



The HPWBANA News

Volume 4, Number 5

May 2008

www.hpwbana.org

EGG HUNT

The Annual Perry Park Egg Hunt was a terrific success! The weather was wonderful, the eggs were plentiful, and the bunny was...hopping! Many thanks to all those who donated their time to stuff and hide eggs, and of course, thanks to those who attended. Special thanks to Events Chair, Chereen Fisher for a terrific egg hunt and to Ben Friedman who was brave enough to wear the bunny suit and entertain so many young neighbors! It was a wonderful day filled with fun and good visiting with neighbors! This is a wonderful neighborhood!



The Easter Bunny poses with some young fans.



A young neighbor examines the rocky ledge for eggs.



A young egg hunter examines her prize.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

What does the HPWBANA Board do for you? This small group of volunteers does quite a lot. They happily organize and host fun events for our enjoyment; they host informative meetings to promote a safe, close knit community. The board listens to traffic concerns and zoning problems and help in any way we are able to...in short, we serve you. If you are interested in getting involved and serving on a HPWBANA committee, please contact any board member to volunteer or find out more.

And thanks for renewing your dues. It helps make it all possible!
Carolyn Robinson

OOPS!

In the last issue, we reported that neighbor John Berry was responsible for networking his neighbors to address neighborhood safety and fun. John wrote to let us know that many people have participated in this effort, most notably LouAnn Lindley, Nadene Morning, and Paul Toprac. Thanks for the information John!

March Meeting Highlights

Board members had a lively meeting in March. The successful safety meeting was discussed and we made plans for a follow up meeting to be held in late summer or early fall. Board members also discussed the Perry Park Egg Hunt and upcoming Muster Days at Camp Mabry. Repairs to the dinosaur sandbox will be undertaken in the coming weeks to fix broken "bones".

Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the Yarborough Library on Hancock. Neighbors are encouraged to attend and present any ideas or concerns they may have. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

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 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
Ricardo Vargas, Senior Police Officer	974-5801
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line	210-698-1709

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The HPWBANA Board meets on the 4th Wednesday 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

HWPBANA 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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Heritage Homes Tour – May 17th

Atomic Austin: Mid-Century Modern

Take a nostalgic trip back to simpler times on the 16th annual Heritage Homes Tour featuring nine of Austin's finest Mid-Century Modern homes. The spotlighted residences will pay homage to the city's modernist roots and honor some of Austin's premier mid-century architects. Highlights will include the personal residence of architect Charles Granger and a Westlake home complete with a bomb shelter that the current homeowner discovered virtually untouched since the 1960s, still stocked with cans of food and survival gear. The revamped event will include a Daytime driving tour and a Twilight Tour that will conclude at a Mid-Century Modern bash at the final featured home. Day Tour: \$15 member/\$22 non-member, Twilight Tour: \$75 guest. www.heritagesocietyaustin.org or 512-474-5198.

Time: Day Tour: 10:00 - 4:00 / Twilight Tour 6:30 – 11:00 pm

Tickets: Day Tour: \$15 member/\$22 non-member,
Twilight Tour: \$75 guest

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Contact phone: 512-474-5198

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Settlement Home Needs Parents

By Bridget Shrum

As the recruiter and trainer for the Settlement Home Foster and Adoption program, I hear stories of how people's journeys have led them here—to the orientation, to the training classes, to the first day when their child moves in, and often ultimately to their adoption court day. The part of the story I hear over and over again is that they had been thinking about foster-care or foster-adoption for many years before they met someone, or read something, or heard something on the radio that finally prompted them to make the first call to get information. Some people hesitate because they are single. Some people hesitate because of their age, or because both parents work full-time. Some people hesitate because of the stories they have heard about children's behavior. But none of these reasons have to keep someone from opening their home.

For many parents, singles or couples, foster-adoption is an opportunity to begin the family life they have always wanted, but haven't realized yet. For families with children, it can be a chance to enrich their own family and share what they are already so grateful for. For the grandparents in our program, who have an empty nest but a lot of energy and love left to give, it is a chance to pass on the lessons in life and parenting that they have learned their first time raising children. For the children who wind up in these homes, it is

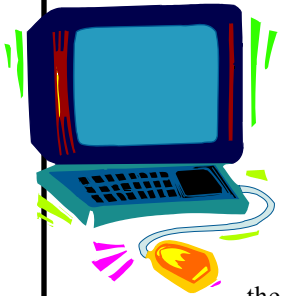
(Continued on Page 7)

Join our ListServ!

The HPWBANA ListServ, hosted by Yahoo, is for members of the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association (HPWBANA) and residents of this neighborhood.

The ListServ is used to disseminate information to all members, via email, on a variety of topics, such as: crime in the neighborhood, upcoming meetings and events, city service issues, etc. The ListServ is moderated, meaning that all posts are reviewed and approved prior to being distributed to the members, to eliminate any inappropriate posts.

All posts by members are sent out via the ListServ email address to protect each member's email address from being seen or used for non-ListServ purposes, i.e. solicitations, spam, etc. Member email addresses are kept private and not used for any purpose other than distributing HPWBANA-related information to members of the neighborhood. To sign up for the list, please send an email to HPWBANA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



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AISD Trustees Call for May 10 School Bond Election

By Julie Cowan

The AISD Board of Trustees has called an election for May 10, to vote on three bond propositions. This bond package is intended to be limited in scope: it addresses overcrowding at those schools in the district at 125%+ capacity, boosts technology for all students and teachers, responds to health & safety mandates and education mandates from outside entities, and maintains current district facilities.

For general information on the bond package, please visit www.austinisd.org.

Several items in the three propositions would affect neighborhood schools in the following way:

Proposition 1:

McCallum – two new science laboratory classrooms; convert one existing classroom into a science laboratory classroom; build a new 500-seat theater (\$7.6 million estimated cost)

Austin – five new science laboratory classrooms with elevator (\$3.7)

McCallum, Lamar, Highland Park, Austin, O’Henry, Casis - all would receive upgrades to technology hardware and systems such as wireless connections, mobile computer carts, grade book and student information programs, in addition to many other items that would enhance instruction and management.

Proposition 2:

McCallum – construct air-gap at kitchen sinks; modify/add hand wash sinks; install backflow preventers at sinks; install ventilation system in restroom; replace ceiling materials/system; reconfigure/enclose exposed ductwork; replace/install concrete dumpster pads; repair exterior door; install splash guards at sinks; refurbish restrooms; replace HVAC units in math wing; replace windows to courtyard at corridor; replace gym bleachers; replace remaining old lockers; replace fly system at stage (\$2.2 million)

Austin – new cafeteria dishwasher; repair/replace roofing at 200 classroom wing, gym, and weight training area; replace gym bleachers (\$853,336)

Lamar – install ventilation system in restroom; reconfigure/enclose exposed ductwork; new cafeteria dishwasher (\$42,140)

O’Henry – construct air-gap at sinks; install backflow preventers at sinks; replace/install door closers; repair/replace door; new cafeteria dishwasher (\$44,099)

Highland Park – install 2 mop sinks; construct air-gap at sinks; modify/add hand wash sinks; replace/install door closers; install splash guards at sinks; repair/replace roofing at 100 and 300 classroom wings, main corridor, administration offices, kitchen, dock area, and mechanical room (\$616,635)

Casis – install backflow preventers at sinks; replace/install door closers; install splash guards at sinks; improve site drainage at front courtyard and south side (\$83,084)

(Continued on Page 5)

Highland Park West Balcones Area

School Bond Election - (Continued from Page 4)

McCallum, Lamar, Highland Park, Austin, O'Henry, Casis – all would receive capacitor banks, a new requirement by Austin Energy that would improve and balance power demand. Low-emission diesel buses and two plug-in hybrid school buses, which would be purchased with Prop 2 funds, might also benefit Highland Park, Lamar, McCallum, Casis, O'Henry, and Austin High students, if the buses are put into service on their routes. Replacement of the district's cold-storage warehouse would ensure safe and timely food deliveries to all of the district's school cafeterias.

Proposition 3:

Land acquisition and construction of a district wide performing arts facility.

Additional Notes: The building program, if accepted by Austin voters, will take place over four years, beginning in May 2008. A Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee will be appointed by the AISD Board of Trustees to ensure that the bond program is implemented appropriately and that the bond funds are spent properly and only on voter-approved projects.

Homeowners 65-years-old and above will see no tax increase. Their rates are held constant from the year they turned 65. For other homeowners, the maximum tax rate increase is 1.7 cents per \$100,000 valuation. For each \$100,000 of home value, the tax increase would be \$1.41 per month, with a yearly cost of \$17. For example, the

yearly cost of a home valued at \$300,000 would be \$51 or \$4.25 per month.

Early voting for the bond package takes place from April 26 – May 6. The early voting site near the Highland Park/Balcones neighborhood is the Howson Public Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd., M – F, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Sat, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Election day is May 10. Polls are open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

JULY 4th CELEBRATION



It is not too early to consider getting in on the action for planning Independence Day Celebration. If you want to be involved, please contact Chereen Fisher (chereen@austin.rr.com) or Carolyn Robinson (carrob99@hotmail.com). We always need volunteers and fresh new ideas!

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

MoPac 1 Project Status Report to MoNAC

January 2, 2008

Due to the cash-flow and funding “crunch” that TxDOT is experiencing (and which has been reported in the media over the past few months), the MoPac 1 project is experiencing a bit of a slowdown in schedule, and consequently, the noise wall workshops that had been planned for early 2008 will now have to be postponed until mid-year, although an exact schedule has not yet been determined. The NEPA Public Involvement process for the corridor is continuing, however, and assuming continued favorable public response, the project is still expected to move forward over the next couple of years.

The Aesthetics Advisory Committee (AAC) meetings concluded in August. A copy of the AAC summary report can be found on the MoPac 1 project website www.mopac1.org. The project team was fortunate to have active citizen participation, which provided helpful guidance on the various aesthetic elements of the project (e.g. noise barriers and landscaping elements, etc.). The group was so dynamic that TxDOT has decided to invite the members to critique detailed concepts during the detailed design phase.

The next project activity involving the public will be a series of noise workshops. The project team will divide the approximately seven miles of potential barriers into 13 segments, and will invite the adjacent property owners, as well as neighbors, to the workshops to

present the potential barriers. At some point in the future, the adjacent property owners will then have an opportunity to vote on whether or not they want a noise barrier built along their property in areas where the walls are determined reasonable and feasible. Non-adjacent property owners can provide input but only adjacent property owners can vote. The majority vote will determine the outcome for each individual barrier. We expect these workshops to occur in mid 2008 – check the MoPac1 website for information on the exact dates.

The Sample Noise Wall installation on Bull Creek Road is complete, and it is expected that TxDOT will host a ribbon-cutting event soon to let the public know of its availability for viewing. We will get the word out to MoNAC as soon as such an event is scheduled. The sample barriers are located at the TxDOT Bull Creek campus on the east side of Bull Creek Road across from the Westminster Manor retirement facility. **Please note** that this sample barrier does not represent the designs that would be used for the MoPac 1 project, nor will it demonstrate noise abatement, but will provide a sense of scale and visual appearance of a representative barrier.

We thank everyone for their continued interest in this unique and important project.

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Davenport Ranch	Stone Oak and Preserve at Stone Oak
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Settlement Home - (Continued from Page 3)

a chance to have their idea of family changed and redeemed.

I'm writing to the Highland Park/Balcones West Homeowners' Association because I'm so proud of this work and of the families in our program. I'm also writing, however, because of the persistent need for parents. Right now, over 4,000 children in Texas alone are waiting for adoptive families. As a newly-adopted 7-year old girl recently scolded me, when I bragged to her that I was the person who had matched her with her parents: "You didn't do a good job, you took too long!"

(For more information about foster-care or foster-adoption with the Settlement Home, please call Bridget Shrum at 512-836-2150 x161 or visit our website at www.settlementhome.org)

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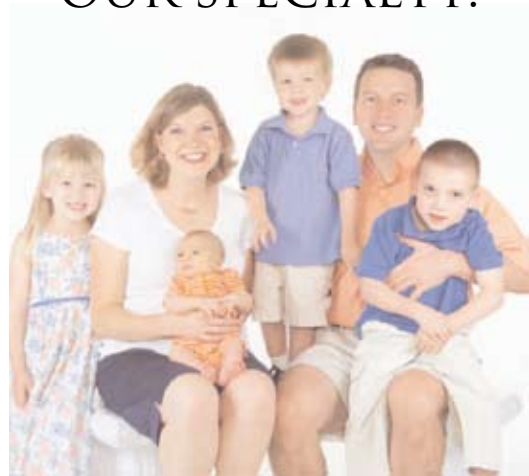
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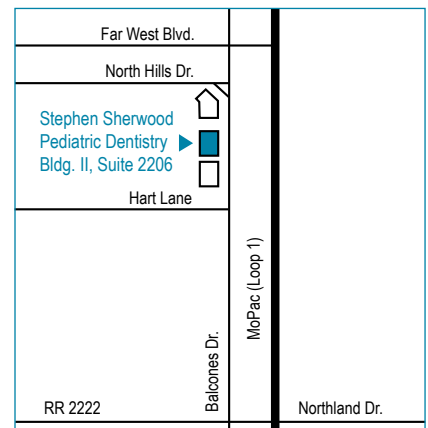
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