

# The HPWBANA News

Volume 3, Number 3 March 2007 www.hpwbana.org

#### Message from the Board

The HPWBANA board met on January 22. The following were highlights from the meeting.

- Membership drives for residents and business sponsorship are currently underway. If you haven't joined the HPWBANA yet please consider supporting the volunteers who work to improve our neighborhood. And if you have ideas for projects this would be a good time to bring them to the board as the budget is planned for next year.
- Beautification Committee Update: A lot of activity is occurring at Perry Park as the running track repair nears completion and tree planting projects ramp up. The Foothill Terrace median should see some improvements this spring also.
- Zoning and Planning Committee: The board received an inquiry into using a residential home for a Montessori school. Neighbors are being contacted to see if they are receptive to the project. Many, many city approvals would be necessary along with neighborhood support.
- Zoning and Planning Committee: Neighbors close to the Perry Lane and Valley Oak corner are teaming up to influence the city to address a very serious flooding problem due to an undersized and old drainage line.
- A couple of neighbors on Perry Lane are using a city vacate process to purchase a short piece of property that was once used as a Camp Mabry entrance.
- Crime Committee: Crime is being committed in our neighborhoods and people are encouraged to call the police to report incidents. Reports can help APD in investigating our area.
- Events Committee: Egg Hunt, Movies in Perry Park and July 4 Celebration are being organized by committee. Committee is seeking members of the community to help plan events.

For more information on any of the topics please talk with a board member.

# Perry Park Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7 9:30 a.m.

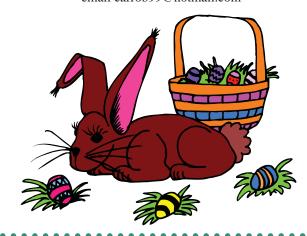
Age groups: 0-2 years 3-4 years 5-7 years 8 years & up

Prizes Awarded for the Golden Egg in each Age Group!

See the Easter Bunny!

Volunteers still needed! Donate plastic eggs, candy, or volunteer to help hide eggs! Contact Carolyn Robinson 302-5417 or

email carrob99@hotmail.com



Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the current issue of the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Newsletter on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com

#### **Helpful Phone Numbers**

	_ ~-
Austin Citywide Information Center	.974-2000 or 311
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

#### 2006 HPWBANA Board of Directors

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Tonianne Soster te883@austin.rr.com, 825-3773	
Newsletter Editor- Carolyn Robinsoncarrob99@hotmail.com, 302-5417	

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. <a href="https://www.hpwbana.org">www.hpwbana.org</a>

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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#### Perry Park Running Track Complete!

By Nadene Morning

The Perry Park Running Track Repair is finally complete! The construction crew started the repair in November but the winter rains and holidays caused many delays. This was a big project and it took many people and organizations working together to make it a success. First we need to thank Wes Amberboy who is a HP parent and the HP PTA Track Committee Chairperson. Wes attended a PTA track repair workday last year and volunteered to take on a much bigger role. Spearheading this track project took many, many hours, making phone calls, attending meetings, overseeing work, and negotiating agreements. Highland Park Elementary and the community now have a safe running track Thanks go out to Wes, Coach Dave Woods, Kevin Golliher and the many people who helped out! These are dedicated volunteers!

Thanks also to the Highland Park PTA who has been monitoring the track erosion problem for years and stepped up to fund the repair. This was an expensive project and it represents the dedication and generosity of HP PTA.

And we can't forget to thank the Parks and Recreation Department for working with the community. This was a tough problem to solve and they came forth with solutions that fit a tight budget.

The HPWBANA helped out also by donating funds to the effort and lending support and assistance.

As spring brings beautiful warm days consider taking a walk at Perry Park and check out the changes!



## Watershed on Perry Lane – Flooding Concerns

February 5, 2006

HPWBANA Board and Neighbors:

Re: Watershed on Perry Lane - Flooding Concerns

My family moved into the neighborhood about a year ago. Our home is 3105 Perry Lane, directly across from the watershed. Most people from the area refer to our new home as "where the octagon house was".

Apparently the house before us was destroyed by flooding that had come across the street. The new construction had been graded differently and lifted to supposedly handle these issues.

Shortly after moving in we had a flash flood warning on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2006. The storm knocked down trees and the electricity was off in some homes for several days. The water that came across the street that night was very alarming. It had engulfed the front yard and the entire street. Cars could *not* pass through. More alarming was the rate of force that the water was moving across the street and down through our driveway and around the retaining wall in the front of our house. Any person would be knocked down instantly and taken with the water.

After the storm I started to gather information from the neighbors

and started looking at the flooding maps of the city. I discovered that this area is known by the city to be a high risk area. I was also able to gather a document that showed some private engineering reports that stated that the watershed is *not* designed to handle the water flow of the 210 acres that flows to it.

I started calling the city almost daily to find out how to get this problem fixed. Basically, the 48 inch pipe is too small to handle the water flow. It seems that the area had been previously evaluated and that a 72 in box culvert is recommended it for this area.

The problem is that I have been unable to get the city to do anything. I am writing this letter to make the neighborhood aware of this problem. I am sure that most people do not realize that the city has recognized that a watershed in our neighborhood is lacking the capacity to drain the water flow correctly. A group of my neighbors and board members have met to discuss the problem, but we want the larger neighborhood to be aware of this issue as we continue to ask the city to make the needed changes to make the area safe. If you would like to get involved please contact me.

Sincerely,

Todd Wright, todd.wright@athletics.utexas.edu





# Highland Park Elementary News

Highland Park Elementary extends a huge thank you to HPWBANA for their donation to the track improvements. The improvements will allow for safer use of the track by students, neighbors and visitors to Perry Park.

Highland Park recently celebrated a fabulous Fling to raise funds for programs, staff funding, supplies, and facilities. A book fair was also held. As the school celebrated reading, money was raised for the library that will be used to purchase books and bring in notable authors later in the year. This year we introduced a Breakfast with Dads along with Family Night where families turned out for dinner by Craig O's followed by several educational speakers for parenting such as dealing with sibling rivalry while the children were entertained by Carl Anderson.

Please notice neighborhood businesses that have made generous contributions or provided support to HP this year. These businesses received posters created by HP students during a monthly CLASS service project. Any business interested in serving as a Partner in Education is welcome to contact Julie Ziegelman at <a href="mailto:jziegelman@austin.rr.com">jziegelman@austin.rr.com</a>.

#### Highland Park Elementary Upcoming Events <u>Prospective Parent Orientations:</u>

Tuesday, March 6, April 3 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Visit with school staff, PTA representatives, and Highland Park parents. We will share information, answer questions, and conduct tours of the school.

#### Scottie Pup Camp

Wednesday, March 21 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Families entering in Fall 2007 are invited to participate in story time in the school library, have a snack in the cafeteria and play on the playground.

#### Kindergarten and First Grade Roundup

Register for the 2007-2008 school year while children have the opportunity to visit a classroom. Bring your child's social security card, original birth certificate, current immunization record and proof of residency.

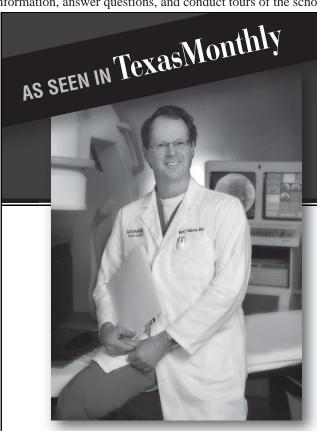
#### **Monthly Play Dates for Incoming Students**

Join us for a play date at Perry Playground (by the tennis courts) and meet other families with children entering HP in the fall of 2007. We will meet the 1st Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. and the 3rd Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m.

### **Advertising Information**

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.
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# Highland Park West Balcones Area

#### **Working with Custom Cabinetry**

by Stephanie Wilson, ASID

I love our neighborhood! A quick walk through the community confirms that many agree with my sentiment. Just about everywhere, there are the sights of construction dumpsters, the sounds of hammers pounding and the smell of freshly applied paint. Homeowners are investing in their home – making their living spaces more beautiful, more functional and, hopefully, more valuable.

One way to increase your home's value is to make it more efficient, rather than to make it larger. A wonderful way to accomplish this is to add storage in the form of customized cabinetry.

Custom cabinetry creates space for display and storage. It can even add a work surface or additional seating such as a bench or a banquette. Here are a few things to consider when designing your custom millwork.

- 1. Brighten a dark or oak-stained existing cabinet with paint.
- 2. Update an existing cabinet with new stylish hardware.
- 3. Vary the look of long cabinet span by using different heights and widths of the various units.
- 4. Create visual interest by using a mix of solid front cabinet doors, open shelves and cabinet doors with an insert of glass, metal or fabric.
- 5. Add legs to bottom cabinets to create the look of furniture.
- 6. Add grommets for wire management.
- Consider carefully the quantity of electrical outlets needed to accommodate all pieces of audio and visual equipment to be placed in shelves.
- 8. Place attractive baskets and bins with color and texture on open shelves to house small items.
- 9. place recessed lighting and glass shelves at the top of the millwork unit to enhance and display favorite objects and collections.
- 10. Use something interesting for the back wall of your shelves such as accent paint, wallpaper or mirrors.

Custom cabinetry can be lots of fun to design but it can quickly become complicated, requiring scaled drawings and elevations to accurately convey your idea to your cabinetmaker. A qualified Interior Designer can be a major asset in the design, fabrication and installation phases, saving you both precious time and money.

## Former Newsletter Editor Makes it Big!

Jeanne Sievert, former editor of the HPWBANA newsletter has published her first novel, Foolish Diversion: A Triple T & Herman Mystery. Go to <a href="https://www.communitypresshome.com">www.communitypresshome.com</a> to read reviews of her book and order your copy. <a href="https://congratulations">Congratulations</a>, Jeanne!

# lucky dog.



Austin Canine Central 706 Brentwood Street 512.458.8800

#### **How Did Your Family Enjoy the Snow?**



Ben Fisher enjoys the snow in the neighborhood!

The freezing rain and snow brought a lot of excitement to the Highland Park Balcones West Area. Many families spent time baking cookies, making home made bread, and doing arts projects. Kids near Westview transformed Ridgemoor into a sledding hill! Do you have a good photo from the snow and ice? Send it to <a href="carrob99@hotmail.com">carrob99@hotmail.com</a> to place it in the newsletter.





# **Coyote Alert**

Aggressive covote behavior, including dog attacks, has been reported in the general area of 45th Street and Bull Creek (state property area). The wildlife biologist is monitoring this area. Residents should report all coyote activity to 311.

Check out the Area Wildlife page on the www.hpwbana.org for information on coyote behavior and how to discourage coyotes from becoming comfortable around people. Here are 10 suggestions residents can do to help out:

- 1. Do not feed coyotes or other wildlife. (The wildlife biologist ensures us that the wildlife in our area can find enough natural food.)
- 2. Eliminate sources of water.
- 3. Bird feeders should be positioned so that coyotes can't get the feed. Coyotes are attracted by bread, table scraps, and even seed. They may also be attracted by birds and rodents that come to the feeders. They are also attracted to deer feed.
- 4. Do not discard edible garbage where coyotes can get to it.
- 5. Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- 6. Feed pets indoors whenever possible. Pick up any leftovers if feeding outdoors. Store pet food where it is inaccessible to
- 7. Trim and clean, near ground level, any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for coyotes or prey.

- 8. As in all cases, small children should never be left unattended.
- 9. Don't allow pets for run free. Keep them safely confined and provide secure nighttime housing for them. Walk your dog on a leash and accompany your pet outside, especially at night.
- 10. Discourage coyotes from frequenting you area. If you start seeing coyotes around you home or property, chase them away by shouting, making loud noises or throwing rocks.

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#### **Keep Austin Beautiful**

22nd Annual Citywide Cleanup Saturday, March 31st, 2007, 9:00-11:00 Please visit the parks and other public green spaces in our area to help pick up litter.

> Perry Park Mt Bonnell Mayfield Park

If you want to help with one of the bigger cleanups going on around town check out the Keep Austin Beautiful website at www. keepaustinbeautiful.org.

Thanks for helping keep our public areas clean!

#### Oak Leaf Roller

Have you ever wondered about those little worms that dangle down from the oak trees in the spring? For example, what are they, exactly? Here is your official answer: Oak leaf rollers. They are yellowishgreen caterpillars with a dark brown head capsule that dangle from silken thread on oak trees. These caterpillars usually show up when the oak trees leaf out in the spring.

# **HPWBANA** Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meetings:

March 26, 2007 Yarborough Library 2200 Hancock Drive 7:00-8:30 pm



http://www.brightleaf.org/abl.html

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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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 of \$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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Questions about membership? Please contact kristasaeger@yahoo.com	ct Krista Saeger at 380-9062 or via email at

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