

## E.T. Phone Home! The Movie in Perry Park Returns



Neighbors turned out with great enthusiasm for a showing of *ET: The Extra Terrestrial* at this year's Movie in Perry Park on Saturday, November 17th.

A slideshow starring HPWBA neighbors provided the backdrop as Bill Oliver sang his classics including "Have to have a Habitat". He even did an enthusiastic rendition of "Happy Birthday" for local resident Cash Robinson, who celebrated his 11th birthday that night.

Of course no movie is complete without popcorn, so local resident Rebecca Spratlin decided to supply a "movie theater" style popcorn machine to provide moviegoers with complimentary popcorn.

Staffed by board member Chereen Fisher and family, the HPWBANA concessions fed the masses with a continuous supply of Pizza from Craigo's. In addition, the hot chocolate and coffee from Russell's helped keep everyone warm as the sun disappeared behind the trees.

Prior to the movie, Austin Film Kids presented 15 minutes of film shorts, including *Party Far Far Away* (Highland Park), *The Loathsome Litterbug* (Doss Elementary), *It All Happened With a Pie* (Brentwood Elementary), and *The Epic Car Chase* (Film Kids Summer Camp). Created by Brian Cox, Austin Film Kids introduces elementary age kids to the art of filmmaking. Kids learn how to use video cameras, write and create screenplays, and see their ideas come to life on screen.

"This was such an exciting evening for the kids. They really loved seeing their films on the big screen." said Brian.

Of course the event would not have taken place without the generous support of our sponsors and neighbors, including Christy and Mark Strüb of Strüb Residential. Christy and Mark live on Balcones Drive with their son Jack, who is in second grade at Highland Park Elementary.

In addition, Jennifer Smith of the Smith Group stepped up to support the event this year. Proud HPWBA residents for over a decade, Jennifer and her family can't imagine living in any other neighborhood in Austin.

Drew Marye of the Marye Company also sponsored the event. Drew also lives and works in the neighborhood and is a huge fan of mid-century modern and ranch style architecture.

Dr. Glennon of Austin Dental Center offered his support as well. Dentist to many HPWBA residents, he was happy to help out after hearing about all of the candy offered at the HPWBANA concession stand!

A huge thank you also goes out to Carolyn Robinson and Nadene Morning for encouraging us to hold the event this year. Carolyn and Nadene were the original organizers of past Movie in the Park events and convinced board members to resurrect The Movie in the Park this year. We hope to continue the tradition and make it an annual or possibly biannual event.

*(Pictures on Page 3)*

# Highland Park West Balcones Area

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The HPWBANA Board meets on the third Monday of each month except December. Please go to HPWBANA.org for our current meeting location or contact president@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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*Movies in the Park (Continued from Cover Page)*



Movie in Perry Park 2012



The Spratlins stayed busy making popcorn for our Movie in Perry Park.

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## Perry Park 2012 Update

As most of you know PARD is short staffed these days and needs help from the community with local parks. Friends of Perry Park started several years ago to help with the park right in our neighborhood. We work closely with PARD, HPWBANA, HPE and the community. Invasive plant removal, restoration projects and park workdays are just some of the things we work on and our park benefits from all the community interest.

We recently walked Perry Park with the PARD Manager to discuss projects, including

clean up of the trails. All the rains this past year meant lots of growth at Perry and some of the trails need some trimming back.

To address this need, the HPE Green Team put on their work clothes and headed out to the Perry Park Nature Trail to do some much needed maintenance. Years ago students and teachers designed and installed this small nature trail for the wooded area of Perry

Park, complete with signs marking the various native plants along the trail. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, the trail is a lot clearer now and easier to pass through, with prickly pear, cedar, and lantana removed from the path.

Another project we are discussing is installing single fitness stations in a couple of places along the Perry Park running track. This has been discussed for years and it looks like it may actually happen. These would make great Eagle Scout projects, so if any of you are interested, be sure to contact us.

If you are interested in a project at Perry Park please contact a HPWBANA board member to get the discussion going. Nadene Morning and Julie Beyt are leading the group. For the latest updates on beautification, visit [HPWBANA.org](http://HPWBANA.org) or the HPWBANA FaceBook Page.



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## Voter Turnout in HPWBA Significantly Higher than National Average

Long lines didn't keep HPWBA neighbors from coming out on Election Day last November. Some folks reported waited in line for almost two hours, although most residents were happy to do so. Because voters from all precincts could vote at any Election Day polling location, it was somewhat difficult to determine the number of voting machines necessary for each location, which created longer lines at some polling places. In addition, a long ballot including both general and special elections, made the process take slightly longer than usual. Nevertheless, most neighbors didn't seem to mind the wait, and spent their time in line chatting with friends.

With 3129 registered voters in both precincts (237 and 240), HPWBANA voter turnout was a relatively impressive 77.79%,

In Travis County, the percentage of registered voters casting a ballot dropped from 66 percent four years ago to about 61 percent this election. The number of voters also dropped, from 402,832 in 2008 to 389,687 in 2012, according to election results.

Nationally, the voter turnout was 57.5% of all eligible voters, compared to 62.3% who voted in 2008 and 60.4% who cast ballots in 2004. In 2000, the turnout rate was 54.2%.



Voters wait in line at Highland Park Elementary

## HOMES SOLD IN HPWBA

	Year-to-Date October 15, 2011	Year-to-Date October 15, 2012	Percent Change
<b>Homes Sold</b>	55	87	+58.2%
<b>Average List Price</b>	\$657,749	\$678,431	+3.1%
<b>Median (mid-point) List Price</b>	\$597,000	\$539,999	-9.5%
<b>Average NET Sold Price</b>	\$625,061	\$653,752	+4.6%
<b>Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price</b>	\$559,400	\$510,000	-8.8%
<b>Average List Price per Sq.Ft.</b>	\$232	\$252	+8.2%
<b>Median (mid-point) List Price/Sq.Ft.</b>	\$222	\$245	+10.4%
<b>Average NET Sold Price per Sq.Ft.</b>	\$222	\$242	+9.0%
<b>Median (mid-point) NET Sold Price/Sq.Ft.</b>	\$208	\$238	+14.4%
<b>NET Sold Price Range</b>	\$212,000-\$3,500,000	\$151,100-\$7,000,000	
<b>NET Sold Price Range/Sq.Ft.</b>	\$106-\$503	\$129-\$512	

Not only have the number of homes sold year-to-date 2012 in the HPWBA market increased by 58.2% compared to the same period last year, the Average NET Sold Price has increased by 4.6% and the Average NET Sold Price Per Square Foot has increased by 9%. As population growth in Austin continues to trend upward, this bodes well for our neighborhood as well as for other close-in neighborhoods. They just aren't making any more close-in land. Our neighborhood continues to be highly sought after and our growing property values show that buying in this area not only provides a wonderful lifestyle, but a very sound investment.

Information provided by Rebecca Spratlin



## Highland Park West Balcones Area

### Mount Bonnell Improvements Continue

PARD, in partnership with the West Point Society of Central Texas and a partial grant from Keep Austin Beautiful, has recently completed construction of a permanent double sided kiosk on Mount Bonnell's summit. One side will be devoted to a permanent display of the park's flora, fauna and geology, created by Austin's Park Rangers, while the other side is to be devoted to notices of current events and items of historical and cultural interest.

The West Pointers adopted Covert Park in mid 2010. Under the mentorship of HPWBANA's Parks and Beautification Director, Nadene Morning, they have completed a number of projects to include restoration of the fabulous views, eight major clean-ups, and most recently the kiosk. A long time dream of Nadene's, she said of the kiosk, "I am really thrilled with this." And having recently returned from a long stay Washington State with her husband Greg, we're thrilled to have her back.



Stan Bacon (left) and Fred Bothwell, West Point Society, with Becca Cody, HPWBANA Newsletter Editor, at newly constructed Covert Park kiosk. ( Photo by Nadene Morning)

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## Neighbor Spotlight: Jennifer Smith

I love living in this neighborhood, and there is no other place in the greater Austin area my family would want to live. We have lived on Big Bend Drive for almost 11 years, and we love everything about HPWBA. Our family has been part of Highland Park Elementary for 10 years and we are on our final year there, and yet we have just begun McCallum High School where we will be plugged in for several more years. My husband even moved his law office nearby so he can ride his bike to work when he wants. Needless to say, we are slightly invested in our neighborhood! My favorite part about my job is helping folks discover HPWBA, and helping them understand the value of our community. Living in HPWBA is more than just owning a home. It really is about being connected to your community and neighbors. Having served on the board for the neighborhood association, I really understand how committed people are to making this the best neighborhood in Austin. I certainly am proud to live here and call HPWBA home!



Jennifer Smith



## HOLIDAY WISHES 2012

**Each year, neglected and abused children in the Austin area must be removed from their homes by Child Protective Services caseworkers.**

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