



The HPWBANA News

Volume 7, Number 10

October 2011

www.hpwbana.org

MESSAGE *From the Board*

The neighborhood association is always most visible when supporting a neighborhood event. Our annual Egg Hunt and 4th of July parade are great ways for the neighbors to get together to have fun. However, HPWBANA also works on other issues that may not be as visible as our events – crime and safety, zoning and housing, beautification to name a few. This work could not happen without the dedication of neighbors who volunteer by working on committees and/or joining the board.

In October, HPWBANA will have its annual meeting at Jorge's. This meeting is a great way to catch up on the activities of the neighborhood and meet with neighbors. It is also the time when the neighborhood will vote on new board members. I encourage you to consider volunteering for the board or a committee this coming year. In particular, we need individuals who are interested in championing our crime and safety initiatives and neighborhood events. If you are interested, please feel free to email or call me or any board member.

Andrea Torres
HPWBANA President
andreatorres11@yahoo.com
302-4294

Come join your neighbors at the **HPWBANA ANNUAL MEETING**

Monday, October 17 | 7pm to 8:30pm | Jorge's Restaurant (on the patio)
Appetizers will be provided...Hope to see you there!

Pierce Fuller Builds Native Garden as his **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT**

Life Scout Pierce Fuller chose to work with Highland Park Elementary (HPE) to complete his Eagle Scout project. The After School Childcare Program has a dedicated area on HPE grounds. With Pierce's help this area was upgraded to include an educational native garden for kids. Four raised garden beds were designed and installed to grow various native plants that reseed nicely. Kids will learn to tend the gardens, watch plants flower and grow seeds, harvest the various seeds, and then grow more native plants from seed. The whole plant growth cycle will be experienced using plants that thrive in the Texas environment. Seeds will also be scattered in the neighboring Perry Park where invasive plant removal has been taking place over the years. Perry Park needs these native seeds, especially after this brutally hot, dry summer.

Pierce also provided instructions to the school about how to harvest the various seeds. The plants chosen to get started are beauty berry, turks cap, inland sea oats, fragrant sumac, and flameleaf sumac. There are lots more native variety plants that can be added over time as the base gardens are ready to go. Many thanks go out to Pierce for implementing this project. And thanks also go out to his working crew from Troop 399. It is a wonderful educational addition to our community. Great job Pierce!



Pierce Fuller stands near his native garden.

Highland Park West Balcones Area

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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.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Join your neighbors and celebrate National Night Out on October 4, 2011! This is a great opportunity for neighbors and businesses to get to know each other through block parties, cookouts, and other neighborhood events. It is also a great way to strengthen neighborhood spirits, our partnership with law enforcement, and to show criminals that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back!

For more information about being a part of the celebration and to register your own neighborhood party, visit:

www.tcsheriff.org/outreach/nno2011.

And don't forget to take pictures.

We'd love to see them in our next newsletter!



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Mount Bonnell Improvements

The following is an excerpt from a letter by the West Point Society of Central Texas updating neighbors on improvements to Mount Bonnell:

We are very pleased to inform you that the Covert family has agreed to replace the worn, defaced and broken limestone monument on the pavilion honoring Frank Covert, Sr.'s gift of the land comprising Covert Park. We are excited about this and visualize some corresponding opportunities to make several enhancements to the pavilion itself to improve its utility and more esthetically display the monument.

The monument will be of a much more durable black and white granite rather than pink, to better fit in with the predominantly limestone surroundings. The enhancements to the pavilion would include a partial terracing of the garden with a limestone surface, the addition of four benches, and the

construction of stairs with handrails. Please go to <http://www.west-point.org/joseph_bonnell/pavilion> where we have posted nine photos. Click on a photo to enlarge it and click again to get a full screen display.

The first three photos depict the original monument prior to pavilion construction through to today's condition. The remaining photos are renderings by the architectural/engineering firm of O'Connell Robertson which has been working with us on a pro bono basis acting as designer and general contractor for the monument. They have applied their very creative collective talents to the tasteful design of the pavilion enhancements as well.

Please note that the overhead view of the enhanced pavilion design shows a curving stone line edging the garden, representing the Colorado River line connecting two partial stars representing the 360 Bridge on the right and the City of Austin on the

left, respectively. The monument itself, representing a cross section of Mount Bonnell, would be repositioned slightly to the right (north) to place it at its relative position on the river line. Xerophytic plants will adorn the garden.

Our plan is this. The stone monument, its placement on a new base and demolition of the old base, hopefully with some help from PARD, will cost on the order of \$26,000. That along with neighborhood and other contributions will be the basis for a matching grant request to the Austin Parks Foundation (APF) for the approximately \$31,000 required to perform the pavilion enhancements themselves. The grant request is due for submission by the end of September.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Stan Bacon, West Point Society of Central Texas, 512-345-5964/7999.



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Highland Park West Balcones Area

CITY OF AUSTIN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Did you know that the city of Austin has a Code Volunteer program? This program allows volunteers to assist compliance officers in the area of nuisance abatement which includes illegal dumping, weeds and grass more than 12-inches tall, and accumulations of litter, brush, trash and debris. Specifically, volunteers help city officials find and document code violations.

Volunteers are needed for field inspections which result from citizen complaints, zone monitoring which reviews conditions in particular areas, and the volunteer pool which helps with events and neighborhood cleanups.

*For more information on the volunteer program,
visit the following City Website:
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/code/compliance/volunteer.htm>*

Crime Prevention

Recently on the yahoo listserve, there was discussion and concern about crime in the neighborhood. Many residents discussed the idea of a neighborhood notification system and/or a watch system. For the past few years, HPWBANA has supported efforts to keep neighbors connected. Specifically, we have developed a neighborhood system of "area captains" who are responsible for communicating with neighbors in their areas about issues affecting the entire neighborhood or particular streets. We encourage neighbors to get involved by either becoming an area captain or sharing your email address with your area's captain. Please contact a board member to get involved. Together, we can reduce crime!

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Fire Prevention

This summer has been brutal, not only with the heat, but with the devastating drought. As I write this, we have just experienced some of the worst fires in the Austin and Central Texas area. As of yet, there has been no determination of what caused some of these fires. I am reminded about how little it takes to start a fire and quickly it can spread in these conditions. And everything I hear and read says that the drought will continue through the fall and early winter.

It is frustrating not to be able to change the situation – not to make it better. I've tried washing my car to bring on rain, but to no avail. But there is something that we can do, small measures to make sure our neighborhood stays safe. We can be vigilant and aware of smoke or fire in the area. We can encourage our friends and neighbors not to throw cigarette butts on the side of the road. We can avoid using tools that are likely to cause sparks. We can think twice about using our outdoor grills.

The things that make this neighborhood a wonderful place to live – the trees, the hills, our neighbors – are at risk if we are careless. Please do what you can to watch out for yourselves and your neighbors during this dry time.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA)

Free yourself from food addiction and food obsession. Come to a community information meeting for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, under-eating and bulimia. Everyone is welcome to this free meeting, including those who think they may have a food problem or those who are concerned about someone who may.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, October 15, 2011 | 9:00am – 10:30am

Tarrytown United Methodist Church

2601 Exposition Blvd, Austin.

Room 101 A/B. enter from side door on McCullough St.

www.foodaddicts.org

ABOUT FOOD ADDICTS IN RECOVERY ANONYMOUS:

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is a 12 Step fellowship based on the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Many adult and teen members were overweight, some by as much as 200 pounds. Others were dangerously underweight or controlled their eating to the point of obsession through under-eating, bulimia or exercising. Today, many lead fulfilling lives without abusing food.

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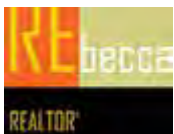


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BRITT'S BOOK BUZZ: THE HUNGER GAMES

by Suzanne Collins

Remember the compelling and cult-following TV show, *Lost*? To me, *The Hunger Games* is the literary equivalent in that the writers creatively demonstrated survival and unity when faced with extremely harsh circumstances. The difference is that while *Lost* was the result of a plane crash on a strange island where anything could happen, *The Hunger Games* is ruled by the Capitol where young adults fight to the death as a form of entertainment for the government.

Set in the not so distant future, North America as we know it has been completely reorganized into separate districts (12 of them) all closely controlled by the militant, big brother, harsh "Capitol." These districts were formed when the Earth had become so violated environmentally and morally that war broke out. As a reminder to all of the segregated districts that rebellion is not tolerated, there is a yearly "Hunger Game"

where a male and female from each district aged 12-18 is chosen at random to fight each other to the death. There can only be one victor and everything is televised, complete with sponsors.

It is in district 12 that the heroine, Katniss Everdeen lives with her mother (a healer) and her younger sister. Her father was killed in a mining accident but left his oldest daughter with the gifts and talents of hunting, which is her family's key to survival.

When Katniss' sister is chosen as one of the "tributes" to fight in the hunger games, Katniss volunteers in her place. Her male counterpart, Peeta, is also chosen.

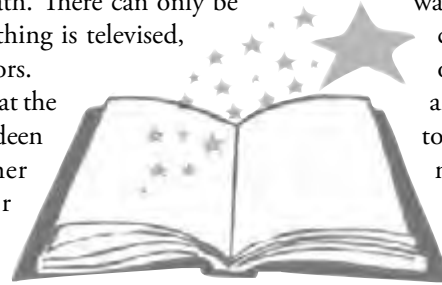
Their experience at the Capitol and the whole tradition around the hunger games

is so intriguing and fascinating as are the people they encounter. However, it is the way the hunger games are so carefully and technologically orchestrated and Katniss' amazing ingenuity and will to live and survive that kept me reading and enjoying the brutal, yet thoroughly entertaining book. At the time I am writing this review, I am already on the final book of the trilogy!

This book has it all -- a love triangle, a heroine, an underdog, fighting, mystery, science fiction--it is a reader's big Kit Kat bar!

Feel free to comment on this review, your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog:

<http://brittsbuzz.blogspot.com>



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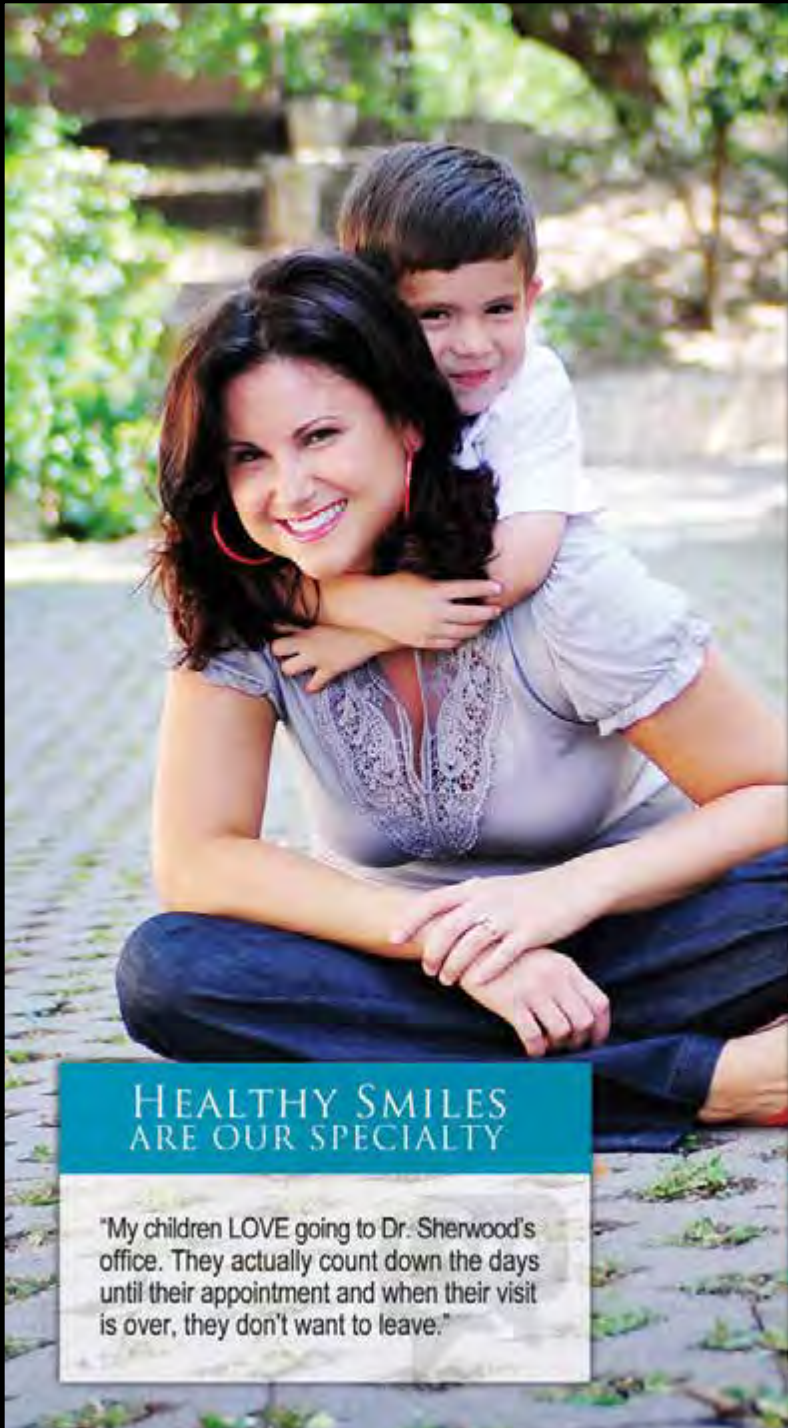


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