



The HPWBANA News

Volume 6, Number 4

April 2010

www.hpwbana.org



The Perry Park Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 3rd. The hunt will begin at 9:30 a.m. Don't be late! The Easter Bunny will be on hand to give hugs and pose for photos with the children. Prizes will be awarded to the lucky ones who find the Golden Egg in each age category. Play "Guess the Number of Jelly Beans" and win, too! Don't miss this fun HPWBANA tradition.

Volunteers are needed to hide eggs and fill eggs. Also, we would welcome your donation of plastic eggs in good condition and candy for filling eggs. Please contact Chereen Fisher (chereen@austin.rr.com) or Carolyn Robinson (carrob99@hotmail.com) to volunteer to help with the egg hunt.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Trowel & Error	2
It's My Park Day!.....	3
Green Neighborhood.....	5
Nature Watch	6-7

PERRY LANE STREET PROJECT

Over a year and a half ago HPWBANA created a special task force committee as a result of a growing number of concerns from residents about excessive speeding and safety issues on Perry Lane and surrounding streets. The committee members, lead by Tonianne Soster, HPWBANA board member, spent the past year and a half working closely with the Traffic Engineering Division of Austin's Transportation Department and Austin Police Department in determining what options were available to make this area safer. During this time a number of studies were conducted by Austin's Transportation Department and it was concluded that Perry Lane and Big Bend would qualify for funding under the Isolated Street Program.

This program is intended to promote neighborhood livability by reducing the negative impact of automobile traffic in residential neighborhoods. Options to reach this goal included a traffic circle at the intersection of Perry Lane and Fairview, a gateway (a slim median designed to slow traffic) located on Perry approximately 100 yards East of Horseshoe Bend, and replacing the existing speed bumps with speed cushions. (Speed cushions accommodate emergency vehicles) A plan was proposed to address specific concerns like speeding, safety and cut through traffic and to prevent those problems from moving to adjacent streets within the neighborhood. The city's traffic engineers designed an initial plan which included traffic monitoring devices along Perry Lane. The committee members went door to door and polled affected area residents as outlined by the city's Transportation Department. A general opinion was voiced by the residents regarding the details they would support in the proposed plan. As a result, certain omissions were made from the initial plan and modifications were made to incorporate speed cushions on Big Bend. Once the committee received the general feedback, the city was notified with the final project proposal.

Each household and property owner in the defined project area was given the opportunity to vote on the plan. The deadline to return the Ballots was February 26th, 2010. These property owners were informed that 60% of the ballots returned had to be in support of the plan for implementation. On March 3rd official notification was given to the neighborhood association that 70% of the votes were in support of the plan.

Implementation of the plan will start in approximately 3 months. We are discussing with the city the possibility of starting the project sooner. Once implementation starts completion should take approximately 2-3 weeks. Further notification will be given to the community once dates are confirmed.

Thank you to the neighbors who supported this project and put neighborhood safety first!

For further details of this project please visit our website at: www.main.org/hpwbana/

IMPORTANT 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
SPO David J. Knutson
Central West District APD Rep.....974-5917
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line 210-698-1709

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The HPWBANA Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month except December at the Yarbrough Library on Hancock. Meetings are held from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. 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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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 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

TROWEL & ERROR!



On April 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Mayfield Park will once again host Trowel & Error, the Spring event that annually attracts gardeners from all over Central Texas to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens. Although the lectures begin at 10:00, the event “opens” at 9:30 for those early birds who want to purchase Mayfield’s hard-to-find heirloom bulbs and perennials for your April garden and to stroll its garden paths in early morning peacefulness.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks of Austin, Trowel & Error will feature Cindy Arredondo, succulent specialist, discussing Gardening in an Arid Jungle, Carolyn Williams, master gardener, who will lecture on Repeat Bloomers for Months of Color, and Amy Crowell, landscape designer and author, whose topic is From Container Vegetables to Perennial Edibles: How to Grow Food in Small Spaces.

Not to be missed will be the legendary raffle of “garden goodies”. Everyone goes home a winner! It’s a wonderful way, rain or shine, to spend a morning learning how to add color into your landscape while relaxing among gregarious peafowl, towering palms, flowering trees, and ponds filled with lilies....and for only a \$5.00 donation!!

For more information contact neenok@aol.com, (512) 453-7074 or mayfieldpark.org.

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AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION

"It's My Park Day!" at Perry Park

The March 6th workday at Perry Park brought neighbors together to help keep the park in great shape. Perry Park is a place for fun and exploring and there always seems to be a project being discussed or implemented. This It's My Park Day! event was led by neighbor Pete Inman. Pete, his wife Amy and their two children are frequent visitors of the park. Their two children attend Highland Park Elementary.

Volunteers planted more mountain laurels by the tennis courts, added native plants in an area where ligustrum was removed, and trimmed back the trailing lantana that grows freely throughout the wooded area. Trimming back the lantana that grows into the crushed granite nature trail is becoming a yearly task. Time ran out to paint the soccer field posts and that was saved for a later day.

It's My Park Day! is a big annual event for Austin Parks Foundation. APF and the event sponsors provided tee shirts, snacks, gifts, supplies and lots of positive excitement and support. Over 65 parks throughout the Austin area signed up, including Mayfield Preserve and Mt. Bonnell. Check out the sponsors and event stories on APF website. <http://austinparks.org/>.

The HPWBANA Beautification Committee backed the project by providing materials and getting the PARD approval. We truly believe that our local park is worth investing in and extend a sincere thanks to the Inman family and all those who spent a wonderful morning helping out!

Nadene Morning - HPWBANA Beautification Committee

The Highland Park West Stork Report



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email info on the arrival
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Highland Park West Balcones Area

Snow, Snow, Snow!

Walking around the neighborhood after the snow in February, you might see a snow covered bear or a cute snowman. Look quickly before it melts.



WANTED – EAGLE SCOUT FOR PROJECT

Do you know a scout looking for an Eagle Scout project? The HPWBANA Beautification and Parks Committee has a potential project at Perry Park. The dino pit sandbox needs a remake to make the bone shapes larger and permanent. The bones there today keep getting dug up and carried away. The project would involve removing all the sand, putting down a foundation and attaching permanent dinosaurs bone shapes for the kids to explore.

Contact Nadene at ntmorning@hotmail.com.

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HPWBANA GREEN NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT ...ARE WE GREEN?

In March, 2009, you read about Kyle Oberman and Grant McClure, two HPWBANA McCallum students who decided to get our entire neighborhood (which includes about 1,80 homes) designated a Green Neighborhood by the City of Austin. Are you curious if these young men achieved their objective? Are we a Green Neighborhood? Watch the HPWBANA news next month and find out!!!

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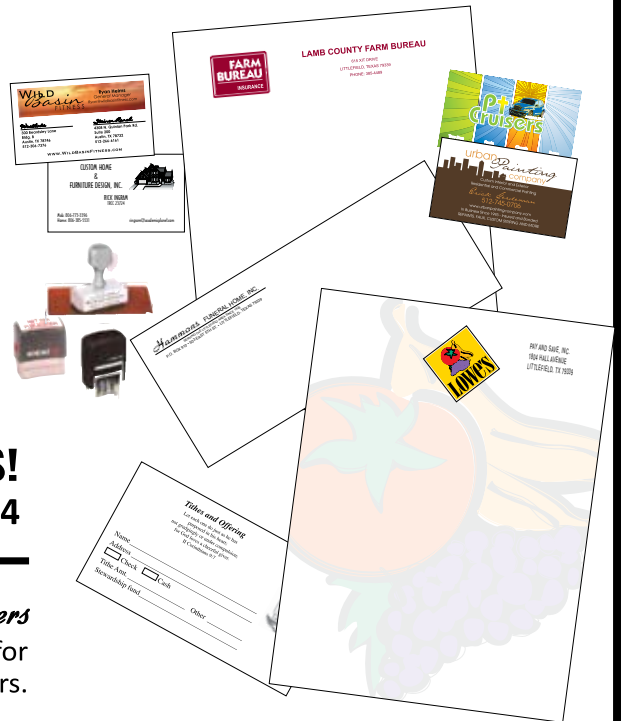
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NATURE WATCH

The Song of the Vireo

As a family, vireos are small to medium-sized birds that seem similar to warblers at first glance, apart from their heavier bill and generally dull-green plumage. In fact, the word vireo is Latin for 'I am green.' Most vireo species are migratory, and return to their breeding grounds in early spring.

Of the 13 true vireo species that are present in the United States and Canada, none is more at risk than the black-capped vireo, which has been on the endangered species list since 1987. At 4.5 inches in length, it is the smallest vireo to occur regularly in the US, and ranges from only three counties in Oklahoma to central and west Texas, and south to north and central Mexico.



A handsome songbird, adult male black-capped vireos are olive green above and white below with faint yellow flanks and wing bars. A glossy black cap is broken by white spectacles that frame brownish-red irises, and the bill is black, sturdy, and slightly hooked at the tip. It takes two years for a male to reach full adult plumage. Females are similarly marked but duller in color, and have a slate gray crown and greenish-yellow underparts.

Recent research has shown that Black-capped vireos have the largest repertoire of song notes to draw from, about ten times larger than other vireos. The males are persistent singers, usually

(Continued on Page 7)

GREAT HILLS
BAPTIST CHURCH
www.ghbc.org

Celebrate Easter!

Good Friday Service
April 2 - 6:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt
April 3 - 10:00 am
(toddlers - 5th grade, bring a bag/basket)

Easter Services (no Bible Life)
April 4 - 9:30 & 11:00 am

Relationships Sermon Series
Sunday Mornings in April

Sunday Morning Schedule
9:30 . Traditional Worship | 11:00 . Contemporary Worship
9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)

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NCUA LENDER

Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 6)

vocalizing in melodious phrases of two to four notes separated by one to three second pauses. It can also emit several calls, including a scolding 'zhree', especially while vigorously defending its territory. Insectivores, they glean leaves, twigs, and branches, sometimes hanging upside down or hovering, as they feed on beetles and caterpillars.


Black-capped vireos nest in brushy areas called 'shinneries.' Groups of shin oak or sumac of appropriate height and density are critical success factors for breeding, with the most important requirement being foliage that extends to ground level. Once trees begin to reach to full size, the vireos will look for other early succession sites in which to breed. Nests are an open, hanging cup, only 15-50 inches from the ground, and are made of leaves, grasses, plant fiber, and spider silk. Obscured from view by foliage, they are often decorated with items like lichens or bits of paper. The opening to the nest is usually narrower than the nest itself, but the nest is deep enough so that an adult bird can sit inside with only its bill and tail tip showing.

Both the male and female share the task of nest construction and incubation. After the three or four eggs that are laid have hatched, the female does most of the brooding while the male supplies most of the food. While breeding pairs are sometimes able to produce more than one clutch of eggs during the breeding season, the male

cares for some or all of the fledglings, while the female re-nests, sometimes with another male.

The black-capped vireo is endangered due to multiple threats of brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird as well as loss of suitable habitat through urbanization, fire exclusion, livestock grazing, and brush control. Female cowbirds may remove some of the host eggs from the nest and replace them with their own. These eggs hatch first and the quickly growing nestlings out-compete the smaller vireo nestlings for food and nest space. Cowbird trapping and habitat maintenance and creation through prescribed burning and mechanical manipulation are a high management priority in prime areas like the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy these articles, look for our book, NatureWatch Austin, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in 2011. - **by Jim and Lynne Weber**



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