



# The HPWBANA News

Volume 6, Number 7

July 2010

[www.hpwbana.org](http://www.hpwbana.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

### *Get Ready for Independence Day*

Get ready to celebrate Independence Day HPWBANA –style!

Please join us to celebrate Independence Day...one day early, on Saturday, July 3rd.

We'll parade around the block, enjoy snow cones and hotdogs, and celebrate how wonderful it is to be an American living in the finest neighborhood in Austin, Texas!

As always, awards will be given to the best decorated bike, trike, scooter, stroller/wagon, and pet!

Contact Carolyn Robinson now if you want to volunteer to help with the reading of the Declaration of Independence! There is always an exciting and patriotic gift to those Brave Americans who volunteer for this fun and meaningful activity.

See you at Perry Park on July 3!

Carolyn Robinson

750-4072 or [carrob99@hotmail.com](mailto:carrob99@hotmail.com)

## CRIME AND SAFETY MEETING

### *Yarborough Library - July 19th at 7pm*

We are experiencing increased crime in our neighborhood, especially car break-in and burglaries. To address this issue, the HPWBANA has decided to have a Crime and Safety Meeting. We will discuss what can be done through the use of an effective neighborhood watch program (NWP). A representative from the Austin Police Department has been invited to work with us.

## MOVIE IN PERRY PARK

The Movie in Perry Park is scheduled for October, 2010. HPWBANA needs neighbors to help plan and coordinate this event. A planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 27 at 5:30 p.m. at Jorge's on Hancock.

Get in on the planning stage of this big-time, fun, family event! For more information, or to volunteer, email Scott Rogillio at [scott@rogillio.com](mailto:scott@rogillio.com).

## HIGHLAND PARK SCOTTIES ARE ROOTING

### *for their Bur Oak Tree!*



Highland Park Elementary School is submitting the beautiful Bur Oak tree on Fairview Drive

for the City of Austin's 2010 Large Tree of the Year competition. A avid group of Tree-Huggers measured and documented the trees features for the application, which will be reviewed by the Parks Department. Recently, the entire student body came together and sat for an all-school photo under this magnificent tree, and have written testimonials about their love of the tree and it's meaning to them. Here's a sampling of some of the heartfelt words the kids had to say about this special tree:

"I love our Bur Oak Tree because it gives us shade. It is fun to hug. I love our Oak tree! It is the BEST!" -Lucy, Kindergarten,

"The massive Bur Oak that stands tall and protectively in front of the school, an old landmark. It provides cool shade, the sun shining through its leaves causing them to turn a beautiful translucent, lush green. The broad, foot long leaves rustle, making a peaceful sound. 1st and 2nd grade stand beneath the great tree with a few

*(Continued on Page 3)*

### 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](http://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

### ADVERTISING INFO

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](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing.

## 2010 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

*at the Austin Public Library*

June through August the Austin Public Library (APL) is sponsoring the 2010 Summer Reading Program, Journey Beyond! It doesn't matter if you're 1 or 101 years old, you can promote the love of reading by joining the 2010 Summer Reading Program, Journey Beyond. The instructions are simple:

1. Sign up at the Library or online(<http://www.austinsummerreading.org/>)
2. Read, read, read.
3. Record books in your reading log/entry form.
4. Return completed log/form to any library location.

In addition to a summer full of great reading, the APL has scheduled fantastic events for people of all ages. Ask for a schedule at your local branch or browse the online adult and youth calendars.

For more information call 512-974-7400 or visit [www.austinsummerreading.org](http://www.austinsummerreading.org).

## Go Green

Sign up to receive *The HPWBANA News* in your inbox. Visit [PEELinc.com](http://PEELinc.com) for details.

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# WHAT WAS THAT RUCKUS *at Camp Mabry?*

Several neighbors questioned what was going on at Camp Mabry over the Memorial Day Weekend:

Well, volunteers with the Texas Military Forces Museum put on uniforms and re-created a World War II attack.

Texas Military Forces Museum's Jeff Hunt said, "It's our way to commemorate Memorial Day, focusing on a particular moment in the history of the Texas Military Forces and one of the famous moments in their history, and that's the 36th Infantry Division in World War II."

This event is held each year on Memorial Day Weekend.

The Texas Military Forces Museum is the only museum in the nation that presents the history of the Texas Military Forces from the 1st Militia muster in Stephen F. Austin's colony in 1823 to the present day. It is located in Building 6 on Camp Mabry. The street address is 2200 West 35th Street, just west of MOPAC. A photo I.D. is required for entry onto Camp Mabry.

For more information, detailed directions or additional directions call (512) 782-5659 or go to the Texas Military Forces Museum web site (<http://www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org>)

### Bur Oak Trees -

*(Continued from Cover Page)*

older siblings, waiting for their parents to come. Great grooves in the bark are homes to many insects. Squirrels leap about in the branches, which is the size of a regular oak, laden with large acorns and broad, green leaves. When kids are not there, having left with their parents, I like to listen to the rustling of the leaves. This old, old oak is a wonder."-Ellie, fourth grade.

"Hi Bob! Will you meet me under the Great Bur Oak Tree at 3:00?"

"OK! You are talking about the big tree that should be the winner the 2010 Tree Of The Year contest?"

"Yes, I agree. Remember, Big Tree, Highland Park, at 3:00"-Milo, 4th grade.

We look forward to hearing back from the Parks Department on the news about this tree which brings so much to our neighborhood, so stay tuned!

## That house sold for **WHAT?**

**[www.HomeValues78731.com](http://www.HomeValues78731.com)**

- What is the asking price of the house across the street?
- What did that house around the corner finally sell for?
- Are home values going up or down on my street?



Rebecca Spratlin  
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# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## *A Need in Our Neighborhood*

Due to increase crime in our neighborhood a crime and safety meeting has been set for July 19th at 7pm at the Yarborough Library. We will be discussing what can be done through the use of an effective neighborhood watch program (NWP).

It might take some time before we are able to recruit enough volunteers from the community to be a part of the NWP and band together to increase neighborhood safety. A neighborhood watch program has proven successful around Austin and its surrounding areas. It unites neighbors around a common goal, safety and security. It reduces fear of crime. It provides basic skills to all members on preventing crime and reporting suspicious activities or crimes. It builds a base for correcting neighborhood problems.

Through being a part of a NWP, neighbors learn how to make their homes safe and more secure and how to effectively watch out for each other and the neighborhood. We encourage you to become a part of this NWP and help fight crime in our neighborhood. We hope that you will attend this special crime and safety meeting.

Before we get an active NWP all parts of our neighborhood, here are a couple of things each resident can do to help prevent crime:

### **Maintain a visible presence, keep watch on homes, and notice those walking or driving through the neighborhood**

- Walk, run and/or bike the neighborhood
- Sit in your front yard
- Do things outside in the front yard
- Keep in touch with neighbors and watch each other's homes, kids and newspapers, mail and deliveries
- Watch homes on either side of you and the 3 homes across the street

### **Improve your homes exterior/interior**

- Keep front outside lights on at night only (use on/off sensors)
- Keep all exterior entries to home lit
- Turn some interior lights on at night when not home (timer if needed)
- Keep garage doors closed/locked
- Keep fence and shed gates closed, locked, and repaired
- Keep vehicle doors, windows and trunks closed and locked
- Do not keep keys in a vehicle

*(Continued on Page 5)*

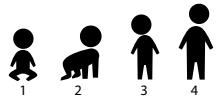


## COLIN'S HOPE

*Increasing water safety awareness and standards*

### FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



### DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury-related death ages 1-14.

For more information, check out our website at

[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)

### DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" – no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

### DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.



## Neighborhood- (Continued from Page 4)

- Do not keep personal belongings visible in vehicles
- Put vehicles in a garage
- Keep all home doors & windows closed & locked - especially when not home
- Let your neighbors know when you are on vacation and to take in mail, newspapers and garbage.
- Keep yard, driveway, sidewalk and porch areas clean and lit
- Do not leave property outside, such as tools, bikes, toys etc.
- Do a home security survey & make recommended changes. (insurance discount may be given)

### Support NWP efforts

We look forward to neighbors working together to create a safer neighborhood.

Please feel free to contact Tonianne Soster at [tasconstruction@austin.rr.com](mailto:tasconstruction@austin.rr.com) if you have any questions or concerns or if you are interested in participating in our NWP.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### *An HPWBANA Example*

The recent rash of burglaries in our area has raised the discussion of the effectiveness of neighborhood watch groups. It takes an incident or two for people to take notice of crime issues and take action. The HPWBANA has been encouraging neighbor to form neighborhood watch groups for years now and there are actually a number that work quite well.

An example is in our neighborhood, we call it "The Hood". It is a "no outlier" area of about 100 homes. We have a neighborhood map so we know who lives where. We have an email distribution list so we know how to contact each other. We also have neighborhood events where everyone is invited. It really makes the neighborhood a friendly and great place to live.

One benefit of this neighborly atmosphere is that if something is going on an email is sent out. We usually know when solicitors are in the area and hear about suspicious cars. When someone's car or home is broken into an email is sent around. Serious coyote activity generally is communicated. Missing pets are reported so people can watch for them. We also encourage everyone to report crime and suspicious activity to the police.

Knowing your neighbors helps build a sense of community. It really doesn't take much time and effort to pull this information together and maintain it. It does take a least one person to step forward and get things started. The point is neighborhoods can effectively function as a crime watch network.

Greg and Nadene Morning

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<sup>1</sup>Regular - Min. Deposit of \$1,000 Required

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### CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Jumbo - Min. Deposit of \$95,000 Required

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## Highland Park West Balcones Area

# THE GROW GREEN GUIDE

### *Native and Adapted Landscape Plants*

[www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org)

I confess that I am a native plant gardener. We don't own a lawn mower, a weed eater, hire a lawn service nor have an irrigation system. Our monthly water usage for our large wooded lot rarely exceeds the minimum usage rate. Our planting choices involve plants that thrive in this area without a lot of maintenance. If a plant doesn't thrive in our yard we replace it with one that will. How do we choose? We use the Grow Green Native Plant Guide that is a free resource from the City of Austin and Texas Cooperative Extension. It can be found in almost any plant nursery in town and the database of plants is online to make searches easy. It was developed to help protect and preserve our water sources by helping people make better plant choices for this area.

The guide is segmented into categories such as:

- trees
- small trees / large shrubs
- perennials
- ornamental grasses

- vines
- groundcovers
- turf grasses
- and invasive plants to avoid / good alternatives

Within each of these categories you will find pictures and information on height, spread, light requirements, evergreen/deciduous, color features, water usage, wildlife interest, deer resistant, and general comments. As you can imagine there is a lot of information in this guide to help find the right low maintenance plant for any area.

Converting entire yards to native landscaping is becoming more popular in Austin. It certainly can be done at a pace that fits a busy schedule. Start with a small area and make it a fun family project. As you drive through the neighborhood take a look at yards that have more native plants rather than the wide spread of St Augustine grass. Check out the medians in our area where the plants were chosen because they really are drought hearty and tough. Take a walk in one

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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### Green Guide- (Continued from page 6)

of our local nature preserves and note the plants that grow without any care at all. As a bonus you will be pleasantly surprised to see more wildlife visit your yard as it provides a more natural habitat.

Think about making it a long term goal to sell the lawn mower or save money with lower water bills or by cancelling the lawn service. Grow Green!

Nadene Morning - Beautification and Parks Committee

### Highland Park Stork Report

Congratulations!  
Let us help celebrate...  
email info on the arrival  
of your little one to  
sfannin@austin.rr.com.

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