



The HPWBANA News

Volume 3, Number 4

April 2007

www.hpwbana.org

Volunteers Plant Trees in Perry Park!

by Nadene Morning



Volunteers gather to plant trees at Perry Park!



Greg Morning and Cash Robinson begin planting the first tree!



Cash Robinson, shovel in hand!

The Perry Park Tree Planting on Feb 17th was a great success with over 50 people stopping by the park to plant over 45 native trees throughout the park. Neighbors, TreeFolks volunteers and PARD personnel tackled the task in about an hour and a half! A second workday occurred on March 10 and 16 more trees were planted. The end count is 63 new trees for the park!

The trees were provided by PARD as part of their tree replacement program for parks. They team up with the TreeFolks organization (www.treefolks.org) multiple times a year to plant trees in parks throughout Austin. Perry Park made the list this year. TreeFolks helped out recruiting volunteers, providing snacks and providing detailed planting instructions.

Many thanks to the people from TreeFolks who helped with our neighborhood planting: Marcus Gore, Ed Piston, Colleen Dieter, Carleen South, and Shawn Lee.

The HPWBANA and the Highland Park PTA worked with PARD on the design, tree types, and locations. This was not an easy task because PARD has many guidelines to work within regarding types of trees, tree location, and tree spacing. Thanks to those involved: Wes Amberboy, Sean Compton, Carolyn Robinson, Dave Woods, and Nadene Morning.

The PARD was outstanding. They not only provided the trees, they helped with the design and planting and even ensured the new running track would be protected.

PARD will water the trees for two years. Max Moore, Brack Green and their crew deserve a much appreciated thank you.

Take a walk through Perry Park to check out the new trees! Or just drive by Balcones and Big Bend, you can't miss the line of new trees along the sidewalk. Many thanks go out to the volunteers who spent a Saturday morning working in their park! These trees will add beauty and shade to the area for many years.

What is next in the park? Reed Thomas, a local scout, will be doing his Eagle Scout project at the park. A flagstone pathway is planned for the park entrance near the tennis courts.

Highland Park West Balcones Area

Helpful Phone Numbers

Austin Citywide Information Center974-2000 or 311
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

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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

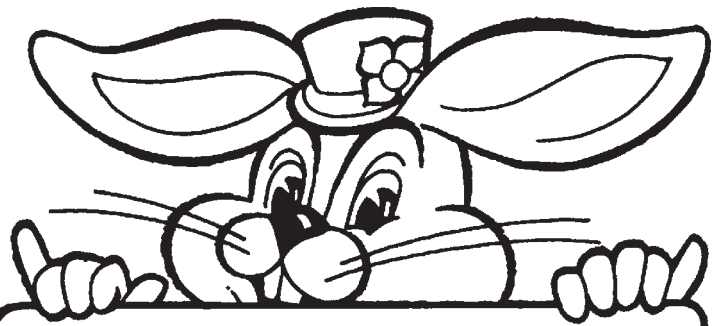
HPWBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St.

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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 help hide eggs!
Contact Carolyn Robinson 302-5417 or
email carrob99@hotmail.com

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meetings:

April 23, 2007
Yarborough Library
2200 Hancock Drive
7:00-8:30 pm

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Message From the Board

The HPWBANA Board consists of nine volunteers in our community who work directly with neighbors to discuss and either help resolve issues or implement recommendations in our neighborhood. There are many ways to voice your concerns and suggestions via the Board and to the neighborhood association as a whole.

Sometimes an individual concern, or just the need for clarification about a possible issue can be resolved via a simple phone call to one of the nine Board members or Committee Chairs listed at www.hpwbana.org. Another forum in which to raise a concern or recommendation is to attend the monthly HPWBANA Board Meetings, held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7pm at Yarborough Library. (Please notify Nadene Morning, Board President, prior to the meeting so she can add your item to the agenda.) A group of neighbors from the Perry Lane/Valley Oak area did this in January to highlight a severe flooding issue, their progress with the City thus far to resolve the issue, and to solicit additional neighborhood feedback and HPWBANA support. The neighbors are leading the efforts, yet HPWBANA will help out as needed. It is critical that this watershed have the capacity to drain the water flow correctly and make this area safe.

When there is evidence of a much larger issue affecting the neighborhood, the Board may find it necessary to coordinate a special program meeting for all residents to further neighborhood awareness and educate residents, or engage with the neighbors directly to solicit their feedback about a neighborhood concern.

For example, last fall many neighbors contacted the Board about changes

that were disrupting the character of the neighborhood (e.g., teardowns, stealth dorms, non-permissible duplexes, etc). Tonianne Soster, Board Member and Zoning Committee Chair, spearheaded a meeting entitled "Deed Restriction Violations and City Code Enforcement." The meeting provided resources to address these growing concerns with City officials and/or entities, including: APD, COA Code Enforcement, and a Real Estate Attorney.

Most recently, the Board was presented details of a prospective buyer interested in purchasing a single-family home east of Mopac with the intent of opening a Montessori School. Krista Saeger from our Zoning Committee investigated the process and the requirements with the appropriate City departments. Andrea Torres and Frances Allen, residents who live in that area, worked with Krista to get a letter delivered to 70 homes in the immediate area to make the neighbors aware of the situation and to solicit neighborhood feedback. The feedback from the community was clear and unified, and as a result, the project is 'on hold'. The main concern of neighbors was traffic. Many thanks to the neighbors who worked on the project, and for the respectful manner in which feedback was provided.

The Board remains active in ensuring that information affecting our neighborhood is shared with the community, whether it be through the monthly newsletter, our website www.hpwbana.org, or via the HPWBANA Yahoo group. However, as you can see from the examples above, neighborhood involvement is very important as we strive to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Guess Who's Coming to Town?

By Margot Clarke

The weatherman made the announcement in late February: after an extraordinarily wet January, central Texas had had an extraordinarily dry February. Gone was the hopeful talk of El Niño refilling the lakes and relieving our two-year long drought. No, now another weather entity was preparing to arrive on the scene – La Niña, the drier-than-normal counterpart to El Niño. The fact that a meteorologist would mention hurricane season for hope of breaking the drought, made it very clear that we are in a bad way, waterwise.

Here in Austin, we are unused to thinking about being short on water. Many people have green lawns practically year-round, our trees are large and leafy, and every day a big chunk of our population sees our Town Lake curving through downtown, full of water sparkling in the sun. The water bills for our homes are merged into our overall utility bill. Most of us have no idea how many gallons of water we use in a month at our residence. Even worse, very few would know what that amount meant about our usage: was it a lot, or not? Are we wasting water? Are there easy ways to conserve this precious resource? Would we have to give up our lawns?

Well, here is a little info and a few tips about water conservation. First, that water bill – on the back side of your City of Austin utility bill are four sections. In the second section, Water Services, there is a line in bold type that says “Total Consumption in Gallons” – so there it is, your household’s water use for that month, in round hundreds

of gallons. To figure out where you are in the scheme of conserving water, divide that number by the number of days in the billing cycle, then divide the result by the number of people in the household. In the last couple of years, a statewide Water Conservation Task Force established a goal for what that number, the gallons per capita daily or gpcd, can be to be efficient but not overly stringent in water use. The amount they recommend? It’s 140 gpcd.

Now don’t be shocked if your number is quite a bit higher than that. In 2000, the average in Travis County was over 172 gpcd. Remember, this is a goal; however, in Bexar County, where water conservation efforts had been in full swing for several years, they were already below 153. Also, remember that the price of water steps up with higher usage (and this is wintertime).

So, how can you start lowering your number? First and foremost, just pay attention! When you turn a faucet in the kitchen or bathroom or out in the yard, be aware – don’t turn it on to a fast flow and let it run unnecessarily. Don’t linger in the shower, always wash full loads of dishes and laundry (or even get a water-saving front loader), take advantage of the city’s rebates for buying low-flow or dual-flush toilets, and most of all, be carefully stingy with your landscape watering. Use native plants and xeriscape instead of a lot of turf grass. And speaking of grass, many of us in this part of town have

(Continued on Page 5)

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Guess Who's Coming- (Continued from Page 4)

deep soil – if you water often for short times, the roots of your grass can't grow and strengthen by following the water as it dries down from the surface. A thorough soaking can tide lawns over for even a couple of weeks if you have heavy, clay soil in your yard.

For more conservation ideas, take a look at the city's website: <http://www.cityofaustin.org/watercon/> More on saving water (and money) coming here soon.

Margot Clarke represents HPWBANA on the Citizens's Water Conservation Committee.

A Note from our Wildlife Biologist...

Please do not intentionally or unintentionally feed coyotes by placing pet food outdoors. Coyotes that have access to such food resources in residential areas will generally become more bold around people, enter yards to kill small pets or attack dogs, and may ultimately exhibit aggressive behaviors that threaten human health and safety.

Randy O. Farrar

Wildlife Damage Management Biologist

Texas Cooperative Extension - Wildlife Services

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Camp Mabry Muster Days

Saturday, April 14 and Sunday, April 15

“Thanking our Neighbors for Supporting our Troops”

“Muster Day” recalls the American militia tradition of the annual gathering of the Minutemen. The militiamen were to appear with weapon and ammunition at the annual “muster” to demonstrate their willingness to defend the community. Revitalized more than 30 years ago, “Muster Day” is now a time to reflect on the spirit of the militiaman as carried on today by Texas Military forces. Representatives of the current Army National guard and Air National guard, as well as numerous re-enactors will be present at Camp Mabry. Fly-overs of military aircraft and a parade of historic vehicles are all part of the weekend, which is climaxed by a mock battle between German Army and Allied World War II re-enactors on Sunday Afternoon.

Saturday April 14

0700	Flag Raising Ceremony
0900	Parade of Armor and Re-enactors
	F-16 Fighter Jet Flyover by Texas Air Guard
0900 until 1700	Living history Exhibits
	Buffalo soldiers
	Remote Control Armor Demonstrations
	36th Infantry Division Band Concerts
	Firing Demonstrations
1000	Hall of Honor Induction (Museum)
1100	Texas Revolution Demonstration (Picnic Area)
1300	1st Cav Drill Demonstration (Parade Field)
1400	Civil War Demonstration (Picnic Area)
1500	World War II Battle Re-enactment (Pond Area)
1700	Event Closes

Sunday, April 15

0900 until 1500	Living History exhibits (All Locations)
1100	Texas Revolutions Demonstrations (Picnic Area)
1300	Civil War Demonstration (Picnic Area)
1400	World War II Battle re-enactment (Pond Area)
1500	Event Closes

For more information on Muster Days, please call 782-5770

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

MOPAC UPDATE

MoPac 1 Open Houses on April 10 and 12

MoPac 1 open houses will be held on Tuesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 12. Doors will be open from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., allowing persons to arrive at their convenience and proceed through the displays at their own pace. Location information will be announced soon.

The purpose of the open houses is to discuss improving mobility along the corridor in a safe, efficient, reliable and environmentally sensitive manner, and to receive input regarding the evaluation of alternatives. The open houses will provide you with an opportunity to review and comment on the process used to develop a recommended alternative.

Austin District Sample Noise Barrier Advances Toward Construction

TxDOT has scheduled a bid opening before the middle of March for construction of the Austin District's Sample Noise Barrier. Construction of the sample noise barrier should begin soon thereafter and, weather permitting; completion is expected this spring/summer.

For more information about the MoPac 1 project please visit the MoPAC1 website at www.MoPac1.org or call the project information line at 512-498-7700.

John P. Kelly, MoPac 1 Project Manager, DMJM Harris

Neighborhood Crime Watch Update

by the Crime and Safety Committee

Three crime and safety related alerts went out to the neighborhood this past winter (trash bin theft of garbage, a coyote alert, and suspicious activity regarding people walking the neighborhood trying to open front doors). This means it is a good time to review our neighborhood crime watch program. All crime and safety notices are emailed residents using the hpwbana yahoo listserv. If you are not a member of this listserv consider joining to receive updates on neighborhood news: (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hpwbana/>). Of course if you receive a crime or safety related alert please feel free to forward it on to local neighborhood email lists. Most alerts also make it into our newsletter.

A couple of things to know...

- When alerts or communication messages are sent to us from official organizations (APD, animal control, etc) we pass them along via the listserv and our newsletter.
- When individual crime incidents are brought to our attention we may choose to discuss them further with organizations to verify the information and present advice from that organization. This is particularly useful for crime trends.
- Individuals can post crime incidents to inform other neighbors.
- HPWBANA is not aware of all the various crime that occurs in our neighborhood. APD crime page is a resource for that information (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/crimeinformation.htm>).

The Crime and Safety Committee is trying to improve the process. If you would like to get more involved please contact Blake Stanford, blake@swhuman.org

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Samantha Wilson catches a snowflake during the "snowstorm" in February.

Highland Park West Balcones Area

TROWEL & ERROR!

Mayfield Park

On Saturday, April 7, from 10 AM to 1 PM, Mayfield Park will once again host **Trowel & Error**, the spring event that annually attracts gardeners from far and wide to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks, **Trowel & Error** will feature Sue Nazar, landscape designer, describing the pleasures of Texas-style cottage gardening. Scott Thurmon, garden designer, will demonstrate how container planting will raise your garden to new heights. Rounding out the day, Colleen Dieter, horticulturist and plant care specialist, will help you solve your puzzling plant problems.

For those who arrive early enough, Mayfield's hard-to-find heirloom bulbs and perennials may be purchased for your April garden. Also featured will be the legendary raffle of "garden goodies".

No one leaves **Trowel & Error** without a smile, many with an armful of heirloom plants. It's a wonderful way, rain or shine, to spend a morning, learning how to add color into your spring landscape while relaxing in West Austin's own beautiful back yard among gregarious peacocks, towering palms, flowering trees and ponds filled with lilies. ...and for only a \$5.00 donation!!

For more information contact Karen at 453-7074 or neenok@aol.com

It's My Park Day

Austin Parks Foundation

Perry Park

April 14th

9:00 am

This is a citywide event coordinated by the Austin Parks Foundation. A small Perry Park activity is being planned. Check out our website (www.hpwbana.org) for details.

You can also check out the APF website (<http://www.austinparks.org>) to find out what is going on with other parks throughout the city. APF will be looking for volunteers to help with all the various park projects. Spend a morning helping out this group that focuses on our parks!

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HUGE Problem...

Kids Need More PE!

My name is Todd Wright. I am the strength and conditioning coach for the men and women's basketball teams at the University of Texas. I am writing about the article "Senator pushing to bring PE back" in the Austin Statesman, Metro and State section on Friday, February 7th.

I have three children, ages 8, 5 and 2. I was shocked to learn that my children were developing their motor skills in school only 2 times per week. This is a huge problem facing Texas and our entire country. As parents we need to have a greater awareness of why this is a crucial issue that needs to be addressed. From kindergarten to grade 12 a child's Central Nervous System is yearning to be developed. They are like balls of putty ready to be molded into something incredibly strong to create a foundation of movement skills to support them for the rest of their lives.

1. How often did you go to PE when you were growing up?

- I distinctly remember going 5 days a week on top of recess every day. Just think of the difference in hours that you spent moving compared to your children right now. There is a huge difference.

2. How many video games did you play after school? How often did you get on the computer and surf the net?

- Probably never; these things were not available. We were outside playing.

I am not bashing technology. It can be an incredible resource for developing education. However the need to move our children is more important ever, since they do not get enough exercise at school.

The article stated: "Teachers know what happens when kids get stuck behind a desk all day"... I will say these are facts that have happened from staying behind desks without PE.

* 1 in 3 children will soon be at risk of type 2 diabetes. A disease that doesn't allow your body to regulate insulin correctly.

* For the first time in this country our children's life expectancy has been lowered. Their lives are predicted to be shorter than ours.

Our bodies are our vehicles for success, no matter what we choose to do in life-- athlete, musician, laborer, teacher, parent. Our bodies allow us to accomplish everything in our life. Life is based on moving. We all walk, bend, reach, extend, run, and pick things up. In essence we are all athletes.

You will be amazed what happens when you encourage and empower a child to do something physically. I know. I have been lucky to coach young adults for the last 13 years. Putting money into PE would save our country so much money in future health care costs. The great State of Texas could be the leader in making this change. I believe this change is vital for the success and happiness of our children and the development of our future leaders.

I hope all who read this will spread the word on how important this is. Awareness and educating parents is the key to get the support to help this bill get passed.

Sincerely

Todd Wright

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