



The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 6

June 2006

www.hpwbana.org

Message from the Board

Volunteers- Making it Real!

There were several events and initiatives that occurred this spring that demonstrate the great volunteer resources we have in the neighborhood. Contributing to these events takes time and dedication and our Board would like to acknowledge the many people who get involved! Here are some examples from this spring:

- Thanks go to Nancy Woolley and the Friends of Bright Leaf for creating www.brightleaf.org website, for coordinating Nature Day at Bright Leaf and the guided hikes that occur every month in the preserve.
- Thanks go to Carolyn Robinson for organizing the spring HPWBANA Egg Hunt in Perry Park.
- Thanks go to Karen Cannatti, Barbara Watt and the Mayfield Park/Community Project for putting together the Trowel and Error event and the monthly guided hikes at Mayfield Park.
- Thanks go to the Texas State Military Museum volunteers for putting on another great Muster Days event at Camp Mabry.
- Thanks go to Coach Dave Woods, Tom McClure, Kevin Gollither and Cathy McHorse and for their continuing focus on repairing the running track in Perry Park and improving the playgrounds.
- Thanks go to Greg Morning for helping coordinate the APF It's My Park Day at Perry Park.
- And thanks go to our beautification committee volunteers for sprucing up our green spaces this spring.

All these volunteers reflect the spirit of giving back to our community. The HPWBANA Board extends a big thank you to all those who coordinated neighborhood activities, helped out or just attended the events!

Nadene Morning, HPWBANA President

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meeting:

June 26th

Yarborough Library

2200 Hancock Drive

7:00-8:45 pm



Join us for the next
Neighborhood event!

HPWBANA July 4th
Parade & Celebration

Perry Park

Perry Park Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Perry Park Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 15. It was a wonderful success for the children and for the Easter Bunny! Congratulations to the following prize winners: Jelly Bean Guessing Game Winner: Gracie Inman

Golden Egg Winners: Noah Roof, Age 2
Allison Rauch, Age 4
Hannah Wright, Age 6 1/2
Ethan Endsley, Age 8

Many thanks to all parents, children and volunteers. Special thanks to all participants who recycled their plastic eggs for next year's hunt!

(Continued on page 3)

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

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.

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Easter Egg Hunt- (Continued from Cover Page)



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Good Gossip *Someone Told Me That...*

Craig Deats, a neighbor on Big Bend Drive, was seen the morning after the big storm walking the street and picking up everyone's trash that had been blown over! Thank you Craig for your help and being a great neighbor. 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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- 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.

Perry Park Gets a Spruce Up

by Nadene Morning, Beautification Committee

Many thanks to neighbors and the American Medical Student Association who volunteered for the Austin Parks Foundation It's My Park Day Event at Perry Park. Over 40 parks were involved in this city wide event and over 1200 volunteers across Austin spent a beautiful morning working in parks. At Perry Park, ligustrum removal in the quarry area was the focus. PARD cut the ligustrum and volunteers moved the brush to a pick up area. The wooded area is much more open and the many native plants will thrive.



The American Medical Student Association helps out at Perry Park.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

MoNAC Update

by Sam Haddad

For those neighborhoods that run along the MoPAC corridor and neighbors affected by sound and traffic from Mopac, there is hope that there maybe sound walls in the near future. In response to concerns voiced by the residents along Mopac in central Austin, a group of neighborhood associations came together as the Mopac Neighborhoods Associations Coalition (MoNAC). The goal of MoNAC is simply to work toward improving and maintaining the overall quality of the neighborhoods adjacent to MoPac (Loop 1).

By now, some of the neighbors whose property backs up to MoPAC, have been or will be contacted to sign a release to allow noise studies to be conducted by DMJM Harris for TxDOT. Starting the month of April, noise readings are planned for about 40 backyards that have signed the DMJM Harris releases.

As an update, at the most recent MoNAC meeting (April 18, 2006) the following important information was disclosed: sample sound walls planned for MoPAC may be available for viewing in June 2006, and will be located at the TxDOT Bull Creek facility; the selected style of sound walls would be placed where appropriate along MoPAC as determined by the noise study results and property owner input; and, owners of both business and residential property that back up to MoPAC will be able to vote on accepting a sound wall on their property.

At this stage, the sample sound walls will only show the aesthetics

of the design and height range (3 styles, ranging from 10-18 feet) and not noise reduction capability. Since finding consensus and agreement between the various government agencies and the neighbors is always fun, an Aesthetic Advisory Committee will be formed to gather input from the community.

Remember that sound walls are not officially approved, since the only way that funding can be obtained is if there will be additional capacity on MoPAC. Based on the available information, increase of capacity on MoPAC is limited by the current footprint of MoPAC (no land will be taken to add new lanes). Therefore, some solutions to increased capacity are HOV or managed lanes. If you are interested in these topics or have questions, pencil in on your calendar the next MoNAC meeting which is scheduled for July 18, 2006 at 6:30 at the Westminster Manor.

For more details on MoNAC and MoPAC issues you can review the information available online at <http://www.main.org/hpwbana/Documents/MoPACProjectUpdate.pdf> and at <http://www.main.org/hpwbana/>. The various state and local agencies involved in transportation issues in central Texas are: TxDOT (<http://www.txdot.state.tx.us/aus/>), Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization-CAMPO (www.campotexas.org) and Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority-CTRMA (<http://www.ctrma.org/>).

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Neighborhood Briefing On Bull Creek Road Redevelopment

Held Monday, May 15
6:30 p.m.
Harris Bell Hall
Third Floor
Westminster Manor, 4100 Jackson Ave.

Many new changes will soon occur on Bull Creek Road between W. 45th St. and Jackson Ave. The apartment complex at Bull Creek Road and W. 44th Street is under contract to be sold to new owners, Ardent Residential and Post Properties. (The site being sold is the Bull Creek Apartments, not the Kingswood or Georgetown Square apartments.) The new owners plan to demolish the existing 40-year-old apartments, a series of two-story units surrounding by asphalt parking lots, and build a new single structure, probably four stories high, with a parking garage in the rear next to MoPac Blvd. The planned structure may approximately double the 140-unit capacity of the existing complex. The developers are seeking a zoning change to allow greater height and capacity on the site. The new owners have agreed to brief neighborhood residents on their plans and to answer questions and listen to our comments before they finalize their design.

Also, Westminster Manor recently demolished the Gateway Church, formerly the Agudas Achim synagogue, in order to make room for their future redevelopment and expansion. Once an existing water line on the former church site is moved, the Manor eventually plans to add an assisted living facility and a new parking garage, in addition to many other changes. Representatives of Westminster Manor have agreed to attend the May 15th briefing to outline their long-term plans and answer your questions.

This is a chance to offer your comments and ask questions about these developments before they proceed. If you're interested in how these new Bull Creek Road developments may affect our neighborhood, including traffic volume, population density, and design standards, please contact a board member to hear more about them.

Consider Building an Above Ground Garden!

Do you love the idea of growing fresh vegetables in your backyard but don't have a good place or have hard rocky soil? Interested in an early summer project? Consider combining these two interests by building an above ground vegetable garden for spring planting.

Neighbor Jennifer Miller did just that. Jennifer and her husband Todd built a large u-shaped, waist high structure from cedar boards. They filled it with gardening soil and started planting. The shape fits the only sunny, flat space in their backyard. And since the soil in their backyard is so rocky this solution was ideal for gardening. Tending the garden is easy of course because the plants are at waist level. They have already had a full year of fresh vegetables they started from seed. Even an herb garden was planted. Jennifer's favorite vegetable from the garden – cucumbers!

Jennifer and Todd don't have a problem with deer or other animals eating the plants because their backyard is fenced. If deer or other animals become a problem then walls or screening will be added. Their focus this season will be making the water source ideal by incorporating a rain barrel. Their above ground garden is 16 feet long and 12 feet wide in the shape of a square "U" so they can walk in the middle.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

A Bright Leaf Spring

by Nancy Woolley

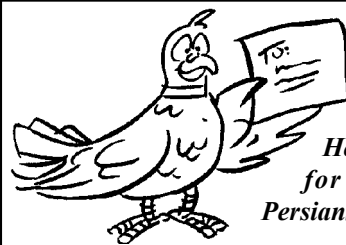
April was an eventful month at Bright Leaf. Our new website, [www. BrightLeaf.org](http://www.BrightLeaf.org) went 'live'. You can now find information about the Friends group, about Bright Leaf, check the calendar of hikes, and lots more when you are on the internet. Next, we had a Boy Scout refurbish the kiosk and bench at the trailhead off 2222 and Creek Mountain Road. Site Manager, John Mahan, helped this young man earn his Eagle Scout award for this project. Then, John and I worked to get the trail in good shape and John put in stepping stones at the lower Dry Creek crossing.

All of this activity was done with an eye towards Austin Nature Day which took place April 15th this year. This is a citywide event that encourages people to get outdoors and appreciate all the wonderful sites and organizations around town. Check out the brochure online at www.AustinNatureDay.org. Even though the event is over, there is still a lot of good information if you want to get outdoors, but have run out of ideas of where to go or what to do. At Bright Leaf, we had over forty five visitors on Austin Nature Day. It was the day before Easter, and many of our visitors were families with children. On one hike I led, we even got to see a bunny rabbit! We had six Capital Area Master Naturalists on hand to answer questions and two people came out from REI to talk to the kids about being considerate hikers and 'leaving no trace'.

(Continued on Page 11)

Highland Park Elementary News

Sally Corbett, a HPWBANA neighbor, has taught for a total of 32 years- the last 20 at Highland Park, will retire. Her years of service will be honored during the 5th Grade Graduation Ceremony that will take place at 8:00 am on May 25 in the Cafeteria. Highland Park Elementary principal, Jane Knowles, retires at the end of the year as well. A picnic to honor her seven years of service at HP will take place at Perry Park on Wednesday, May 24 at 5:30 pm. Order forms for food can be found at www.hppta.org. Ms. Tammie Workman will join the Highland Park Elementary community as the new principal. Ms. Workman comes to Austin from Yuma, Arizona. The school is sad to see wonderful people leave and excited about new faces that will be coming. All will be eagerly waiting to hear confirmation of winning the Blue Ribbon Award in September. Have a great summer!



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Texas Events - June

9-11—CASTROVILLE: Girls Softball Tune-up Tournament City Baseball Field. 830/931-3680

9-11—FREDERICKSBURG: Antique Tractor & Engine Club Show Features exhibits, demonstrations, engines and vendors from 8 a.m. to sunset on Saturday and 8 a.m. to noon Sunday. Gillespie County Fairgrounds. www.tex-fest.com/antique-tractor.html 830/997-3012

10—AUSTIN: Lake Travis Parks Cleanup Help clean up nine Travis County Parks surrounding Lake Travis. www.keeapaustinbeautiful.org 512/391-0617

10—BRACKETTVILLE: Bat Flights at Stuart Bat Cave Watch an estimated 500,000 bats emerge from Stuart Bat Cave and enjoy a program. Tours subject to cancellation. Reservations required. Kickapoo Cavern State Park. 830/563-2342

10—BRACKETTVILLE: Morning Bird Walks Reservations required. Kickapoo Cavern State Park. 830/563-2342

10—BURNET: Bluegrass in the Park Wayne Brooks and the Piney Grove Ramblers play toe-tapping, finger-snapping bluegrass music from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-2223

10—BURNET: Full Moon Hike With a full moon providing light, look and listen for the wonders of the night. Begins at 9 p.m. Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-2223

10—CASTROVILLE: Market Trail Day Features craft, food and plant booths. Houston Square. 830/741-2313

10—GEORGETOWN: Market Day Features arts & crafts, antiques, collectibles and festive foods. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Historic Downtown Georgetown. www.downtowngeorgetownassociation.org 512/868-8675

10—KERRVILLE: Second Saturday Art Trail Features galleries in Kerrville and Ingram. Includes special exhibits and receptions. www.artinthehills.com 830/895-5184

10—SAN MARCOS: Texas Water Safari This 260-mile canoe race begins at the Aquarena Center and continues to the Gulf Coast. www.sanmarcoscharms.com 888/200-5620

10-11—BLANCO: Second Annual Blanco Lavender Festival Features classes and demonstrations, vendors on the square, maps to lavender farms, local artists, music and children's activities. Town Square. www.blancolavenderfestival.com 830/833-5101

10-11—BOERNE: Market Days Shop arts & crafts, antiques, collectibles, unusual items and food booths. Main Plaza. www.mainstreetboerne.com 830/249-5530 or 210/844-8193

10-11—LAMPASAS: Sulphur Creek Car Cruise E-mail: lampasaschamber@thegateway.net • www.lampasaschamber.org 512/556-5172

10-11—ROUND ROCK: Discovery Network's Animal Planet Expo Includes animal exhibits, inflatables, Animal Planet Expo Theatre, Animal Houses, main stage, fun trivia games, Discovery HD Theater Dome, Kids Zone, Bug House and much more. This is the only Texas stop. Old Settlers Park. www.animal.discovery.com/features/expo/expo.html 512/218-5540

11—AUSTIN: Danskin Women's Triathlon Includes half-mile swim, 12-mile bike and 3.1 mile run. Walter E. Long Park. www.danskin.com/danskinonline/austin.html 800/452-9526

11—KERRVILLE: Second Sunday Summer Serenade The Dick

Walker Trio performs at this free concert. Louise Hays Park. www.bankofthehills.com 830/895-2265

11—LUCKENBACH: Waylon's Birthday Bash www.luckenbachtexas.com 888/311-8990

14—NEW BRAUNFELS: Comal Country Music Show House band and featured artists perform country music. Doors open at 6 p.m. New Braunfels Civic Center, 380 S. Seguin Ave. 830/629-4547

15-17—SAN SABA: Annual Rodeo Includes county team roping, cowgirls, dance, calf scramble, mutton busting and a parade. Rodeo Arena, Hwy. 16 N. www.sansabachamber.com 325/372-5141

15-Jul. 1—INGRAM: The Magician's Nephew — Arts Foundation This is the sequel to The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. Smith-Ritch Outdoor Theater. www.hcaf.com 830/367-5120

16-17—LAMPASAS: Lampasas Riata Roundup www.lampasaschamber.org 512/556-5172

16-17—STONEWALL: Stonewall Peach Jamboree & Rodeo Features rodeo performances at 8 p.m. with a dance immediately following. Includes a peach-judging contest, auction, peach queen contest, barbecue for sale and more. Stonewall Rodeo Ground. www.stonewalltexas.com 830/644-2735

16-18—BOERNE: Berges Fest Celebration & Parade Annual event includes live music every night, food and drink booths, watermelon eating contest, egg toss, mud volleyball, wheelbarrow races, canoe races, carnival, parade and more. Downtown. www.bergesfest.com 830/816-2115 or 210/663-8436

16-18—FREDERICKSBURG: Trade Days Includes more than 300 vendors, five barns, acres of antiques and more, biergarten and music. Hwy. 290 E. across from Wildseed Farms. www.fbgradedays.com 830/990-4900 or 210/846-4094

16-25—WIMBERLEY: Oklahoma Greenhouse Theatre. www.wimberleyplayers.org 512/847-0575

17—BANDERA: "True to Texas" Brisket Cook-Off Sanctioned by the Central Texas Barbecue Association. Includes three meat categories: chicken, pork ribs and brisket. E-mail: pjeffers@texasroserealty.com 830/460-7250

17—BLANCO: Market Day www.historicblanco.org 830/833-2211

17—LUCKENBACH: Alamo Kountry Kickers & Brazos Valley Boys www.luckenbachtexas.com 888/311-8990

17—SAN SABA: Sesquicentennial Parade Wallace Street. E-mail: lynda@sansabachamber.com • www.sansabachamber.com 325/372-5141

17—STONEWALL: Living History Farm Celebrates with the Stonewall Peach Jamboree See hands-on activities such as blacksmithing, rope making, clothes washing and other interpretive activities as they were done at an early 1900s German Farm. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site. 830/644-2252

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.

Highland Park West Balcones Area

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Limestone to Bricks: A History of Highland Park Elementary School – Part 7

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

Part 6 - The HPWBANA News, May 2006

Continuing from part 6...

The Baby Boom ended in 1964 and the need for additions to the school slowed. The last addition to the school came with the opening of what is now the third grade wing in August 1999. Early on envisioned as a park, the open land between the school and the western edge of the old quarry remained undeveloped for years.

By the time Highland Park was developed, the quarry had been mined as far as practicable and lay abandoned. When the school first opened, the cliffs seemed as fresh and white as those of Dover, but a combination of native and introduced vegetation has made the area seem almost natural.

Though the school was named for the neighborhood, the park to the west of it was named in honor of Perry, as was one of the neighborhood's main thoroughfares, Perry Lane. Two tennis courts were built in the mid-1960s. A playground followed and, in the 1990s, a walking trail was laid out.

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, the school district's focus was more on the educational process than building new plants and hiring new staff. Team teaching came into vogue. One big buzzword was "Individually Guided Education," or IGE, another way of saying classrooms without walls. IGE, according to a 1972 PTA brochure, allowed "each child to have experiences that are uniquely tailored to his individual needs in each learning area. Children can operate either individually or as members of a small group with more or less identical needs."

IGE was a radical departure from traditional classroom education, and so was a city-state project popularly known as MoPac, formally known as Loop 1. Starting in the mid-1970s, the Missouri-Pacific Railroad right of way was transformed into a north-south roadway that would take pressure off I-35, Lamar Boulevard and Burnet Road. The new westside freeway cut off the eastern third of the Highland Park neighborhood, taking some houses with it. The new roadway made it easier to get from Highland Park to downtown, but it raised the noise level in adjacent residences and eventually the increased traffic began contributing to diminished air quality.

While neighborhood activists and environmentalists worried about the affect traffic and elevated ozone had on Austin's quality of life, on April 17, 1978 fourth and fifth-graders at Highland Park got a chance to examine rocks from a place with no atmosphere. Former astronaut Jack Schmidt—the first geologist on the moon—brought a sampling of moon rocks to the school and talked to students about his trip. The *Austin American-Statesman* reported that Highland Park was the first school to be sent moon rocks from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Classes are still K-5, but dividing children solely on the basis of

their age gave way to state-mandated assessment testing and teaching children by their demonstrated learning level.

Today, more than a half century after Commodore Perry developed Highland Park West and sold land to the city for a school, the neighborhood is still a fine place to live and raise a family. Highland Park Elementary is recognized as one of the district's best schools, a fact supported in recent years by numerous local and national recognitions. A piece of real estate once mined for limestone continues to produce something less tangible but more enduring, generation after generation of educated children.

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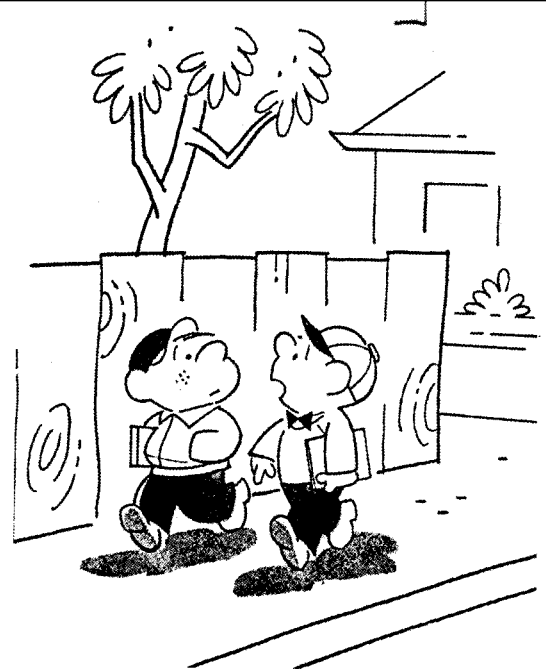
A Bright Leaf Spring-(Continued from page 7)

Saturday, June 3rd will be an open house event on National Trails Day. June 10th and 11th are the monthly hikes, and there will be a program meeting at the Georgia Lucas house at 7:00pm on the 13th. Bill Stout with the National Wildlife Federation will talk to us about that organization and about backyard habitats. Program meetings, like our hikes, are free and open to the public. Call us at 459-7269 if you ever want more information or want to schedule a hike. See you at Bright Leaf!

Check out the new website for Bright Leaf for updates on news and events!

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