



The HPWBANA News

Volume 3, Number 5

May 2007

www.hpwbana.org

YOU'RE INVITED



Date: Saturday, May 19th
Time: 6:30 Picnic & Music in the Park
7:45 Movie begins in the Quarry

see event details inside

TO A MOVIE IN PERRY PARK

HPWBANA Board

Welcomes Andrea Torres

We welcome Andrea Torres who was voted onto the HPWBANA Board during the March meeting. She is filling the open board position created by the resignation of Jennifer Smith in January. Andrea lives in the neighborhood east of MoPAC. Her initial focus will be the traffic issues that have developed on the north on ramp to MoPAC on Highland Terrace. This on ramp has become a neighborhood speedway. Andrea will also keep posted on what is going on in the Allandale Neighborhood Association because this area is actually represented by both ANA and HPWBANA. Welcome Andrea!



Congratulations Senior Class of 2007

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

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 Officer 974-5440
 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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Picnic & Movie in Perry Park

Come join your friends and neighbors to celebrate the end of the school year and beginning of summer vacation. HPWBANA will feature Disney's blockbuster hit



Where: Perry Park
 (behind Highland Park Elementary)

When: Saturday, May 19
 Picnic begins at 6:30 and
 movie begins at dusk (about 7:45)

Highlights:
 Musical entertainment by
 Lurleen Ladd & band during picnic
 Concessions available

Things to bring:
 Picnic or money for concessions (no alcohol please)
 Chairs or blankets to sit on
 flashlights!

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 contact Chereen@austin.rr.com for a reserved parking space

check out www.HPWBANA.org for updated info

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

MOPAC Corridor Developments

By Sam Haddad

Over the course of the past several months, the Loop 1/MoPac Corridor Project planning team has completed the "MoPac One-to-One" meetings. And, on April 2, 2007, the MoPac1 Aesthetics Advisory Committee (AAC) held its first of six meetings to address neighbor and community concerns over MoPac corridor issues.

In February, Texas Department of Transportation ("TxDOT"), solicited applications from persons interested in serving on an Aesthetics Advisory Committee (AAC) for the MoPac1 project. All of the committee's positions have been filled, which include nine community representatives, a Texas Historical Commission (THC) representative, a City of Austin (COA) representative, the TxDOT project manager and the TxDOT District Landscape Architect.

Members of the MoPac1 AAC were selected to represent the various neighborhoods along the MoPac corridor. HPWBANA is fortunate to have three neighbors – consisting of current and former Board members – on the AAC committee.

The purpose of the MoPac1 AAC is to develop and make recommendations for the various aesthetics elements associated with the MoPac1 Project. The goal of the AAC is to give public stakeholders a chance to interact and provide community feedback to the MoPac1 Project Team. Some of the aesthetics issues that will be

addressed by AAC members include issues such as sound wall design, landscaping, maintenance, sound, lighting, access, and safety.


What does this all mean to the neighborhoods along the MoPac corridor? The relevant facts that have been disclosed to us are: approximately \$112 million in partial funding is available for the sound walls, the projected start date is sometime in 2008 with construction predicted to take at least 2 years.

We have been advised that on March 12, the bid opening for the sample noise barrier was held, and no bids were submitted by contractors. TxDOT is going to talk with local contractors and re-bid the project with a bid opening on May 12.

As more information and details become available we will provide additional summaries of each AAC meeting for the neighbors. The next MoPac1 AAC meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2007, and will focus on landscaping issues for the MoPac corridor.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

No U-turn Sign Posted – finally!

A 'No U-Turn' sign has been posted at Perry Lane and 45th St, just north of the back gate to Camp Mabry on the west side of MoPac. The City of Austin erected the sign on Tuesday, April 3rd. On a daily basis, numerous vehicles have been seen making a U-turn to avoid the line of traffic turning left onto 45th St. from MoPac's southbound exit ramp. Neighbors had requested a 'No U-Turn' sign after seeing many vehicles make this illegal turn (over a double yellow line), and witnessing a number of near-miss accidents with oncoming traffic. Per the City, there is an existing regulation prohibiting U-turns at this intersection. If the sign is missing, or has been knocked down, please contact COA Customer Service Request System at 974-2000. If you witness cars continuing to make an illegal U-turn, please report this to the APD Traffic Tip Line at 974-4440.

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meetings:
No May Meeting due to Memorial Day Holiday
Yarborough Library
2200 Hancock Drive
7:00-8:30 pm

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Austin Dog Parks

Dog owners: please do not "walk" your dog off leash! While you know and trust your dog, others do not. Please keep your dog on the leash when he is not in your yard. Neighbors with small children have asked that we put this request in the newsletter.

Here is a great link listing the various off leash dog parks in Austin. These 12 parks are great for dogs because they can run and socialize. Some are very close to our area. A few even have access to swimming areas! <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/dogparks.htm>



And just to be neighborly... If your dog spends lots of time in a fenced yard you may want to check to see if your dog's frequent barking is driving your neighbors crazy. You may not even realize it you are not at home when it occurs.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Gardening Corner

Damianita: Tough Enough for Texas Summers

Here comes summer. Are you looking for a compact, evergreen plant that's tough enough to take Austin's blistering summers in stride? Try damianita (*Chrysactinia mexicana*). This little native is a stalwart, trouble-free plant with a marvelous spring show of mustard-yellow flowers. In my garden it shares a sunny, curbside location with Mexican feathergrass. That spot must reach 130 degrees on especially hot summer days, but I don't have to baby damianita. With an occasional summer soaking, it stays fresh and green year round. And did I mention that mass of yellow flowers in spring?

If you'd like to read about more plants that grow well in Austin, visit my garden blog at www.penick.net/digging.

Pam Penick,
Beautification
Committee Member



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Highland Park News

Highland Park looks forward to meeting incoming Scottie Families on May 1st at 8:30 am at Kinder/1st Grade Round-Up! Parents and future Kinder/1st graders should bring a birth certificate, current record of immunizations, proof of address and parent's driver's license. Parents will have a brief orientation and a chance to fill out paperwork while students get the chance to spend time in a Kinder classroom.

On May 11th, HP will celebrate the completion of track renovations with a Fun Run. If you would like to register for this fun run, contact the school's office at 414-2090.

Highland Park offers fun and exciting summer camps for children ages 4 through 6th grade. If you would like to check out the offerings or register, go to www.hppta.org and download registration forms.

Finally, HP is slated for some additional AISD 2004 Apple at Work Bond projects this summer. There will be new roofing, new windows, the installation of a play slab cover, and a new front door will be installed that will lead directly into the main office. Construction should be completed by the 1st day of 2007-2008 school year which is August 27th! Landscape improvements by the PTA will follow once the construction crews are finished.

HPWBANA Yahoo Listserv

Interested in getting emails about what is going on in the neighborhood? Join our HPWBANA yahoo listserv: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hpwbana/>

Just click on the Join this Group button and follow instructions. A yahoo login and password setup is involved so you control how and where you get emails.

The HPWBANA sends out neighborhood information using this listserv. Members can also post messages easily by logging into your yahoo account and using the "Post" or "Reply" buttons. Note the "To" box in order to correctly direct your message. Posted messages are approved by our moderator, Marvin Smith, before being sent out. Question about getting started? Contact Marvin at marvin@marvinsmith.com

Note: You can also reply to messages received using your mail account, although these replies go only to the group owner and moderator. You can redirect this if you like by changing the "To" box.

Join today to stay current on neighborhood news.

Scottie Olympics!



Message From the Board

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor cold could keep the egg hunters from finding the eggs hidden at Perry Park! Thanks and congratulations to the many volunteers and participants who helped make the Annual Perry Park Egg Hunt a fantastic success. No one could have predicted the terrible weather we would have to deal with AND no one could have predicted that so many families would



**Former HPWBANA President and current HPWBANA President-oops—
The Easter Bunny!**

show up despite that bad weather! We are dedicated to fun, aren't we? Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the egg hunt:

Janet Farrer, Richard Farrer, Melanie Jones, Ashley Waggoner, Trey Blundell, Jacob Blundell, Alex Blundell, Susan Rauch, Chereen Fisher, Ben Fisher, Will Fisher, Kristi Moriarty, Peter Saeger, Krista Saeger, Francis Allen, Carolyn Robinson, Cash Robinson, Rhett Robinson, and Nadene Morning. Special thanks go to the Easter Bunny! My apologies to anyone I missed, and if you found one of the Golden Eggs, please email me at carrob99@hotmail.com.



Catalina, Adelaide, Allison and Samantha warm up before the Perry Park Egg Hunt!



Catalina and Adelaide stay close to the Easter Bunny!



Cash Robinson tries to stay dry!

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