

THE HPWBANA NEWS

Volume 10, Number 3 March 2014 www.hpwbana.org



March 18th 7:00 pm The Villa at Laguna Gloria 3809 W 35th St.

The Friends of Perry Park have been working with HPWBANA, Parks and Recreation Department, The Contemporary Austin/Laguna Gloria and Art in Public Places to develop some exciting proposals for improvements to Upper Perry Park, the large open field along Balcones Drive and Big Bend. We are inviting the community to gather input on these ideas to determine how we will move forward. Come hear the presentation of ideas and contribute to the discussion regarding this public green space.

Questions?
Email Friends of Perry Park
friendsofperrypark@hpwbana

Austin '64 Homes Tour Highlights Mid-Century Modern Heritage of Highland Park West

Preservation Austin's Spring Homes Tour is coming up in April with the theme "Austin 1964", and what better place to find the architectural gems of the 50's and 60's than a neighborhood that was developed almost entirely during that period. Highland Park West has many wonderful examples of Mid-Century Modern architecture, and many of those homes were designed by architects that were considered leaders and innovators in their field in the 50's an 60's.

One could attribute our good fortune at having so many wonderful examples of modern architecture from that era to good timing and location. The UT School of Architecture was going through a revolution of sorts in the mid-50's that brought new and innovative thinking. And the ideas that were flowing out of the school at that time made their way into numerous Austin residential projects, many of which are in our neighborhood, which also offered convenient access to the university and to downtown.

A few of those architects should be mentioned here because residential projects of some of these individuals will be featured in the Austin '64 Homes Tour:

HARWELL HAMILTON HARRIS

Harwell Hamilton Harris originally apprenticed under Richard Neutra in California, and later in his career came to Austin to be the Dean of the UT School of Architecture from 1952 to 1955. There, he worked to recruit innovative architects to his faculty, a group that later became known as "The Texas Rangers". While many of his projects are on the West Coast, there are several residential projects in Austin and in fact two of them are in Highland Park West on Edgemont Drive.

(Continued on Page 2)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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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.

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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Austin '64 Homes Tour - (Continued from Cover)

ROLAND ROESSNER

Roland Roessner came to Austin in 1948 as a professor of architecture at the University of Texas, where he was a professor until 1982. Roessner was perhaps the most prolific architect of the 50's and 60's in Highland Park West, where he designed houses for UT professors, lawyers, doctors and other professionals seeking convenient access to downtown and to the university. Of the identified seventeen Roessner residential projects still standing, twelve are in Highland Park West and six are on Balcones Dr.

FEHR & GRANGER

Arthur Fehr and Charles Granger (both graduates of the UT School of Architecture) established the partnership "Fehr & Granger" in 1945 and quickly made a name for themselves. While best known for educational and church structures, they also designed many exceptional residences, particularly in West Austin. Their work was intended to be unique to their region. They used local materials in designs that were heavily influenced by climate and the need to manage the Texas heat before air conditioning was common. Of the twenty-three Fehr & Granger residential projects identified, seven of them are in the Highland Park West neighborhood.

LEONARD LUNDGREN

Lundgren graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in architecture in 1949. His firm, Lundgren and Maurer, and later his firm Lundgren and Associates, was considered one of the most innovative and highly sought after firms of its time. Lundgren was probably best known for his commercial projects, including a long relationship with Holiday Inn and his groundbreaking round hotels. He also designed the Austin Motel on South Congress! His work includes about ten residential projects in the Austin area, with four in Highland Park and four more in adjoining neighborhoods.

ABOUT HIGHLAND PARK WEST

Highland Park West and the Balcones Area Neighborhood is composed roughly of eighteen-hundred homes north of 35th Street and south of Highway 2222, between Mopac and Mount Bonnell Road, with a small pocket east of Mopac to Bull Creek Road, between 45th Street and Hancock. It was developed largely during the 50's and 60's, and today roughly 60% of the houses you see were built during that time. Many have been, or are in the process of being, thoughtfully restored. These homes are part of what makes our neighborhood unique. They hold a special place in history and help define the character of this special "suburb" of Austin.

Be sure to check out the Austin 1964 Homes Tour in April and see some interesting architecture while getting to know your neighborhood and some more of your neighbors.

IT'S TIME TO RECYCLE!

following websites:

www.texasrecyclescomputers.org

The City of Austin Resource Recovery Department

are some wonderful programs for recycling your old

electronics and waste. One of the biggest programs is

through Dell Reconnect in partnership with Goodwill

is aiming to become zero waste. In an effort to do so, there

Industries. If you have old cell phones, batteries, computers

or televisions, I encourage you to recycle them through the



THE SMITH TEAM

Smart. Service. Sold.

MARCH HAPPENINGS

Daylight Savings Time is coming up! Remember to turn your clocks back on Sunday, March 9th at 2 am! Here's a little DST trivia for you (answer is

Who first thought of the idea of DST? a: Thomas Jefferson b: Benjamin Franklin c: Alexander Graham Bell d: Thomas Edison

SXSW 2014 begins March 7th! Interactive - March 7th-11th Film - March 7th-15th Music - March 11th-16th

www.sxsw.com

found under the YOM picture):

www.texasrecyclestvs.org Dell has made it very easy! All you have to do is take your old

computer equipment of any brand, working or not, to one of Goodwill's over 2,000 participating locations in the United States. Let's all work together to make Austin a Zero Waste community!

MARCH YARD OF THE MONTH



b: Benjamin Franklir

We are thrilled to announce that **Erin and Chad Geisler of 4505 Crestway** are the HPWBANA March YOM winners! Upon hearing the good news, Erin told us, "Chad loves to work in the vard so I know this will make his day!" Chad expects his poppies and larkspur to bloom in March and April so drive by and enjoy this gorgeous yard. To submit your YOM nominations, please email me at

jennifer@smartservicesold.com.







Want to know what's going on with real estate in our neighborhood? Check it out here. Jennifer Smith, Realtor®

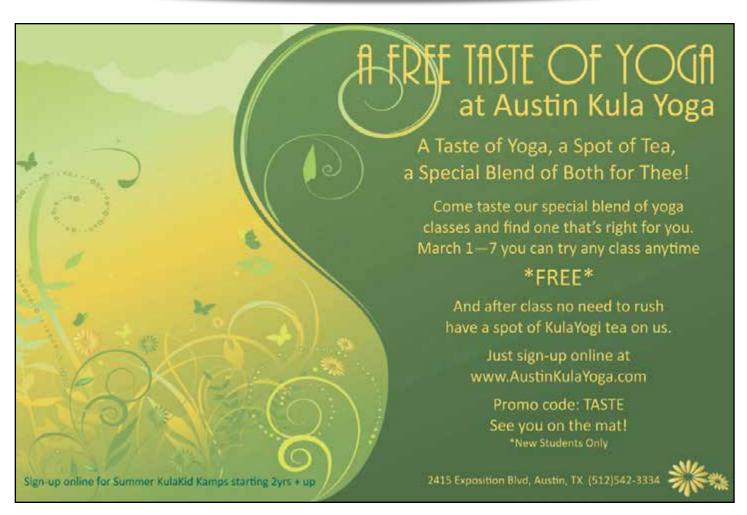
(512) 532-5550 iennifer@smartservicesold.com www.SmartServiceSold.com



HPWBANA Neighbors Team up to Discuss Infill Projects

With growing concern among many residents regarding recent infill in our neighborhood, HPWBANA began meeting with neighbors to discuss what can be done to help preserve the unique character of our neighborhood. As Austin continues to grow rapidly, our neighborhood will change to accommodate that growth, and we may lose some of that uniqueness. In fact, with the latest developments near the intersection of Hancock and Balcones, we are already seeing these changes occur. The proposed duplex project at 3400 Hancock is no exception, as you can see by the builder's sketch of the project. If you would like to be a part of these discussions or help out in any way, please send an email to volunteer@hpwbana.org





Save the Date!

perry Park Spring

EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 19th 9:30 a.m. Don't be Late!!

Participants will be divided into the following age categories: 0-2, 3&4, 5-7, 8 & up

See the Easter Bunny! Find the Golden Egg!

Guess the number of Jelly Beans and win a Prize!

Only elementary age children are invited to participate in the hunt, please. Older children can volunteer to hide eggs. If you or your child would like to help out with the egg hunt, please send an email to volunteer@hpwbana.org





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Perry Park Fitness Station Update

We are excited to announce that the equipment is on order and will hopefully arrive late by early March, which means installation may occur in March, just in time for spring outdoor workouts! Two fitness station areas are planned. One has assisted row equipment for an upper body workout. The second has pull-up/dip, parallel bars and sit-up equipment. The equipment will be next to the running track so people can conveniently add a run to their exercise routine.

Friends of Perry Park received a grant from Austin Parks Foundation to fund the project, with matching funds from the HPWBANA. Details are on the HPWBANA website.







Girl Scout Troop 1510

Submits Proposal for Perry Park Service Project

More enhancements are slated for Perry Park! Friends of Perry Park and Girl Scout troop 1510 recently submitted a proposal for a new service project for the nature trail area of Perry Park. The troop is working within PARD/forestry's recommended area to re-create the former learning circle that sits in an oak grove near the entrance to the nature trail in the Perry Park woods. Natural limestone boulders will be used for a seating area that will last for future generations of Perry Park users.

GS Troop 1510 will complete the design for presentation to PARD, HPWBANA, and the HPE PTA in the coming months, and we'll have an update and more information on the project in the next newsletter. Go Girl Scouts!



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Our Real Estate Diversity

by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

January is starting off very strong for real estate in our neighborhood. During January 2014, there were 14 homes on the market with a wide range of List Prices from \$370,000 to \$3,900,000 and an assortment of prices in-between. The Average List Price was \$1,383,199 and the Median List Price was \$824,950. The List Price Per Square Foot ranged from \$275 to one of the highest in recorded history for our neighborhood, \$877 per square foot.

The wide range of home values is partially the result of our established neighborhood undergoing a revival. While there are still some lovely vintage 1950's and 1960's homes with their original features, there are more and more homes that have been updated, or are currently undergoing updating. As homes sell, many new owners are making significant capital investments to update kitchens and bathrooms, replace windows with more energy efficient windows, installing hardwood and natural stone flooring, adding living space and putting in swimming pools. Just driving through our streets, we see numerous homes that have become construction zones. Most new home buyers are renovating their existing properties, and there are a few who have chosen to tear-down their homes to build new ones. Some of these homeowners chose to tear-down their homes because the cost to renovate was more costly than building a new home, or they loved the neighborhood and out-grew their original home, or there were structural issues beyond repair.

Other disparities in home values are caused by varying sizes of lots and different views from these home sites. Some fortunate homeowners have sweeping views of Lake Austin and expansive views of downtown or Brightleaf Nature Preserve, all of which add significant economic value to their properties.

One of the most attractive features of our neighborhood is the diversity of the architectural styles, ranging from midcentury, to Tuscan, to colonial, to transitional, to Texas hill country, to craftsman, to contemporary and many more. There is also the wide range of ages of homes, some homes with wonderful original features like phone niches, glass/brass door knobs, original kitchen cabinets and crown moldings, and some built in recent years with all the modern amenities and open floor plans today's homeowners demand.

The rich diversity of home values, styles, features, sizes, views and ages of our homes has also attracted an equally rich diversity of neighbors. We have a wonderfully interesting neighborhood that celebrates this diversity.



3402 Monte Vista Drive \$950,000

- 4 Bedrooms, 2 on main level, 2 up
- All Bedrooms have en suite bathrooms and walk-in closets
- Formal Dining Room
- Living Room and Den
- TONS and TONS of storage
- Fireplace in Owners' Suite
- 3,896 sq.ft. (per TCAD)
- Garden and Greenhouse
- Highland Park Elementary School District



3513 Highland View \$535,000

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 Play Room/Flex Room
- Living Room and Den
- Dining Room
- Corner Lot, Side-entry Garage
- Soft Contemporary
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- Mature trees
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- Highland Park Elementary School District





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TROWEL & ERROR!



On April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Mayfield Park will 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 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 their April gardens and to stroll the garden paths in the early morning peacefulness.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks of Austin, Trowel & Error will feature three dynamic and knowledgeable garden experts, beginning with Amanda Moon, Heat and Drought Tolerant Plants You May Not Have Heard Of (or Thought About Using) followed by Jay White, Fence Me In – Selecting the Proper

Support for Tomatoes . Rounding out the symposium will be Patty Leander, Go Vertical in the Garden With Climbing, Vining and Twining Vegetables,

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 please contact: Neenok@aol.com MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



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Restoration of Mt. Bonnell Monument Approved



Wondering if there is a plan in the works for an Urban Farm at the top of Mt. Bonnell? Wonder no more! PARD has put a protective structure resembling a chicken coop around the broken monument until restoration of the monument can take place.

PARD has finally committed to the restoration of the existing Covert marker in its present location, and there is mutual support for the 2014 installation of a new and additional marker at Mount Bonnell commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Covert family gift of Mount Bonnell to the people of Travis County.

The Historic Landmark Commission granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following near term site improvements:

- -Reconstruction of existing stair risers and treads near the pergola
- -Installation of hand rails at steps near the pergola
- -Lowering of perimeter wall around the marker
- -Seating walls under existing pergola between the existing columns
- -Addition of hardscape area to create a dais around the existing marker

We welcome your continued support as well as any questions, comments, or other input that you may have.

-Stan Bacon

West Point Society of Central Texas



SEND US YOUR

Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to <u>codytripathi@yahoo.com</u> Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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March Events at Yarborough Library

For more info, go to http://library.austintexas.gov/ Or call 512-974-8820

Tuesday, March 4

7:00 PM Making the Most of Social Security

Thursday, March 6 3:30 PM Book Circle

Wednesday, March 12

7:00 PM Texas Tunesmiths - Thunder Soul

Thursday, March 13

7:00 PM Teen Book Club 3:30 PM Book Circle

Wednesday, March 19

6:00 PM NBTween Book Club

Thursday, March 20

3:30 PM Book Circle 6:30 PM Based On Books Film Series - The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Wednesday, March 26

2:00 PM Books and Babies

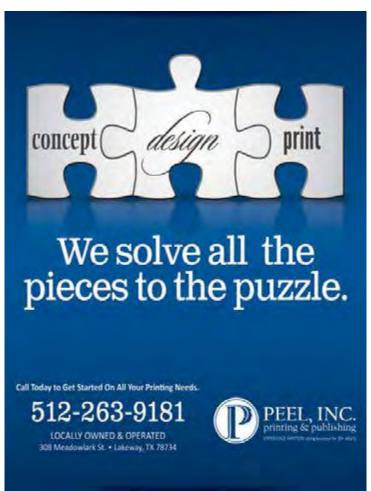


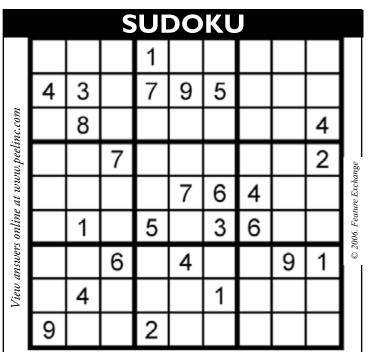
Free Mulch Available Courtesy of ChipDrop!

Chip Drop was started in Portland, Oregon by Bryan Kappa and has recently expanded into the Austin area. Chip Drop is a way to connect people who want free woodchips with arborists who have no need for the mulch they create. They act as a liaison between arborists and homeowners to secure mutually beneficial relationships thereby reducing waste.

For more information or to sign up to receive free mulch, just visit www.chipdrop.in







The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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- Forest Creek
- · Highland Park West Balcones
- Hometown Kyle
- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
- Lakeway
- Lakewood
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- · Lost Creek
- · Meadows of Bushy Creek

- · Plum Creek
- · Prairie on the Creek
- · Ranch at Brushy Creek
- · River Place
- · Round Rock Ranch
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