



The HPWBANA News

Volume 3, Number 8

August 2007

www.hpwbana.org

HPWBANA Board Member appointed to City Council Task Force

Tonianne Soster, HPWBANA resident and Board Member has been appointed to serve on the Task Force for Occupancy. This newly created committee will investigate housing issues in Austin, focusing particularly on the number of unrelated person that can occupy a home. The committee will report their findings to City Council. Tonianne was appointed to the task force by Austin City Council member Brewster McCracken. In addition to this new role, Tonianne continues to serve as the chairperson of the HPWBANA Planning and Zoning Committee where she has lead an awareness campaign against "stealth dorms". The HPWBANA Board congratulates Tonianne on her appointment and thanks her for her continued service to our community.

HPWBANA Board Meetings

Please attend our next monthly meetings:

Monday, August 27
Yarborough Library
2200 Hancock Drive
7:00-8:30 pm

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**

Message from the Board:

A Shady Deal for Perry Park Tennis Courts!

The BIG news this month for Perry Park improvements involves the tennis courts. A few years ago Highland Park Elementary Coach Dave Woods had a vision that the tennis court benches need covers to provide some relief from the sun for the many tennis players out there. HPWBANA applied for a grant from Austin Parks Foundation to help fund this project – and we were approved! Bench shades are very expensive and APF will fund most of the costs. HPWBANA will donate \$1,000. Perry Park has seen a great outpouring of community support these last years and our efforts have been noticed. If you would like to make a donation to help with the \$1,000 needed, send checks, noted for the tennis court fund, to HPWBANA, PO Box 26101, Austin TX 78755.

Many thanks Austin Parks Foundation!!!
Nadene Morning

Block Party Celebration!

By Dawn Allen

The neighbors on Fairview recently gathered to welcome new neighbors and celebrate summer. Everyone brought a side dish or dessert to share and there were grills for all to use. There was also a large water blow-up slide for the kids to play on!! It was a wonderful time for everyone to get to know the new people on our block and in the neighborhood!! Thanks to all the organizers!



Neighbors have fun at a block party!

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

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 Yarbrough 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.

Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755

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Classified Ads

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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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. Question about getting started? Contact our listserv moderator Marvin Smith at marvin@marvinsmith.com

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!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Believe it or not

By Margot Clark,

Citizen Advisory Committee for the Water Conservation Task Force

It's Fourth of July, I am at the lake near Spicewood, and I can hardly believe my eyes. I am thinking about the end of last year, when so much of this lake was gone, replaced by grassy, rolling banks. Right now, though, "Lake" Travis is performing its duty under its very raison d'être - it is containing floodwaters from several other reservoirs, the Highland Lakes.

Another thing hard to believe is that today, tomorrow, and forever we need to vigorously conserve water. It doesn't matter what you think about crazy weather, or climate change; clean water is just too valuable (or costly, if you will) to use carelessly. **Did you know?** - saving water saves energy, too. We use large amounts of electricity to clean and deliver, not to mention recollect water. I love saving electricity, trying to squeeze as much as possible out of those kilowatt hours (kWh) on my bill. Check out how much electricity your household is consuming by looking on the backside of your utility bill - the first section has the kilowatt hours you bought. The average monthly amount is 1,000 kWh.

But back to water: there, too, efficiency is not only critical, it's also effective and relatively easy. There are no cheaper gallons (or kilowatts) available than the ones we don't use. And if we ever end up having to pay the real value of safe water filling our glass (and our toilet tank), conservation will be seen to be rewarding indeed.

So, right now, when everything is so soggy, be sure your sprinkler system isn't leaking. Or fix that dripping faucet. Invest a little into a high-efficiency toilet, or a rain barrel. Even when it is pouring (as it is again at this moment) and the grass is green all by itself, remember to be stingy with your water, respect it as the life-essential resource it is, and squeeze!

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. Sales Office at 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

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Highland Park Elementary School News

Join the HP Scotties for Rally Day
Friday, August 24th
2:30-3:30 to meet your child's teacher.

The First Day of School Monday, August 27th at 7:30.

If you still need to register your Scottie for the 2007-2008 school year to the Highland Park website, www.hppta.org or contact the Registrar, Bunny Pierce, at epierce@austinisd.org or 414-2090.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Back in Black?

by Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis

Our family looks forward to summer on Westview Drive as a special time: baby deer time! We've had fawns born in our back yard several times over the last eight years. And while we don't always like the landscape limitations to which our local deer population restricts us, we truly enjoy the almost-daily deer parade through our yard. And little fawns make it even more fun!

Imagine our surprise when, upon returning from vacation, we saw not only two mamas and their regular babies in our back yard, but also an all-black fawn! Our neighbors across the street, the Tatus, and next door, the Topracs, confirmed the existence of this incredible beast. The Topracs said the black deer was born in their yard a few weeks earlier. Ten-year-old Sophia Toprac christened the animal "Genetic Anomaly"; though around our house we're still arguing "Midnight" vs. "Smokey".

We all rushed to the computer to find out more about black deer. We discovered that a "melanistic" animal is one which has "an increased amount of black or nearly black pigmentation (as of skin, feathers, or hair) of an organism, resulting from the presence of melanin. It is the opposite of albinism, which occurs due to lack of melanin. More technically, it refers to a phenotype in which the pigmentation of an

organism is entirely, or nearly entirely, expressed." (Wikipedia) Black deer are extremely rare, even more so than albino deer. But, it also turns out there are more black deer in Central Texas than in the rest of the world combined, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife. They say, "Still, don't expect to step out your back door and see one." Well, we got that one beat! (<http://www.tpwmagazine.com/archive/2005/nov/scout4/>)

I wonder about the diversity of our neighborhood's deer population. The black fawn has a normal-looking mother and a normal twin. But they are all usually in the company of another adult female with an obviously darker face and spine. I already noticed this particular doe's markings last year. This summer she has a normal, single fawn. Perhaps the black fawn and the "darker" doe are half-siblings of the older normal female, and she is the one carrying the gene for melanism? The older a doe is, the more likely she is to have twins, so I'm using that as the basis for my assumption.

Anyway, we may yet see more black deer in the neighborhood, so keep your eyes open – especially since they are harder to see!

- Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Highland Park West Subdivision History

by Leo W. Little

The Highland Park West Subdivision was developed in northwest Austin after World War II by local businessman, Edgar Howard Perry, Jr. This page provides a brief history of the subdivision.

The Republic of Texas era (1836-1845) recognized five land grants for property that would one day become Highland Park West.

The land went through a series of owners in the 1800s, and the Int'l and Great Northern Railroad was granted a right-of-way in 1876.

1900 Charles Thiele bought all of the land that would later become Highland Park West except for a small tract owned by Franz Fiset.

Fiset sold his land in 1928 to Lawrence McCarty, who built a small store near the present-day Randalls.

Thiele owned the "McGary house", built in 1859, which still stands on Bull Creek Rd. His farm grew corn and cotton, and provided pasture for cattle. Thiele briefly ran a failed "silk plantation" in 1918.

Mount Bonnell to the east was a popular spot in early 1920s with folks driving their Model T's to the summit for weekend picnics.

During the Prohibition Era (1920-1933), the Austin-Burnet Road (now Hancock Drive) provided access to moonshine stills in the hills northwest of Austin.

A thriving cedar yard graced the south side of the Austin-Burnet Road in the 1920s and the Austin Memorial Cemetery started with a handful of graves about 1925.

Much of the land was leased in the 1920s for a dairy, with Swedish, Italian, Hispanic, and African-American families living on the property.

From 1939 to 1944, Thiele's son leased five acres just south of the cedar yard for a quarry that provided millions of tons of crushed stone to a growing Austin.

The Jimmie Burr Riding School and Horse Stables operated just north of Hancock and west of the railroad in the late 1940s.

By 1945, Mr. Perry bought the land in the area, and incorporated the Highland Park West Development Co., which divided the land into the present configuration.

Home building started near Hancock and Valley Oak in 1948, with prices in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range. In 1952, Balcones was cut through to 38th St.

Highland Park Elementary school was started in 1952, followed by the park that now bears Edgar H. Perry's name.

The Highland Park shopping center started in the mid-50's with a grocery store, pharmacy, dry cleaners, Winns, and a hamburger joint called "Keko's". Mopac was built in 1976, and Crenshaw's came to Fairview Drive in 1984.

Leo Little lives in the neighborhood. He is an avid genealogist and has been written up in Time magazine and the National Geographic. See the website: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~geneticgenealogy/hpw.htm>

Photos from the Austin History Center.



The photo shows Austin-Burnet Road in 1944. The road entering from the left is Bull Creek.



The Conoco gas station on the corner of Balcones and Hancock in 1966. Note the price of gas was 28.9 cents per gallon.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

COOL JULY 4 PARADE

The July 4 Parade and Celebration was a grand success, and the rain did not discourage neighbors from attending. Thanks to everyone for braving the rainy conditions. Congratulations to all who decorated their "vehicles"; the crowd looked great. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event fun. Thanks to all HPWBANA board members who attended and volunteered their time.

Cynthia and Simon Lew and crew for turning 10 pounds of ice into snow cones!

Greg Morning, grill master, and Lynn and Fred Adams for keeping those dogs coming!

Lurleen Ladd for serving as emcee and songleader!

Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts for leading the parade!

16 Brave Americans who volunteered to read from the Declaration of Independence!



Girls Scouts and Timmy the turtle carry the HPWBANA banner!



Snowcone crew serves the HPWBANA crowd!



Happy Independence Day!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

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:

Movies in Perry Park
July 4th Parade and Picnic
Neighborhood Beautification Efforts
Spring Easter Egg Hunt
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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Questions about membership? Please contact Krista Saeger at 380-9062 or via email at kristasaeger@yahoo.com

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