



The HPWBANA News

Volume 3, Number 2

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www.hpwbana.org

Pack 59 Grooms the Trails in Perry Park!

By Blake Stanford

About 75 very strong Pack 59 Cub Scout members, fellow scouts and parents gathered at Perry Park on December 9th to fix up the trails in the woods. This was Pack 59's fall service project and the entire neighborhood will enjoy the result of their hard work. They moved two huge piles of crushed granite to the trail surface, cut ligustrum, moved stones to the trail edge and had lots of fun. One scout even found a lizard! Visitors to the park can stroll through the woods and check out the nature trail which is now clearly marked. Even the native plants on the nature trail are labeled.

There is community history to the Perry Park trails. The nature trail was actually first cut many years ago (in the mid 80s I think). Boy Scout Troop 5, teachers Sally Hunter and Laine Leibick, along with the community designed and cut the trail through the dense woods and added posts to mark the various native plants and trees. The nature trail became part of an outdoor learning area, but nature reclaimed the area as ligustrum and trailing lantana grew over the trails. The community has recently been restoring the trails, and this project by Pack 59 is the final touch. Many of you who have been in the area for years may remember the Perry Park woods before the scouts started their projects. It is wonderful to have the scouts back to continue improvements on a community project they started years ago.

A special thanks to the Highland Park PTA who provided the crushed granite. The granite was left over material from the running track project. Granite will hopefully last longer than the mulch.

Thanks also go to Capital Rubber Stamp who made the custom native plant labels for us at a discounted price. The labels were attached before the workday. Your support of the Austin community is appreciated.

And of course huge thanks to the many strong Pack 59 Cub Scouts and their support crew who spent a Saturday morning working hard to give their community a beautiful trail to enjoy! So if you see a Pack 59 cub scout or one of the many other scouts and parents that also helped with this project tell them thanks – they really made a difference to their park!

Congratulations Everyone – We Won Another Keep Austin Beautiful Award!

By Nadene Morning, Beautification Committee

Congratulations! To the many people in our community who have helped with the various beautification and improvement projects in our neighborhood. Highland Park West Balcones Community has been recognized as a Keep Austin Beautiful Awards Honorable Mention Winner for Beautification! This is the second time our community has been recognized by KAB for our efforts. Last year the HPWBANA Beautification Committee won first place for this award. This year, first place went to the Town Lake Trail Foundation.

In 2006 our community took on these various projects:

- HPWBANA Beautification Committee has been busy in Perry Park putting in benches, removing non-native plants, improving the park entrance, clearing the nature trail, marking the native plants and working with the local cub scouts to line the nature trails with crushed granite.
- HPWBANA Beautification Committee has also been at Mt Bonnell on a monthly basis keeping the trash picked up. If you visit this park, please help us to pick up and keep the park clean.
- The Highland Park PTA Track Committee focused on repairing the Perry Park running track for the safety and enjoyment of both students and the community.
- The HP PTA Landscape Committee worked with teachers of Highland Park Elementary to create a new outdoor learning center for students. This committee also focused on improving the appearance of the school landscaping, a much needed activity.
- Neighbors of the Highland Terrace median transformed a once concrete covered median into a green landscape. This was a great neighborhood project!
- Neighbors of Foothill Terrace median are in the planning phase to make improvements to this green space including irrigation, landscaping and maintenance.

And we can't forget about our existing public green spaces that are still cared for by beautification committee members and neighbors: the median on Balcones/Parkcrest, the median on Ridge Oak/Lake View, the landscape/trees at the Hancock Bridge.

Thanks to everyone who got involved and has kept these green spaces looking great. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated!

For a complete listing of the KAB winners in all the categories check out the Keep Austin Beautiful website at: keepaustinbeautiful.org

**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 Center974-2000
Emergency Police 911
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.) 311
Social Services (during work hours) 211
Dana Munguia, Senior Patrol Officer974-5440
David Crowder Jr., Senior Police Officer 974-5545
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line210-698-1709

2006 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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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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HPWBANA Business Membership

The beginning of the new year kicks off the annual membership drive. We are seeking neighborhood business owners to become part of HPWBANA. If you are a business owner and would like to join, the annual membership is \$50.00. For this small fee your business will be listed on our website for the year, you will receive discounted ad rates in our monthly newsletter that goes out to over 1800 homes and you will have the opportunity to support the community that supports your business.

Business members for the 2006 included:

Athens Group
Crenshaw's Athletic Club
Balcones Exxon Automotive
The Junior League of Austin
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Chez Zee Bakery Café
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Ask the Board...

Can I operate a business out of my home?

This question was addressed to a board member recently. And the answer is yes – although many regulations exist and they are enforced by the city. If you are going to operate (or are currently operating) a home business it is worthwhile to review the restrictions. It only takes a 311 call from a neighbor to have the City of Austin Code Enforcement team investigating your business. As is always true—be a good neighbor by following the rules in place.

Some of the regulations are:

- The residential character of the lot and residence must be maintained. Structural alteration must comply with residential construction code.
- It must not generate more than three vehicle trips each day of customer-related vehicular traffic.
- Sale of merchandise directly to a customer on the premises is prohibited.
- Equipment and material associated with the business must not be visible from location off the premises.
- It cannot produce noise, vibration, smoke, odor, etc
- Parking a commercial vehicle on the premises or on an

adjacent street to residentially zoned property is prohibited.

- Advertising the home occupation by a sign on the premises or advertising the street address of a home occupation is prohibited.
- There is a long list of specific home occupations that are prohibited, such as animal hospitals, hospital services, dance studios, restaurants, adult oriented businesses, automotive repair services, just to name a few.

The complete City of Austin code for home occupations is found at: www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/downloads/home_occ.doc

Working out issues between neighbors is strongly encouraged because reporting a home occupation to code enforcement can sometimes cause problems or resentment between neighbors. Feel free to contact our zoning committee members Tonianne Soster or Krista Saeger if you have questions.

This is hopefully the start of a new column for our newsletter where neighbors can submit questions. Have a question for the Board? Send it in to our newsletter editor, Carolyn Robinson, 302-5417, carrob99@hotmail.com. The question for next month – will be submitted by you!



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Message from the Board

By Carolyn Robinson

February is a month of good things. Love, valentines, chocolate, presidents. Yes, you read that correctly: Presidents! Presidents Day is February 19. From George Washington to Abraham Lincoln to FDR to George Bush, the presidents of our nation have used their leadership skills during their time in office to shape and mold our nation. And whether you agree with their political views or not there is one thing that is true of all presidents: they worked hard.

The same is true of HPWBANA president, Nadene Morning. Nadene has served the community in numerous ways, but most notably while serving on the Board, in her efforts to form and serve on the beautification committee. Nadene has organized and spearheaded many beautification projects, but her favorite project is Perry Park. By recruiting volunteers from scout organizations, schools, friends, neighbors, city departments, and foundations she helped accomplish a complete transformation of Perry Park. In her role as president, she has helped shape our neighborhood into a outstanding community. So, when honoring the presidents this month, remember Nadene Morning, your hard-working HPWBANA president!

Board Member Vacancy Creates Volunteer Opportunity

A board member position has recently become available on the HPWBANA board. If you have considered taking a more active role in community affairs and are a current member of HPWBANA, consider volunteering to serve on the Board. Serving on the board has many benefits. First, you become more knowledgeable about issues facing the entire neighborhood. Also, it sets a good example for your children. By serving on the board, you show them that good communities do not "just happen" –they are built. Join us to continue building this neighborhood! Board members serve two year terms and agree to attend monthly board meetings. If you would like to volunteer or find out more, or if you would like to suggest the name of someone you believe would be a good candidate, contact Nadene Morning, president or Carolyn Robinson, vice president.



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What's in Your Garbage Can?

By HPWBANA Crime and Safety Committee

Or more interestingly – what is missing from your garbage can? A couple of people in our neighborhood have noticed that some of their trash bags mysteriously disappeared when placed at the curb. Crestway Drive and Perry Lane are two streets where this has occurred. Most people would not even notice such a thing so hopefully this newsletter article will put neighbors on alert.

Trash at the curb is considered abandoned property; however, there is a city ordinance that prohibits going through someone else's trash. A call to police is appropriate if you find a mysterious person "rifling" through your garbage.

The serious concern is identity theft. Picking up discarded papers from trash cans is a source of personal information. APD Officer Dana Munguia, our Central West District Representative, suggests neighbors go to the Federal Trade Commission website at www.ftc.gov/idtheft for valuable information about fighting identity theft. Skilled identity thieves use a variety of methods to steal your personal information. Knowing their common methods can help prevent their actions.

1. Dumpster Diving. They rummage through trash looking for bills or other paper with your personal information on it.

2. Skimming. They steal credit /debit card numbers by using a special storage device when processing your card.
3. Phishing. They pretend to be financial institutions or companies and send spam or pop-up messages to get you to reveal your personal information.
4. Changing Your Address. They divert your billing statements to another location by completing a "change of address" form.
5. "Old-fashioned" Stealing. They steal wallets and purses; mail, including bank and credit card statements; pre-approved credit offers; and new check or tax information. They steal personnel records from their employers, or bribe employees who have access.

The APD financial crimes FAQ web page is also a helpful resource for more tips on preventing on identity theft: www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/fcufaq.htm. Thanks to both our APD District Representatives Officer Dana Munguia and Officer David Crowder for helping with this issue.

Remember – shred all documents with personal information before discarding!!!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Perry Park Tree Update

Trees are coming to Perry Park!

Trees will be planted at Perry Park and in the green space on Balcones on February 17. This is a wonderful opportunity to volunteer in the park. Holes will be dug in advance by city workers, so the tree planting will be fun! Visit hpwbana.org to volunteer to help plant. All ages welcome!

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Events in HPWBANA

By Carolyn Robinson

It's not too early to begin planning for the annual Perry Park Egg Hunt. This year's event will be held on Saturday, April 7, the day before Easter. Volunteer to donate eggs or candy, fill eggs, or hide eggs. Volunteer now by contacting Carolyn Robinson at carrob99@hotmail.com or Chereen Fisher at chereen@austin.rr.com

Attention HPWBANA children: Volunteer your mom or dad to be the Easter Bunny for the Egg hunt. Your parent should be a little bit silly, able to hop, and willing to wear the bunny suit. Long legs would be a plus. Call me and tell me why your parent would be a good bunny. Carolyn Robinson 302-5417

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Newsletter Help Wanted!

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CRIME

By Lurleen Ladd

Consider this a bit of "grinchy" news from the recent holidays. There were at least two incidences of theft from neighbor's yards in the 4000 block of Crestway Drive. Christmas lawn decorations were taken in the middle of the night. It is sad and unfortunate, but a reality, nonetheless.

In addition, there has been a recent increase in the number of parked cars that have been targeted for theft.

Please be aware that all of the incidences, large and small, need to be reported to the Austin Police Department. By contacting 311 and making the report, you are alerting the department to the need for increased patrols in our area. If they don't hear about the problems, they cannot address the needs of our neighborhood.

And, as always, if you see or hear something suspicious, contact the police. For additional crime and safety information, go to the Austin Police Department website at www.ci.austin.tx.us/police

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It's Dues Renewal Time! Support HPWBANA with your Membership

It's important for neighbors to join and stay active in HPWBANA. A growing membership makes us a stronger force with the City of Austin and allows us undertake projects that directly contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood:

Neighborhood Beautification Efforts
Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Parade and Picnic
Debut of Movies in Perry Park
Involvement in City Planning & Zoning Issues
Focal Point for MoNAC

We need your support! Please renew your membership or become a new member of HPWBANA today. Send \$15 for a Family membership or \$10 for a Single-Member Household membership (only one adult in household) to:

HPWBANA, PO Box 26101, Austin, TX 78755

Name _____ Name of Second Adult _____

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