has DVDS for \$1 or \$2 each), Music CD's, Crossword Puzzle books, small travel games, Nerf type, balls or hackey sack balls, Blow up balls or toys, Silly fun toys or glasses, Small Mirrors or makeup types of things (remember we do have women overseas, as well)

Do You Love Your Area?

That question was asked to residents of various neighborhoods around Austin by Avenue One Properties in a project that helps capture the essence of Austin neighborhoods. The website www.loveyourarea.com displays the responses in a series of personalized photo collections on a map of Austin. Simply click on a button close to your area to see why your neighbors love their area, or check out photos and comments from other areas of town.

Several residents in our neighborhood participated and the natural beauty of our area and emphasis on family are definite themes that shine through. Casis and Highland Park Elementary, scenic views, beautiful trees, nature and our bakeries and cafes are just a few of the things that make our area special.

Chris Freedman and her family have lived in the neighborhood near the Ridge Oak Reservoir for over two years. "The one most obvious benefit to our family is that we know many more of our neighbors than we did in our prior neighborhood (where we lived for 6 years). In spite of a wide range of ages and family sizes people are genuinely friendly.... a small town feel with the benefit of living in a cultured "big city". The schools are exceptional and the locally owned businesses like Russell's and Billy's provide us cool places to hang out. The different elevations give us great views of Town Lake, downtown, sinuous streets and mature trees. Close to town and the water.... not sure if we will ever move. I tried to capture this "feel" in the pictures I took for the "Love Your Area project". And I think as a group we succeeded in representing the diversity of our well loved area."

Whitney Zoller Hyde was also featured in the Love Your Area project. She and her family moved here recently from San Francisco and were instantly taken with the Highland Park West neighborhood. "It had everything we were looking for: great schools, diverse residents and best of all, a central location that came along with outdoor "amenities" like deer, parks and hiking and biking trails. We feel we really hit the nail on the head when we found our house in HPW."

As you wander about the neighborhood take time to consider what about the neighborhood makes it special. What would you take pictures of and what comments would you make. And remember, you give to your area, your area gives to you. If you are interested in submitting an entry that captures your love of the area feel free to contact Mark Moore, mark@aveone.com, 771-7177.

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West Balcones Area Neighborhood Newsletter
each month online at www.PEELinc.com**

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Good Gossip *Someone Told Me That...*

An anonymous neighbor sends out a special thank you to Jessica Winslow (former HPWBANA board member) for picking up trash while she is out walking and running in the neighborhood! Congratulations to all neighbors who participated in the recent Capitol 10K. A big congratulations to Pete Rauch who finished 22nd with a time of 36:40 (min:sec). 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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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 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.**

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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.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School – Part 6

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

Part 5 - The HPWBANA News, April 2006

Continuing from part 5...

The Highland Park faculty and their pupils began establishing traditions. In keeping with a school name evocative of Scotland, the Scotty was chosen as the school mascot. Soon after that teachers and the Parent Teachers Association staged the first fall carnival. By the end of October 1952, the first issue of *The Highlander* school newspaper had been published. In that edition, Principal Fred H. Matthys weighed in with a five paragraph column on page one reflecting his philosophy as an educator.

Citing his twenty years experience with Texas public schools, Matthys said that “never before has the task of organization been as easy, or the results as gratifying as it has been here in Highland Park. Without exception, pupils, parents, and teachers have accepted and carried out every assigned task without the slightest hint that it might be burdensome or distasteful.”

Praising the level of parental involvement, Matthys said more

women than needed had volunteered to be Cub Scout den mothers or Brownie troop leaders. Everyone contacted “cheerfully accepted nomination to office” or committee positions.

“In my humble opinion,” he concluded, “our American way of life is being demonstrated at its best in the life and work of the patrons of our school, community in Highland Park; and our children will be the recipients not only of excellent educational opportunities through the finest educational facilities available, but also, by training for worthy citizenship that cannot be gained from the printed page alone.”

If Matthys needed an example of “worthy citizenship,” he had one in the man who founded Highland Park. Three days after his 78th birthday, Perry was honored as Austin’s Most Worthy Citizen for 1953.

“He was selected,” the Austin American-Statesman reported on January 8, 1953, “because his unflinching and abiding faith in Austin, including the translation of that faith into numerous investments, including the Commodore Perry Hotel Building, the Perry-Brooks office building...and...Highland Park West and Highland Park, two residential additions in Northwest Austin.”

For a time during Highland Park’s second year, in effect it served as two schools. Gullett Elementary still was under construction in the Allendale subdivision to the northeast, but it already had a principal

(Continued on Page 7)



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

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

and a student body. In split shifts, Highland Park teachers taught both schools until Gullett was completed.

By the summer of 1954, with the baby boom still on a roll, it was evident that Highland Park needed to be expanded. The firm of Fehr and Granger again was retained to design a new wing for the school at a cost of less than \$10 a square foot.

The board approved the addition of four rooms on September 22, 1954, two years after the school's opening. A low bid of \$98,324 was accepted on December 1 that year. The addition was completed in the summer of 1955.

When classes began in September 1955, Austin's schools were officially desegregated, a quick local response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision (*Brown v. Board of Education*) the year before that had done away with the old "separate but equal" concept in public education. But court decisions and administrative rules could not alter geography. Most blacks lived in East Austin. Full desegregation did not come to Highland Park and other Austin schools until federally-imposed busing in 1970 and the closing of the old Anderson High School.

Through the 1950s and into the first part of the following decade, Texas families kept having babies in record numbers. The school board completed four portable buildings with eight new classrooms at Highland Park in time for the 1956 school year. Four years later, in February 1960, planning began to add four more permanent rooms, for a total of 24 classrooms.

Highland Park's faculty had grown and changed over the years, but the school's leadership remained the same. Principal Matthys stayed at the school for nearly a decade, leaving in 1961 to become principal of the city's first combination junior-senior high school, Sidney B. Lanier. (Now Burnet Middle School; Lanier High School moved to a new campus on Peyton Gin Road in 1966.)

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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Jack is at it again! *By Nadene Morning*

Most neighbors of the Ridge Oak Dr. and Lake View Dr. intersection median know Jack Thompson as the Eagle Scout who planted the seven trees a couple of years ago. He is still active at the median with the latest project involving trying to address the sticker burr problem. This spring he recruited help to spread corn gluten across the entire median. Corn gluten coats the seeds to prevent them from growing. We will see how these irritating plants grow this season and will continue weeding them out. We want the green space to become a more usable space again for children and pets to play. This has been part of Jack's fulfillment of community service hours for the honors program. The trees were trimmed and the beds mulched and the area is ready for spring and summer growth. Many thanks Jack!

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