



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 2, Number 12

December 2006

[www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org)

## Message from the Board: Do Less in 2007

by Carolyn Robinson

Being the Vice President of the Neighborhood Association is such a fun (unpaid) job! Right now I am busy each month trying to put together the newsletter. I have no experience putting together a newsletter, and you may have noticed my many (unanswered) cries for help. None of you have responded, but don't worry, I am not taking your lack of response personally. It has just made me think that perhaps everyone is just busy, as in too busy. It's common that we all over commit. We sign up for this committee and that committee. And then all those worthwhile activities and good causes begin to take over our lives instead of just being a part of our lives. Since we're getting close to New Year's Resolution time, I have a suggestion for you. The message from the Board for this month is: Do Less. Consider slowing down the pace of your life next year! Relax more, and do less. Enjoy your home, enjoy your backyard, and enjoy your neighborhood!

In 2007, take on the burden of relaxing in the neighborhood! And where would you go to enjoy your neighborhood? I asked several neighbors that very question. Their answers appear below. And-- if you happen to notice the HPWBANA newsletter doesn't show up in your mailbox one month, perhaps I have decided that I was going to do less that month! Enjoy the neighborhood in 2007!

### What is your favorite place to relax in the neighborhood?

My favorite spot in our neighborhood is my deck. I enjoy looking out into the woods behind my house watching deer. I also like sitting on the deck to read my paper. My wife is wonderful and lets me sit outside and read the paper on the deck for as long as I want. She even brings me my coffee.

Rhett R.

My favorite place to relax in the neighborhood?--at home. And when the weather is nice, that includes putting in the garden.

Susan A.

My favorite spot to relax in the neighborhood is Chez Zee. I love to have a glass of wine and eat their fried dill pickles. Have you ever had their fried pickles? They are very, very good. They are better than the ones at Alamo Drafthouse, but they are NOT as good as the pickles fried by Ron Habitzreiter. He has the best fried pickles. Oh,

that reminds me...I also love relaxing at the (sort of) annual block party on Lucas Drive. Ron always fries fish and dill pickles.

Anonymous

My favorite thing to do in the neighborhood used to be to walk through Brightleaf.

Anonymous

Our favorite place is the playground at Perry Park-Highland Park Elementary. It's been such a thrill to watch our daughter Clara have so much fun and become more adventuresome as the years have gone by. It seems like only yesterday when we were on the swings, with Clara snuggled in the Baby Bjorn, celebrating how the fresh air and rhythmic swinging calmed a fussy baby to sleep. And now, as a 2-year old, she's climbing and exploring the "big kid's" playground, even trying to scale the rock wall. What a fun place for kids and their parents!

Krista S.

My favorite place to relax in the neighborhood is actually taking a walk with my dog, Abby, down Crestway to Monte Vista or up Ridge Oak and around those streets up there. I love the neighborhood and all the friendly faces as we greet and pass each other by with our animals in tow !! Or are we in tow? !

Kristi S.

My favorite place to relax in the 'hood is Perry Park. I love walking on the trails there, and it looks so much better since they've been cleaned up. The paths used to be all overgrown, but now they are cleared and look great. I can't remember who did all that work there to make it look so wonderful...but I really love those trails now!

Anonymous

My favorite spot to relax in the neighborhood is the Bus Stop on Hancock. Some days after work I just pull my car into Russell's parking lot, go in and get one of those wonderful cupcakes and a cup of coffee. Then I just walk over to the bus stop. I just sit there and unwind from my busy, busy day. It used to be a little dirty there, but the bus stop is awesome now that Blake Stanford "adopted" it.. He is keeping it so clean...I swear he sweeps the concrete there daily. It is a great place to while away the hours.

Anonymous

View the Highland Park West Balcones Area  
Neighborhood Newsletter  
each month online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.hpwbana.org)

HPWBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35<sup>th</sup> St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45<sup>th</sup> St.

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## Camp Mabry Receives Insignia Collection

During a ceremony on October 14, a significant contribution was made to the Brig. Gen. John C.L. Scribner Texas Military Forces Museum on Camp Mabry.

The family of retired Lt. Col. Joseph M. Massaro donated his extensive collection of U.S. Army distinctive military insignia to the museum.

Colonel Massaro started his collection at age 9 and was still working on it when he passed away at the age of 72. During his life, which included service at West Point and in the U.S. Army, he constantly acquired new items. Family and friends said he was always happy to share his knowledge of the insignia and the history of each of the items and the units they represented with non-collectors as well as other collectors.

The entire collection is displayed in 26 frames in a special room at the museum named for Colonel Massaro. He wrote by hand the identification underneath each of the more than 11,000 pieces in the display.

Lt. Gen. Charles G. Rodriguez, Adjutant General of Texas; Maj. Gen. John T. Furlow, Assistant Adjutant General for Army; Col. Tony West, Texas Air National Guard chief of staff, Museum Director retired Col. Pat Simpson, museum director; retired Col. John Drolla, museum vice president; State Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Vasquez, and a number of Soldiers and Airmen attended the ceremony along with members of the Massaro family.

The special collection room was dedicated by General Rodriguez and the Massaro grandchildren at the end of the ceremony.



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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## What will be in Santa's Sleigh as he passes over the HPWBANA neighborhood???

Dear Santa,

I would really, really like to have a pink scooter for Christmas. A pink Hello Kitty scooter – one that I can go really fast on. I would also like a pogo stick that goes up high in the air. When I get older I will use it to hop all the way to school. I can hop over cars and trees and trains and houses.

Oh and I also like Madeline. I think she is so cute. I would like her toyshop and her house in Paris- the one covered with all the vines.

I would like for you to bring my mommy some sushi, champagne and perfume for her Christmas stocking. I don't know yet what my daddy wants.

Please tell your elves not to get sick. They have a lot of toys to make. I have been a good girl this year. But I forgot to clean my room. I love you.

Samantha Elise Wilson  
Austin, Texas

Dear Santa,

I would like a slime gun and you know those four wheeler trucks with the 4 wheels, I'd like one of those, 2 swords and a digger that's big but that's not really real but you CAN sit on it, and a bucket of slime. and back about the swords, they need to have holders. the last thing I want is a real light sabre from star wars.

Thanks Santa.

Love,  
Danny Ladd

Dear Santa,

I want a batman building with joker and batman and two batman cars. I want a race car track too. I want lots of presents that would fill up my whole room. I would like that!

I have been good boy. I am trying to listen better at school and not eat as much junk food at home.

Love, Conor W.

Dear Santa,

It is coming up! Yep thats right Christmas is right around the corner! I know you have been sending elves to keep an eye on me and I promise I have been on my very best behavior, because I have quite the list this year. Here it is:

A pair of Channel sunglasses

cute clothes,  
make-up,  
video ipod,  
shoes. . .

Since I have been such a good driver so far a new car would be great as well, although it might be hard to get it down the chimney, so just park it outside with a shiny bow, a black range rover would be my first choice, but I could settle for a comfy hybrid SUV. Some designer purses to take to college would be great as well and maybe even a small teacup Pomeranian to fit inside!

Santa, I know my list is a little extreme but really what are most teenage girls like me desperate for!! Hope things are coming along at the north pole!! I will absolutely leave you some fantastic cookies this year!

Love Always,  
Mary

Santa Claus,

I want a pretend BB gun that you can put little yellow balls in three at a time and then shoot them. And I want some chocolate and lollipops, please. I also want a tank (this big) and an army boat(this big). This is what I want.

Love,  
Cash

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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Backyard Wildlife Habitats

By Sally Scott

If you enjoy nature, watching wildlife and support preserving our natural resource you may be interested in a program by the National Wildlife Federation called the “Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program”. The purpose is to encourage people to create habitat for wildlife – right in their own backyard. This makes for a great family project to educate children and demonstrate first hand appreciation of nature. Whether your home backs up to Bright Leaf, Camp Mabry, a green belt, is wooded, or manicured consider adding the extra dimension of attracting wildlife.

The program has many suggestions for attracting a wide variety of birds, insects, and animals by providing for their basic needs: food, water, cover, and a place to raise their young. Provide these needs and wildlife will come. Here are some tips from the NWF website.

**Food:** It is important to provide a food source all year round. This is best done with native plants that produce berries, seeds, and acorns. Feeders that are clean help out also. If you want to attract hummingbirds then plant tubular shaped flowers and provide perches so they can survey their territory. For butterflies and moths plant flatter flowers and provide perches for them to warm in the sun. Caution about food: if you put out human or pet food you may attract coyotes, a predator to discourage.

**Water:** Water can be from a birdbath, a pond, creek, or a shallow dish for both drinking and bathing. Like the feeder is important to keep it clean. And don't forget about the mosquito control – this is one insect you don't want to attract. Changing water frequently or keeping the water moving will help our here.

**Cover:** Cover can be in many forms and can be quite simple such as trees and bushes. A pile of logs and rock walls work well along with small brush piles and various grasses. Many of you probably have rock caves or small cliffs that provide shelter. Think about places where animals and reptiles can crawl into and hide.

**Nesting:** Wildlife needs places to raise their young safely. Mature trees, bushes, nesting boxes and dead trees all provide these. Of course a pond or creek will be welcomed by frogs, toads and salamanders. Some insects such as caterpillars like specific plants for eating and laying eggs. Many moths and insects lay their eggs on dead leaves so you may want to leave some in the fall before you rake them all up.

On a pleasant fall morning spend some time in your yard and start a wildlife habitat inventory. You may find that you already have many of the features that attract wildlife. Make it a family project to keep track of all the different animals, birds and insects you attract. If you don't have binoculars consider getting a

pair. And also consider getting your yard certified as a Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. As a NWF Backyard Habitat Steward I can help with the process and provide gardening tips that help attract wildlife. Give me, Sally Scott, a call at 453-2289 for more information.

For more information on Backyard Wildlife Habitat check out the Natural Wildlife Federation website: [www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/](http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/).

Sally Scott is also a Master Naturalist, a Friends of Bright Leaf Board Member and has lived in the area for over 40 years.



*National Wildlife Federation provides a sign for yards that are certified as Backyard Wildlife Habitats.*

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## Channeling Pollyanna

By Kim Pleticha

Pollyanna gets a bad rap.

I discovered this last month, when reading Eleanor H. Porter's 1913 novel of the same name to my daughter. Sure, the language is outdated (I especially enjoyed how the word "ejaculated" was used on nearly every page to mean "exclaimed"). Yes, the characters are more like awkwardly drawn caricatures than anything resembling living, breathing human beings. Still, that doesn't explain why a sweet story that encourages people to be optimistic and glad for what they have devolved into a case study of ignorance. Indeed, the very name "Pollyanna" is synonymous with being naïve, foolish, or just plain too stupid to see the world as it really is.

And that 's a shame. Because there's a lot of truth lurking in that book. That is, if we're not too jaded to see it.

In case you're not familiar with the story, it goes like this: 11-year-old Pollyanna is orphaned and adopted by a rich aunt she's never met. Old auntie doesn't really want the girl—and even sticks her in an attic to get ride of her—but happy little Pollyanna showers love on her anyway. She does this because she play something called The Glad Game. Essentially, she is perpetually optimistic, finding a reason to be glad in any given situation. Received crutches instead of a doll for a gift? Be glad you don't need them. Got stuck in a hot attic instead of a lovely carpeted bedroom? Be glad that your window affords a

perfect view of town. Got a crotchety old aunt who scowls at your every day? Be glad you still have family to care for you. You get the idea.

Back in 1913, the book sold like hotcakes. It was so popular that Parker Brother turned it into a board game; silent film sensation Mary Pickford also made a movie about it.

The love affair with Pollyanna and her glad game lasted more than 50 years. In fact, the Disney adaptation in 1960 may have signaled the beginning of the end: that version shows Pollyanna becoming paralyzed and never walking again, ending her infernal glad game. (In the book, she also becomes paralyzed and subsequently heartbroken, but her glad spirit rebounds and she ends-up walking again.)

The Disney version offers a slight smack down that perhaps was indicative of where the culture was heading: gladness may be fine and good, but nothing good really comes of it.

And that's just plain not true.

Scientists have shown that people with positive attitudes receive a host of benefits. For example, Dr. Suzanne Segerstrom, a professor of clinical psychology at the University of Kentucky has hard data showing that being Pollyanna-like is far from naïve and foolish; rather, those who channel Pollyanna are "wise about expending their energies", which results in better health, a longer life, and greater

*(Continued on pg 7)*

## Suffering from holiday stress? Got the winter time blues?

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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Casis Carnival

Casis Elementary's Carnival 2006 took place Friday, October 27. With a "Wild About Casis" theme, students, parents, faculty, staff and community members enjoyed fun activities—such as rock climbing, an inflatable obstacle course, a spook house, a M\*A\*S\*H tent, a petting zoo, karaoke and more—great food, dance and gymnastics

performances and a silent auction. Funds raised from the carnival help pay for the school's reading specialist, curriculum and instructional supplies, professional development for faculty members, technology support and equipment, books for the Literacy Library, tutoring for students, author visits and many other things that make Casis special.



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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

## Pollyanna - (Continued from pg 5)

success in whatever they do.

So why is being a glad-happy person so disdained in our culture? When did it become passé to look at the bright side of things; to be thankful for what you have rather than complaining about what you don't have? When did "There but for the grace of God go I" become "By God, life sucks"?

I wish I knew.

But we have the power to change it.

Not be going out and "finding happiness"—funny enough, research shows that doesn't work. The solution is more like deciding to put on a pair of those proverbial rose-colored glasses: you have to work hard at seeing life, the world and everything from an optimistic perspective. And no, it's not easy. But since this is the holiday season, I thought we might all give it a try.

So, put on your rose-colored glasses and try channeling Pollyanna.

"Oh my!" you may ejaculate, "The view is so much better from here."

Kim Pleticha is the Publisher & Editor of Parent: Wise Magazine Austin. She and her lovely family live in our neighborhood.

## Perry Park Track Gets a Needed Upgrade!

If you have been to Perry Park lately you can't help but notice the new changes to the running track. Thanks to a focused effort by the Highland Park PTA the erosion problems have been fixed and the entire track has been resurfaced. The running track has been plagued with serious erosion problem for years. Heavy rains continually washed away the temporary repair efforts by many individuals.

The track is used heavily by students of Highland Park Elementary and by the community. Most of the track is on PARD property and was actually put in with funds from the HP PTA several years ago with the understanding that the HP PTA and school would provide maintenance. This past summer AISD funded a drainage study to understand the root cause of the problem. The Highland Park PTA formed a track committee to investigate and implement a permanent fix based on that drainage study. Working closely with PARD Planning Design and Construction a plan was developed: a plan within the HP PTA track repair budget.

The project involved hardening areas of the track that were prone to erosion with concrete. Rain bars and channels were sculpted to direct rain water runoff and the entire track was widened to 8 feet and surfaced with granite gravel. The project addressed only the running track. Water will continue to pool in the quarry area during heavy rains.

HPWBANA is very supportive of this needed project to make the running track a safe asset to our park. It was a very costly project funded by the Highland Park PTA. HPWBANA participated on the track committee and contributed funds. We offer a thank you and congratulations to all those involved in making it happen!

Who was involved? The Highland Park PTA Track Committee consisted of Wes Amberboy leading the effort, Coach Dave Woods, Cynthia Lew and Nathan Phillips; Kevin Gollither and Cathy McHorse of the HP PTA Executive Committee; Nadene Morning of the HPWBANA; and Tony Arnold, PARD Planning Design and Construction Project Manager.

## Neighborhood Real Estate Market Statistics

2005 and 2006 have been busy real estate years for the HPWBANA area. The value of living in this neighborhood is no secret! We are a community full of wonderful treasures—schools, location, businesses and of course, good neighbors. Take pride in the neighborhood and take note of your home's value. The HPWBANA area is definitely one of Austin's most desired neighborhoods!

	2005 Statistics*	2006 Statistics*
No. of properties sold	67	51
Avg. price/sqft.	\$175.89	\$195.01
Avg. Sales Price	\$363,773	\$477,342
Lowest Sales Price	\$149,000	\$199,999
Highest Sales Price	\$1,500,000	\$1,150,000
Avg. Days on Market	63	77

\*Statistics gathered from Austin Board of Realtors and include home sales within HPWBANA boundaries.

## 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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## Holiday Happenings Around the Neighborhood

December 2, 7:00

David Herrick in concert at Russell's Bakery

December 3, 6:00 p.m.

Lighting of the Zilker Tree  
(even if it's not in our official neighborhood)

December 16, 7:00 p.m.

Board member Lurleen Ladd in concert at Russell's

December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Highland Park Baptist Church  
Candle light Christmas Eve service

Camp Mabry Lights

Camp Mabry lights the airplanes and helicopters on base

## Highland Terrace Median...Complete!

The transformation of the Highland Terrace median is complete. Congratulations and thanks to all neighbors who participated in this project. The neighborhood appreciates all your efforts!



## Help Fritz Get Home For Christmas

Please help me get home for christmas...

I've been away a long time (6 months)

I could have shown up at your house anytime in the last few months while trying to find my way home

My name is Fritz... this picture is picture of me when I was younger. I am probably VERY big ( if I'm anything like my brother...whom I miss / and misses me) I have a VERY bushy tail, I am an all gray tabby w/ long hair, and I am VERY lovable. You may have taken me in ( or your neighbor) and love me too, but my humans and my feline brother and sweetheart still miss me so much, If you can help me get home. Please call 567-2559 Thanks!



*Lost Cat, Fritz, needs to get home for the Holidays*

## Is there something missing in this newsletter?

Is there some important event that happened in the neighborhood that wasn't covered in the newsletter? Or is there an issue important to you and your neighbors you think should be covered? Perhaps you should volunteer to write an article or submit photos! Contact Carolyn Robinson at 302-5417 or carrob99@hotmail.com to volunteer or make a suggestion.

## 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!

## Advertising Information

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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 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic and Parade  
Annual Meeting  
Beautification Effort

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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Questions about membership? Contact Krista Saeger at 380-0962 or kristasaeger@yahoo.com*

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