



The HPW'BANA News

Volume 2, Number 11

November 2006

www.hpwbana.org

IT'S OFFICIAL...HIGHLAND PARK IS A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL!!!

by Marcie Goulet

Highland Park Elementary will be honored as a National Blue Ribbon School at a ceremony in Washington, DC on November 9th & 10th. Former principal, Jane Knowles, current principal Tammie Workman, fourth grade teacher, Sally Hunter, and PTA President, Cathy McHorse will attend this ceremony. Of note, only 250 schools were named and only 413 schools in the country can be nominated.



Highland Park is planning a Blue Ribbon Celebration on campus on the afternoon of November 21st including a ceremony to raise the new Blue Ribbon School flag.

For folks who want to read more about the Blue Ribbon Award and schools, here's a link to the US Department of Education site: <http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2006/09/09222006.html>.

The No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels.

Highland Park was selected as a school whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests for a five year period. Highland Park has been rated as an Exemplary School since accountability ratings were established by Texas in 1995.

The staff, parents, and students at Highland Park celebrate this recognition for the educational excellence that results from dedicated staff, involved parents, and hard-working students! Congratulations

Spotlight on a Native Landscape

By Nadene Morning, Beautification Committee

Drive or walk through our neighborhoods and you can just



Sally Scott stands in her zeroscape yard full of native plants.

pick them out – the native yards and native landscape beds. These areas just look different. Filled with a variety of plants that grow well even in the brutal Austin summers, these landscapes are worth exploring.

Sally Scott has lived in the area for decades and is fortunate to have Bright Leaf Preserve in her back

yard. A few years ago her yard was mostly St Augustine grass, bare spots and other non-native plants that literally took over large spaces. Mowing, watering and maintenance were time consuming and hard work. But that is slowly changing. Starting in sections Sally has been converting areas of her yard to native landscape beds. Removing the non-natives plants along with the upfront bed preparation and planting were a big effort but once things were established the maintenance became fairly easy and the water requirements lessened considerably. Her yard now blends in beautifully with the large spanning preserve in her back yard. And neighbors benefit also. The wide variety of native plants catches the eyes of visitors who now stroll by to take a closer look at the plant life.

Additionally, with the diverse variety of native plants in her yard the wildlife there is in abundance. Butterflies, birds, bees, and other animals visit for food, water and shelter. Her yard just buzzes with activity! It helps that Sally's yard is certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat area.

Thanks, Sally, for providing a great example of ways to preserve our environment by using native plants and keeping the neighborhood looking great!

**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 Yarrowbrough 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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Update On Mopac/loop 1 Improvement Project

In 2005 CAMPO (Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) included this in the 2030 Plan: MoPac – FM734 to Town Lake, construction of managed lanes within existing Loop 1 ROW (Right of Way) and at or below grade with the installation of soundwalls.

A Message from the Project Manager

As project manager for the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) MoPac 1 project, I am excited about working with corridor residents, roadway users, public officials and other to develop a plan for improving conditions along the Loop 1 (MoPac Expressway) corridor. The importance of public involvement in this project cannot be overstated, and the input we received is a crucial ingredient to its success. The project team also will address community issues such as traffic noise, beginning with the identification of areas adjacent to the highway that would benefit from noise abatement measures, such as noise barriers, in accordance with TxDOT's federally approved noise guidelines. Our overarching goal for the MoPac 1 project is simple – to provide workable solutions to the area's transportation needs while respecting Austin's unique character. I encourage you to get involved and have a say in how we achieve that goal. See www.mopac1.org

Mark F. Herber, P.E., MoPac 1 Project Manager
Texas Department of Transportation

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Message from the Board

By Nadene Morning

As months pass, various neighborhood topics bubble to the top of the list for our neighborhood association. Recently the big topic is zoning and deed restrictions. Some neighbors have seen attempts to build new duplexes in their area where deed restrictions clearly state they are not allowed.

Our neighborhood association covers a large area that includes over 1800 homes, and different deed restrictions apply to different areas. It is important that neighbors be aware of construction in their area and how it affects their neighborhood. Erosion of deed restrictions makes them difficult to enforce, and the result could mean a significant change to the character of a neighborhood. Neighbors have to get involved.

We have a zoning page on our website, www.hpwbana.org, which has information about zoning and deed restrictions in our area and answers to common zoning/deed questions. Our zoning page, our recent Program Meeting about deed restrictions, and assistance from our zoning committee can provide our residents with more information and tactics that can be helpful.

Thanks to the residents who have challenged deed restriction violations in their neighborhood. It can be a time-consuming task and represents a strong dedication to maintaining the character of the community we live in.



From left to right Connie Redmon, Bunny Pierce, Sean Compton, Sarah Hull and Becky Knapik (not pictured) were key players in the creation of the HPE courtyard.

A New Courtyard for Highland Park Elementary

By Marcie Goulet

Take a quick trip down Fairview Drive and you'll notice a beautiful new landscaped courtyard at Highland Park Elementary! In the fall of 2004, Highland Park parents, Becky Knapik, Connie Redmon, and Sean Compton teamed up with long-time Kindergarten teacher, Sarah Hull, to design an outdoor classroom area along the breezeway where kindergarten classes are located. Using the professional

skills of Sean Compton, who is a landscape architect with TBG Partners, they produced plans that included drainage work to alleviate flooding in the area, installation of security fencing, and adding native plants and areas for seating. PTA funds were allocated for this project, but implementation was delayed until this summer while AISD completed drainage work in the area.

With the final planting and fencing in place, the new Kindergarten Courtyard is open for study and play! Highland Park shares thanks with the visionary parents who developed the idea and to those community members who helped make it happen, including Brad Shaver (AISD) and Bunny and Alan Pierce (Howard Pierce & Son's Stone Co.) for the beautiful stone seating.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meetings:

November 27
Yarborough Library
2200 Hancock Drive
7:00-8:30 pm

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!

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Detectives Seek Information On Stolen Property

Note – This notice of stolen property applies to the month of August
Central West Area Command detectives are urging residents to check their garages, vehicles and storage buildings to determine if they are missing property that may have been stolen.

Through the course of various investigations, detectives have located property they believe may have been stolen from garages, yards, vehicles and storage buildings. Detectives have not been able to link this property to any specific burglary of vehicle, residence or theft case. Items that have been identified include tools, as well as sporting goods equipment.

Detectives believe that missing property may have gone unnoticed and are asking that residents check their garages, and storage buildings, as well as vehicles to determine if any property is missing. Individuals who live in the Central West Area Command who believe they have property that may have been stolen, but has not been reported as stolen to call 3-1-1.

Residents are also reminded to:

- Keep garage doors closed and sheds locked.
- Secure property that may not be stored in a building.
- Remove valuables from vehicles.
- Take an inventory of property and mark with an identifying number. Keep a list of the property and corresponding numbers to provide to police in the event the items are stolen.

If you are missing any property, you can call the Central West Detectives at 974-5320, SPO David V. Crowder Jr. #4398, Austin Police Department, Central West Area Command. District Representative #512-974-5545



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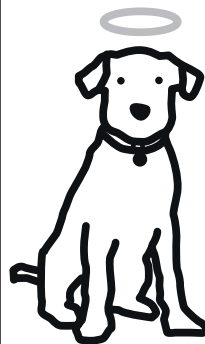
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2006 Annual Meeting Recap

The HPWBANA annual meeting was held on Sunday evening, October 8th. The meeting was held outdoors in Perry Park and was followed by a showing of the movie, Babe. Outgoing board members, Mark Moore and Susan Rauch were recognized for their contributions to the neighborhood.

New board members, Krista Saeger and Chereen Fisher were welcomed to the board. The new HPWBANA board was voted in, and officers were selected to serve the upcoming term.

The 2007 board members:

Nadene Morning, President
Carolyn Robinson, Vice President
Blake Stanford, Secretary
Krista Saeger, Treasurer
Chereen Fisher, board member
Sam Haddad, board member
Lurleen Ladd, board member
Jennifer Smith, board member
Tonianne Soster, board member

The meeting also included a presentation of highlights from 2006. These included Perry Park Egg Hunt, July 4 Parade and Celebration, Perry Park improvements and beautification efforts, taking an active role in citywide discussions regarding zoning and deed restrictions, and adding over 80 new member households!

The HPWBANA board meetings are open to the public and occur every 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are held at Yarborough Library on Hancock.

Thanks to the neighbors who attended the annual meeting, and thanks to Austin Parks Foundation who helped make the movie event a success.



Neighbors Susan Adler and Kevin Golliher discuss upcoming track renovations



Friends get comfortable watching the movie!



Chereen Fisher relaxes before the movie



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PERRY PARK UPDATES

Perry Park Entrance Gets a Fresh Look

By Nadene Morning and Coach Woods

Perry Park visitors using the entrance on Fairview Drive by the tennis courts will notice a recent change. The row of old, uneven wooden pylons used to keep vehicles out of the park was replaced with a row of limestone boulders. Perry Park used to be a limestone quarry so it a natural look for the park.

The challenge for the project was getting material and labor on a shoestring budget, but Bunny and Allan Pierce made it happen! They donated and delivered the limestone boulders from their business, Howard Pierce and Son's Stone Company. They have a big limestone quarry in Georgetown. Russell Simpson of S&S Nativescapes helped remove the old pylons and positioned the rocks. A couple of trees and yuccas are planned to enhance the overall appearance.

The children attending Highland Park Elementary and their parents all know Bunny – she has worked in the Highland Park office for about three years. Thanks Bunny and Allen!



Allen Pierce drops off limestone boulders for the Perry Park entrance.

Perry Park Volunteer Opportunity

The cub scouts of Pack 59 will be sprucing up the trails in the woods of Perry Park on December 9. If you are available to help, please contact Blake Stanford at blake@swhuman.org for details and time.



Wildlife Update

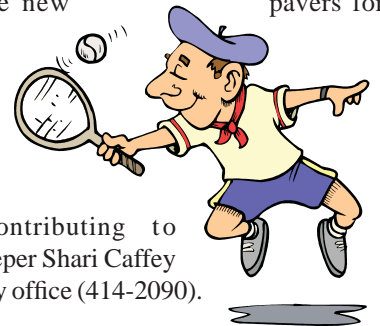
Just a reminder--Coyote activity is still reported in our area. Check out various articles and links about coyote behavior and living with these urban animals on the wildlife page of the www.hpwban.org website. Report all coyote activity to 311 and talk to your neighbors. Also, male deer can be very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

Perry Park Tennis Court Fund

Tennis players in the neighborhood will be interested in a new tax deductible fund that has been set up to help with improvements at the Perry Park tennis courts. Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) provides basic maintenance for the courts such as nets and windscreens. PARD also has the courts scheduled for resurfacing in next couple of years. Recent improvements funded by the community include the benches and the new pavers for the entryway.

Do you have ideas for tennis court improvements? Contact Coach Woods at 414-2090 or at email address dwoods@austinisd.org.

If you are interested in contributing to the fund please contact bookkeeper Shari Caffey in the Highland Park Elementary office (414-2090). Thanks!



Perry Park Running Track Update

October was a big month for the Perry Park running track. In the September edition of the HPWBANA News we provided a history of the Perry Park running track and current investigation into a permanent repair to end erosion problems at the track. The Highland Park Elementary PTA has been spearheading the project. At the time this article was submitted to the publisher the plans for construction repairs were set to begin in mid October.

The HPWBANA is a strong supporter of the project, participating on the track committee and contributing a donation from our surplus funds.

We will provide a full report upon completion of this great community project.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

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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Thanks for the Memories...

HPWBANA would like to thank outgoing board members Mark Moore and Susan Rauch. Serving on the board requires many hours attending board meetings, attending and planning events and doing many behind the scene jobs.

Mark Moore has served on the board for two years and has been very involved in several beautification projects in his neighborhood. He also served on the crime and safety committee. Thanks, Mark.

Susan Rauch has served on the board for six years. Susan has been treasurer and membership committee chair for several years. Her valuable contributions and experience will be missed!

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Texas Events- November

10-12—FREDERICKSBURG: Art Past Dark: An Arts & Antiques Weekend Celebrates fine arts and antiques showcasing local artists and various art shows throughout the community, a gala event and more. Hangar Hotel & Conference Center. www.artpastdark.com

11—AUSTIN: Jerome Ducharme This young Canadian virtuoso is the most recent winner of the Guitar Foundation of America Competition. Begins at 8 p.m. Northwest Hills United Methodist Church. www.austinclassicalguitar.org 512/300-ACGS

11—BURNET: Fall Art & Crafts Show Artists and craftspeople sell unique handmade items and art pieces. Burnet Community Center. E-mail: info@burnetchamber.org 512/756-0834

11—CASTROVILLE: Market Trail Day Features arts & crafts, plants and food booths. Houston Square on Angelo Street. 830/538-2316 or 830/931-2161

11—HONDO: Wild Game Dinner Medina County Fair Grounds. www.hondochamber.com 830/426-3037

11—JOHNSON CITY: The Moving Wall Remembered LBJ National Historical Park. www.nps.gov/lyjo 830/868-7128 ext. 244

11—KERRVILLE: Second Saturday Art Trail Thirteen art galleries in Kerrville and Ingram present special exhibits and receptions. www.artinthehills.com 830/895-5184

11—LLANO: Llano County Opry: Stonewall Jackson 325/247-5354

11—MASON: Veterans Day Salute Includes live music and six-gun salute. NE side of the courthouse lawn. www.masontxcoc.com 325/347-5758

11—MASON: Wild Game Dinner www.masontxcoc.com 325/347-5758

11—SAN MARCOS: Veterans Day Celebration Pays tribute to military heroes. Annual Hays County Veterans Day Parade begins at 9 a.m. Downtown. www.sanmarcoscharms.com 888/200-5620

11—SONORA: Sutton County Game Dinner Sutton County Civic Center. www.sonoratx-chamber.com 325/387-2880

11-12—BOERNE: Market Days Main Plaza. www.mainstreetboerne.com 830/249-5530 or 210/844-8193

11-12—MARBLE FALLS: Highland Arts Gallery Fall Show 318 Main St. 830/693-7324

11-12—TAYLOR: Garden Club Christmas Bazaar Features a holiday theme. 512/365-6831

11, 25—BURNET: Concert Series — Longhorn Cavern Includes just the musician, instrument and the acoustics of the cavern. E-mail: kaye@longhorncaverns.com 877/441-CAVE or 512/756-4680

12—GRUENE: Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist Serves awe-inspiring music with a mouth-watering buffet. Gruene Hall. www.gruenehall.com 830/629-5077 or 830/606-1601

15-30—INGRAM: Top Ten National Fine Craft Exhibition The Gallery at the Point. www.hcaf.com 830/367-5121

16-18—ROUND ROCK: Texas Country Music Fest & BBQ Cook-Off Features some of Texas' most well known country singers. Includes food, drinks, barbecue cook-off and more. Old Settlers Park. www.texascountrymusicfest.com 512/255-9885

17—NEW BRAUNFELS: Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Includes food, entertainment and Santa pictures. Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Downtown — Main Plaza. www.nbcham.org 830/625-2385

17-18—WIMBERLEY: Wimberley Civic Club Holiday Home Tour Each home is decorated for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Begins at 10 a.m. www.wimberley.org 512/847-2201

17-19—NEW BRAUNFELS: Weihnachtsmarkt Enjoy the German custom of Christmas shopping with retail stores in one location. New Braunfels Civic Center. 830/629-3975

17-20—AUSTIN: Austin Lyric Opera Season Premiere: Madame Butterfly Bass Concert Hall. www.austinlyricopera.org 512/472-5992

18—LLANO: Christmas Lighting 325/247-5354

18-19—CASTROVILLE: Castroville Antique Show Features antiques, collectibles, plants and more. Braden Keller Center. www.albrosantiques.com 830/538-2349

18-19—GRUENE: Old Gruene Market Days www.gruenemarketdays.com 830/832-1721

18-19—ROUND ROCK: A Sami Show This is an arts & crafts show. Dell Diamond. www.samishow.com 512/441-7133

18-Jan. 1—MARBLE FALLS: Walkway of Lights www.marblefalls.org 830/693-2815

19—CASTROVILLE: Aviation Art Show Shooting Star Museum. 830/931-3837

24—WIMBERLEY: Santa on the Square Wimberley Village Square. www.wimberley.org 512/847-2201

24-25—BOERNE: A Christmas Dickens on Main Features caroling, food booths and Santa. Downtown. www.ahillcountrychristmas.com 830/816-2176

24-Jan. 1—JOHNSON CITY: Lights Spectacular Town Square. www.nps.gov/lyjo 830/868-1128, 830/868-7044 or 866/839-3378

25—AUSTIN: Chuy's Christmas Parade Congress Avenue. www.chuysparade.com 888/439-2489

25—BANDERA: Country Christmas Ball Kick off the holiday season with an event reminiscent of an old-fashioned barn dance. Farm Country Club. www.farmcc.com 830/589-2276

25—CONCAN: Thanksgiving Open House Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Garner State Park. 830/232-5999 or 830/232-6132

25—GOLDTHWAITE: Hunters Appreciation Wild Game Supper Mills County Civic Center, Cline Street. www.goldthwaite.biz 325/648-3619

25—LUCKENBACH: Thanksgiving Dance www.luckenbachtexas.com 888/311-8990

25—MASON: Arts & Craft Show Begins at 9 a.m. Fort Mason Community Building, Hwy. 57 S. 325/347-6440

29—KYLE: City Tree Lighting Includes a visit from Santa, local school choir performances and lighting of the town's giant Christmas Tree. City Square Park. www.cityofkyle.com 512/262-3939

30—AUSTIN: Dave Brubeck & Ramsey Lewis Paramount Theatre. www.austintheatre.org 512/472-2901

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REMINDER

January is HPWBANA Dues Renewal Month.

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 neighborhood activities:

Spring Egg Hunt
July 4th Picnic and Parade
Annual Meeting

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.

Name _____ 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.

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