



The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 10

October 2006

www.hpwbana.org

Deed Restriction Violations

A special HPWBANA Program Meeting will be held October 23. The program, "Deed Restriction Violations & City Code Enforcement Issues" will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Yarborough Library at 2200 Hancock. All neighbors are invited to attend. Please contact Tonianne Soster at te883@austin.rr.com for more information about the upcoming meeting.



HPWBANA Essay Contest

The Neighborhood association is sponsoring an essay contest for students in grades 3-8. Twelve winners will be selected, and the winning essays will be published in the HPWBANA newsletter monthly. Winners will also receive \$15.00.

The entrants will write an essay on the subject, "Why I like living in my Neighborhood". All essays must be original works and written exclusively by the entrant. Winners must reside in the HPWBANA boundaries.

Essays must be mailed to HPWBANA at P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78731 or submitted via email to carrob99@hotmail.com. All essays must be received by October 5, 2006. Essays should include the contestant's name, parents' names, address, age or grade, and telephone number. Winners will be announced at the HPWBANA Annual Meeting in October.

Movie in Perry Park and

HPWBANA Annual Meeting

HPWBANA invites all neighbors to the Annual Meeting of the neighborhood association. Following the brief meeting and election of HPWBANA Board, the fun begins!

Enjoy an evening in Perry Park watching "Babe: The Gallant Pig" under the stars!

Where: Perry Park
(behind Highland Park Elementary)
In the Quarry Area

When: Sunday, October 8
The Annual Meeting begins at 6:45;
the movie begins at dusk (about 7:15)

Remember to bring:

- chairs or blankets to sit on
- beverages and snacks (no alcohol please)
- flashlights!

Rain date is Sunday, November 5

The Annual meeting begins at 5:45 followed by the movie at dusk.

Note: In the event that both movie dates are rained out the Annual Meeting will still occur at the pavilion at Perry Park on November 5 at 5:45.



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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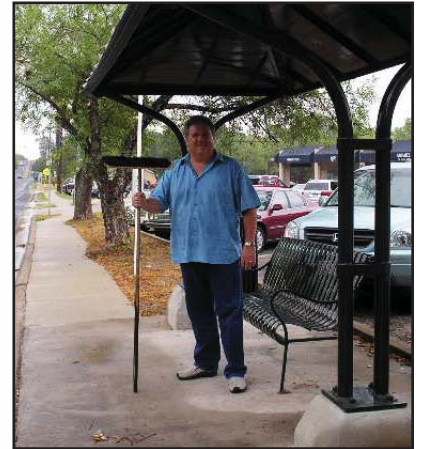
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Blake Stanford HPWBANA

Adopts a Bus Stop

CapMetro recently began an "Adopt a Stop" program securing help from the community to keep bus stops safe and clean. Southwest Human Development Services, a business owned by HPWBANA Board Member Blake Stanford, is located in the Highland Park West Center on Hancock Drive across from the Hancock bus stop. Blake readily stepped up to help HPWBANA adopt the stop. Blake has volunteered for many activities in the neighborhood-- from soliciting business sponsors to putting in benches at the park to helping with the July 4 parade—to that list we now add broom pushing! He has volunteered to monitor the bus stop area to keep it clean. Thank you, Blake, for keeping our neighborhood looking spiffy!



Blake Stanford stands with broom ready to Adopt-a-Stop.



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Highland Park Elementary News **HOOT Fall Carnival**

Highland Park Elementary invites the neighborhood!
Come enjoy games, booths, the famous cakewalk,
moonwalks, giant slide, mazes and haunted house
Visit "Lil Hootville" especially for preschoolers
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**Friday, October 20th, 2006
5 pm to 8:30pm
Highland Park Elementary
4900 Fairview Drive
tickets may be purchased at the door**

Highland Park would like to pass on our thanks to Crenshaw Athletic Club for being a wonderful partner and for donating the use of their bus and driver for our school's entry in the 125th Anniversary AISD Parade.

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Another Highland Terrace /Perry Lane Median Update!

As you may have observed, the median at Highland Terrace and Perry Lane was looking fairly vacant for a few weeks after the concrete demolition. The concrete removal expenses were covered through a generous grant from the Keep Austin Beautiful ("KAB") organization and neighbor contributions.

In late August over a dozen neighbors pitched in to help spread about 60 cubic feet of dirt. KAB provided the large load of Dillo dirt. The volunteer neighbors shoveled, loaded, unloaded, raked and cleaned up the area. Volunteers worked wonderfully together -- wheelbarrow traffic jams were kept to a minimum!

Plant landscaping will begin sometime in late September to mid October after the extreme summer temperatures have gone. The approximate cost for the plants will be about \$1000.

If you would like to volunteer in some capacity with the neighborhood median beautification project through participating in planting, watering, or just by making a financial contribution, contact Sam Haddad (haddads@io.com) or Eric Hansen (ech@flash.net). The neighborhood group would also welcome the efforts of any service organization willing to help.



Beautification efforts continue as neighbors spread dirt at Highland Terrace- Perry Lane intersection.



*A rhinoceros beetle can support
up to 850 times its
own weight on its back.*

Highland Park West Balcones Area

Message from the Board

By Tonianne Soster

With the increased awareness of large lots, a blue ribbon school, close proximity to downtown and overall neighborhood character Highland Park has become a very desirable and sought after neighborhood. With a lot of our homes dating back to the 1950's, 60's and 70's, the remodeling wave has made its way to our neighborhood. The SUV in the driveway has been replaced by the new status symbol: the dumpster in the driveway. It's just a matter of time before your neighbor starts to remodel their home-- a process that while positive-- could be lengthy and potentially burdensome if not managed properly. Here are some helpful tips if you plan to remodel:

1) File for proper permits with the city. If you hired a general contractor make sure that he obtains and posts the "Project Permit" in the front window/door where it is visible for everyone to see. To obtain a permit contact the COA Residential Planning Review Department at 974-2380.

2) Know and understand the current deed restrictions of your area before you hire an architect and/or make future plans for remodeling--especially if it involves new construction/change of property usage and/or additions. Archived deed restrictions can be obtained from the Travis County Clerk's office.

3) Hire a general contractor that is licensed by the TRCC (Texas Residential Construction Commission) to ensure you are being represented by a professional.

Remodeling projects can sometimes take months so try to be good neighbors during the process. Neighbors will appreciate keeping the trash and debris picked up, nails and sharp objects off the streets, and construction noises down as much as possible.

McCallum High School News

The Senior Class of 2007 is seeking donations for its Annual Senior Auction which will be held Sunday, December 3. If you would like to donate an item or gift certificate, please contact HPWBANA resident Faith Johnson at 423 3622 or email at faithherschapjohnson@yahoo.com. Support the Knights!

Crenshaw Athletic and Highland Park Elementary Celebrate AISD!

In September, the Austin Independent School District celebrated its 125th Anniversary on with a parade down Congress Avenue. Each of the Elementary, Middle and High Schools were encouraged to put together an entry into the parade that started at the Capital and end at Auditorium Shores.

Highland Park Elementary School teamed up with Crenshaw Athletic Club to create a fun and exciting entry into the parade. Crenshaw's donated its big blue bus, and the students and parents handled the decorations.

Congratulations to Highland Park Elementary and Crenshaw Athletic Club for partnering to make the parade a success. Crenshaw Athletic is a Highland Park Elementary Partner in Education and a HPWBANA Business Sponsor.

Crime Information

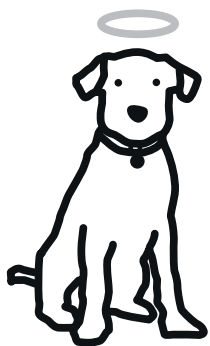
Have you heard rumors about a crime committed in your neighborhood and want to find out details? If there was a report filed with the Austin Police Department you can access that information without making a trip to the police station. The APD has a great website where people can check out crime information with a variety of search criteria. <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/>

You may find the following links on this website particularly helpful:

Incident Report Database link – searchable database for crime reports. Contains public information released for the crime reports. People must register to use this database. Entering a street name or zip code is among the search options.

Crime Information link – database containing Current and Historical crime information. The Current Crime Information link contains a Crime Viewer option which is a very useful tool. Users can search by geographical area, a user defined rectangle, a 500 or 1000 foot buffer radius from an address, or historical data. To view information in our neighborhood association select the geographical area option and select Highland Park West Balcones Area from the neighborhood association list. Remember to change the date fields.

APD also posts annual crime and traffic reports on their website to see how we fit into the overall Austin crime picture. We live in a safe neighborhood although it is not crime free.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

A Beautiful Mural for the Highland Park Scotties

When the Scotties at Highland Park Elementary go to their gym this fall they are welcomed with a wonderful new mural that spans the entire length of the gym. The mural is the result of Coach Woods winning a silent auction at the Highland Park Elementary spring fundraiser. The Richard Cullenton family donated the mural as an auction item. Coach used extra funds donated from the Shelton family to expand the project and the result is beautiful art that the Scotties enjoy every day.

Richard Cullenton, who is a Highland Park parent, commissioned local artist Nathan Jensen (www.natespace.com) for the project titled, "The Puzzle of Fitness Fun". Nathan worked with Coach Woods to capture the spirit of the Scotties in various sports and fitness activities

throughout the school year. The mural spans the timeframe beginning in 1952 when the school was built up to present day. Parents will recognize the Scotties mascot, the Perry Park rock outcropping, Coach Woods and children as a focal point. Children wear familiar little league uniforms, participate in their Olympics, run a marathon, play team sports and lifetime sports and enjoy the outdoors.

Many thanks to the Cullenton family, Nathan Jensen and Coach Woods for adding the touch of art to the Scotties exercise environment!

The new mural "The Puzzle of Fitness Fun" graces the Highland Park Elementary Gym.



Wildlife Update

Just a reminder--Coyote activity is still reported in our area. Check out various articles and links about coyote behavior and living with these urban animals on the wildlife page of the www.hpwba.org website. Report all coyote activity to 311 and talk to your neighbors. Also, male deer can be very erratic and possibly dangerous during the fall mating period. Exercise caution around wildlife at all times.

See Graffiti in the Neighborhood?

Report it to the city:

974-2000 - **Austin Citywide Information Center** (or 311)

Give them the address or intersection and what the graffiti is on. The Graffiti Abatement Unit will remove it promptly. Removing graffiti promptly, picking up trash and maintaining yards all give the impression of a well cared for neighborhood!

**Murals,
Portable Murals,
Floor Cloths
(Hand Painted Rugs),
& Other fun things!**

**ARTIST & DESIGNER
Kay Hughes of
Knott Garden**

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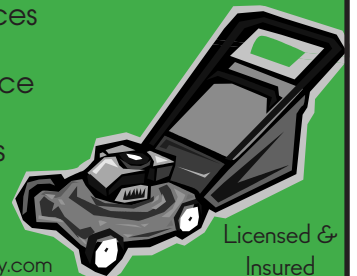


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Planting for Fall Color

by Pam Penick

The End Is Near! The end of summer, that is. Fall is just a few weeks away, and that means it's time to plant. We Texans are lucky in that we can plant trees and perennials all fall and winter without having to worry about snow, frozen soil, or desiccating winter winds. In fact, autumn is the best time to plant in central Texas. Fall's cooler temperatures and gentle rains—along with many days that might seem summery up north—give new plants extra time to grow deep roots before summer's heat and drought return.

The city's best private-garden tour—Austin's Open Days on October 21—occurs in October. Why? Because October is one of the most beautiful months for Austin gardens. Lawns green up again, roses bloom, ornamental grasses feather and turn golden, and many flowering perennials come into their glory. If you're looking forlornly at your yard this fall, wondering why it isn't awash in the purples, golds, and russets of autumn, perhaps you've simply overlooked the many fall bloomers available. It's a great time to add a few perennials and ornamental grasses to your curb strip or near your front door. Try a few of these native or adapted plants that put on a great fall show: Mexican mint marigold, Mexican bush sage, native lantana, Autumn sage, American beautyberry, chile pequin, coralberry, flame acanthus, white mistflower, copper canyon daisy, fall aster, gayfeather, Gulf

muhly grass, Lindheimer muhly grass, dwarf fountain grass, and inland sea oats. These are standout plants for Austin. You may not find all of them at the big chain stores, so visit a local nursery with a good native-plant selection.

Trees can provide beautiful fall color too. Try possumhaw holly and yaupon holly for their red berries; cedar elm for its tiny, golden leaves; big tooth maple, red oak, and flameleaf sumac for dark-red foliage. Austin isn't known for traffic-stopping fall color, but some trees give you more than others. This fall, check out the towering, spreading red oak in Austin Memorial Park cemetery (visible from Hancock Dr. as you head east) or the flaming red sumac that backs up to Camp Mabry along W. 35th Street.

A two-inch layer of mulch will protect your new plants and trees, help retain moisture and prevent weeds, and look nice. Remember to water your new plants periodically through the winter, especially if the drought continues. By spring they'll have a good root system that will help them through summer. But even native plants need a good soaking of about an inch of water every week their first year, and new trees should be watered regularly but deeply for the first five years. Happy planting!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Pumpkins, Pumpkins Everywhere!

We see them every year at this time...the great orange symbols of fall. Increase your knowledge of the pumpkin, and read on!

The name pumpkin originated from the Greek word for "large melon" which is "pepon." "Pepon" was changed by the French into "pompon." The English changed "pompon" to "Pumpion." American colonists changed "pumpion" into "pumpkin."

The origin of pumpkin pie is thought to have occurred when the colonists sliced off the pumpkin top, removed the seeds, and then filled it with milk, spices and honey. The pumpkin was then baked in the hot ashes of a dying fire..

Did you know...

That pumpkins are grown all over the world? Six of the seven continents can grow pumpkins including Alaska! Antarctica is the only continent that they won't grow in.

That the Irish brought this tradition of pumpkin carving to America? The tradition originally started with the carving of turnips. When the Irish immigrated to the U.S., they found pumpkins a plenty and they were much easier to carve for their ancient holiday.

Fun Facts About The Pumpkin!

- Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.
- Pumpkin flowers are edible.
- The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.
- In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.
- Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.
- The Connecticut field variety is the traditional American pumpkin.
- Pumpkins are 90 percent water.

How do you mend a broken Jack-o-lantern?

With a pumpkin patch!



October is Fire Prevention Month

October is Fire Prevention Month so this is a great time to review fire prevention and practicing fire safety in the home. Remember, fires don't just happen, they are started, so prevention is important. In the last 12 months there were 8 fatalities in the Austin area due to fire. If a fire does occur, be prepared to protect yourself, your family and guests. These are just a few guidelines.

1. Prepare a home escape plan. Be prepared for lots of smoke and that movement throughout the home during a fire will be difficult and most likely involve crawling on the floor. Have a plan for everyone in the house. There won't be much time for action in the event of a fire.
2. Install smoke alarms and test them regularly. Smoke alarms should be on every level of the house, and near bedrooms. Actually, now would be a good time to test those smoke detectors.
3. Never leave cooking unattended. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of house fires in Austin. Is there a functioning fire extinguisher in your kitchen?
4. Use electrical appliances safely. Electrical malfunctions are the second leading cause of house fires in Austin. Overloading circuits can be serious.
5. Safely dispose of smoking materials. Improper disposal of smoking material was the leading cause of fire fatalities in Austin last year. Smoking in bed or when you are about to fall asleep should be avoided.
6. Teach children not to play with matches and lighters – Kids playing with matches and lighters was the second leading cause of fire fatalities in Austin last year.

As Halloween approaches keep fire safety in mind by wearing flame retardant costumes and keeping outdoor candle-lit jack-o-lanterns away from areas where costumed trick-or-treaters may brush against them.

The Austin Fire Department website has many more tips for fire safety: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/fire/prevmnth.htm>

Thanks go to the AFD Public Education for input to this article.



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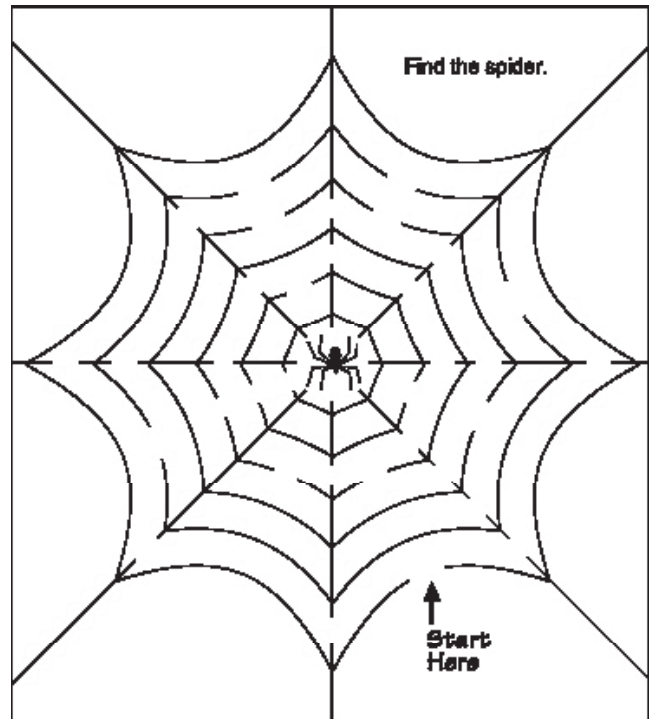
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Questions about membership? Contact Carolyn Robinson at 302-5417 or Susan Rauch at 419-9710.

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Watering our Public Green Spaces

By Nadene Morning, Beautification Committee

The combination of extreme heat and lack of rain made this summer brutal on plants. Our public green spaces really needed extra attention from volunteers to keep things alive. These areas were landscaped with native plants and even they suffered. Where does the water and "t l c" to keep the green spaces green come from?

· Balcones/Parkcrest median: Water is provided by the Balcones Exxon Station and watering and care by Carolyn Robinson and Nadene Morning.

· Ridge Oak/Lake View median: A city water faucet is provided on the median and neighbors chip in to pay the water bill. Watering and tree care was done by Dan Thompson and Nadene Morning this summer. A donation by neighbor Mark Moore has kept the Ridge Oak median water fund in good shape for a while (neighbors of the Ridge Oak triangle – talk to Mark if you want to chip in for water.)

· Hancock Bridge area landscape and trees: Water for this space is provided by neighbor Carol Greenhalgh from her home. Pam Penick and Carol water and care for the new plantings.

· Foothill Terrace Median: Water is provided on the median. A neighbor keeps the median groomed and well watered.

· Plans for Highland Terrace: Although this median is not yet planted, the plan is for water to be provided from a neighborhood home with neighbors chipping in to fund the extra water expense.

· Perry Park (4900 Fairview Dr) is a natural greenbelt that is well established and not watered at all. If you want ideas of hardy plants that survive the extreme Austin weather check out this park. We will be putting out plant markers this fall to identify various native plants.

A big thanks go out to all those involved in keeping our public green spaces looking great!



Newsletter Help Wanted!

Are you are interested in writing articles for the newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for subjects you would like to see covered in the newsletter? Are you a student interested in covering topics at your school? Contact Carolyn Robinson 302-5417 or email carrob99@hotmail.com

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