

HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

THE HPWBANA NEWS

Volume 10, Number 7

July 2014

www.hpwbana.org



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL HPWBANA INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION!

Walk in the parade and stay for the rest of the festivities.

Friday, July 4th Festivities begin at 9:15 Parade steps off at 9:30

Highland Park Elementary South Parking Lot

Prizes for best decorated bike, dog, wagon and stroller!

HOT DOGS! SNOW CONES!

If you would like to VOLUNTEER to help out with this fun, family event, please email us at volunteer@HPWBANA.org

UPDATE: PROPOSED LANE CHANGES ON BALCONES AND PARKCREST

In order to improve safety for all modes of transportation, the City's Public Works Department is implementing and improving a bicycle route system, as directed by the Austin City Council per City Ordinance No. 20090611-075 (The Austin Bicycle Plan). Balcones Drive and Parkcrest Drive between Hancock Drive and Northland Drive are part of Route 23 of the City of Austin bicycle system. The proposed changes to Balcones and Parkcrest are designed to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, and reduce speeding in our neighborhood.

(Continued on Page 2)

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery Update

A meeting was held recently regarding the proposed changes at the Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. HPWBANA resident Jim Mallicote attended and reported that the City is requesting that all ornamental items be removed from the cemetery grounds. This includes flags, wind chimes, benches, and other items. The public is allowed to make requests for exceptions to the proposed changes.

Contact City of Austin Parks and Recreation's Kim McKnight at 512 474-9478 for more information about the proposed changes at the Austin Memorial Park Cemetery.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center. 974-2000 or 311	
Emergency Police	
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)	
Social Services (during work hours)211	
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line 210-698-1709	,
APD REP Officer Darrell Grayson 512-974-5242	

'I4 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

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 for ad information and pricing.

Lane Changes (Continued from Cover)

Balcones, presently four lanes from Hancock to the Parkcrest Y, will become one southbound and one northbound lane, with a center turn lane and bike lanes on either side. At the Y where Parkcrest and Balcones separate, Balcones will revert to its present four lanes, without bike or turn lanes. The bike lanes, and center turn lane, will continue on Parkcrest to 2222; so Parkcrest will no longer have two car lanes in each direction.

The safety island at the Y is being made smaller and a second island added, to make the pedestrian crossing safer. A gap in the sidewalk on the west side of Parkcrest will be filled in. At this point no action is planned to prevent cars southbound on Balcones from turning left into Starbucks, though it may occur in the future. Traffic light timings will not change.

The work on the traffic islands, the periodic resurfacing, and the restriping are expected to be completed in late August. If you have questions, please direct them to Neil Kopper of the City Transportation Department, 974-7166, neil.kopper@austintexas.gov.



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FOLLOW MY BI-WEEKLY VIDEO BLOG AT SMARTSERVICESOLD.BLOGSPOT.COM

WAYS TO STAY COOL THIS JULY:

Barton Springs is always a crowd pleaser austintexas.gov/department/ barton-springs-pool

Go retro at Deep Eddy Pool austintexas.gov/ department/deep-eddy-pool

It's always cool to check out the **Bob Bullock Museum** www.thestoryoftexas.com/

Both summer temperatures and the Austin real estate market are sizzling – don't get burned! Follow my blog to learn tips and tricks! smartservicesold.blogspot.com

TEXAS SUMMER HAS ARRIVED

As the summer continues to heat up, so can your water bills. Try some of these easy steps for keeping your bills cool.

City of Austin Water Conservation tips at austintexas.gov/department/waterconservation-residents.

Irrigation system TIPS

Thoroughly check your system each spring/summer and repair any leaks as soon as possible.

Kitchen sink TIPS

- I. Install a low-flow aerator on your kitchen faucet. Free aerators are available to all Austin Water customers.
- 2. Wash fruits and vegetables in a bowl or basin using a vegetable brush instead of letting the water run. Then use the wash water to water your plants.
- 3. Cook food in as little water as possible and put a lid on the pot. This will also help food retain more nutrients. Use water left over from cooking foods like pasta and vegetables to water plants.

Washing machine TIPS

- I. Check washer hoses regularly for cracks that could result in leaks.
- 2. Only run full loads in your washing machine or if you must wash a partial load, set your machine to use the minimum amount of water required.



Congratulations!! 4706 Balcones was selected as the Yard of the Month. Drive by to see the lush mixture of colors and textures. Submit your nomination for YOM to jennifer@smartservicesold.com



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

Jennifer Smith, Realtor, GRI, CLHMS

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

Perry Art Park: Kids Art Contest

By Friends of Perry Park



Plans for Perry Art Park are coming along nicely, and Friends of Perry Park (FoPP) has all the PARD approvals it needs to press forward! This project has been in discussion for many months and information and background can be found on

the new Friends of Perry Park website, friendsofperrypark.org. To summarize, we have been in discussion with PARD and The Contemporary Austin – Laguna Gloria to create an outdoor sculpture park at Perry Park on the Balcones Drive side of the park. The Contemporary Austin has offered a long-term loan of one of their outdoor sculptures as the initial piece of art. Pictures are on the FoPP website.

To help spread the word and generate interest we created a Perry Art Park contest for kids that will run through the summer months. Using the Perry Art Park logo, the little artists in the community can get creative! The contest form is downloadable here: friendsofperrypark.org/art-contest

Please consider donating to the project as we greatly appreciate all the support from the community. To donate, go to friendsofperrypark.org.

It's Not Just an HGTV Thing

By Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

So many people tell me they love to watch various real estate shows on HGTV. As is the case for most "reality" shows... there's very little realty involved. But when it comes to home staging to sell a property, the benefits are clearly "real." In 2010, Andrea Angott, Ph.D. of Duke University undertook a study to empirically measure the impacts of home staging. Among the findings were three very important factors to which buyers responded very positively; 1) furnished homes versus

vacant homes, 2) rooms staged to show their intended use (stage a dining room like a dining room, not an office) and 3) staging that tells a story.

There is a wide range of home staging services. Fully furnished homes may simply need to have the furniture rearranged, art and accessories moved around, rooms and closets de-cluttered, and almost always, deep cleaning including carpets, windows, appliances and bathrooms.

Vacant homes are usually staged with

furniture that is rented or borrowed by the stager. Many professional real estate stagers have warehouses filled with furniture, artwork and objects d'art. They supplement their inventory by leasing furniture from furniture rental companies as well as borrowing from furniture shops around town. The costs run from just a few hundred dollars to \$3,500 - \$4,000 to furnish a formal dining room, formal living room, den, kitchen, breakfast room, bathrooms and a master bedroom. While the prices may seem high, the benefits warrant the expense. Known benefits are buyers' positive emotional responses to homes and increased perceived sale value which result in behavioral changes that allow homes to sell faster and at higher prices.



Before staging.

Same room after staging.

Staging can be done by many Realtors who hold an Accredited Staging Professional certification or by professional Interior Designers. While watching your favorite HGTV show, take a close look at how homes are staged, and remember that there is "REAL" value in staging homes.

DOGS OFF-LEASH AT PERRY PARK?

There was a recent discussion on the Yahoo Group about the presence of dogs off-leash at Perry Park. We want to remind neighbors that Perry Park is NOT a designated off-leash dog park and that all dogs must remain on-leash in all areas of Perry Park in order to comply with city ordinances. Dog owners who ignore these ordinances may not be aware that a dog



on-leash can react in a very defensive and aggressive manner when approached by a dog that is off-leash, which can be a potentially dangerous situation not only for the dogs, but also for the owners who have their dogs on-leash.

As one neighbor mentioned, the city ordinances are in place so that all residents can enjoy our parks regardless of whether or not they enjoy the company of dogs. "While It can be a challenge to exercise our pets off-leash living in a city, Austin has some great options for pet-owners wanting to allow their dogs to exercise off-leash, including Red Bud, West 10th, Walnut Creek and Auditorium Shores."

Please remember to keep dogs on-leash while at Perry Park for the safety of other dog owners, their pets, and individuals who may not be comfortable in the presence of an off-leash dog.



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Public Running Track at Camp Mabry to Close for Renovations

CAMP MABRY, Texas (June 9, 2014) – The Texas Military Forces outdoor running track at Camp Mabry, in Austin, Texas will close to the public beginning Friday, June 20, 2014 through August 2014, as it is scheduled to undergo construction, weather permitting.

Improvements scheduled to be made to the track during the renovations include widening it, replacing the crushed granite and installing a concrete curbing around its edge. Additionally, the one-mile track will be completed with a new rubberized running surface prior to its re-opening.

All renovations to the track will be performed by the 342nd

Horizontal Engineer Company, Texas Army National Guard in conjunction with members of the Texas Air National Guard and Texas Military Forces Construction and Facilities Management Office.

"This is a great opportunity for our members to work together on a project that will give back to their community, as well as fellow Soldiers and Airmen," said Lt. Col. Les Davis, Camp Mabry Garrison Commander.

For more information regarding the track improvement project at Camp Mabry, contact the Public Affairs Office at 512-782-5620.

Perry Park Tennis Courts Update

By Friends of Perry Park

Our local tennis enthusiasts have Perry Park tennis courts on their mind and improvements are taking place. In June Stephen and Magnus Bohls were busy painting the backstop, which was looking a bit worn. It looks great now with a fresh coat of paint! Stephen and Magnus live close to Perry Park and use the tennis courts frequently.

Dave Woods is busy collecting information on what it would take to get the courts resurfaced. With a grant option available and help from the tennis community we think we can do this project, however, we will have to come up with some matching funds in order to make this project happen.

There is a long history of Perry Park tennis court

improvements from the community. In 2000, a local family completely funded the resurfacing of the courts. Over time, funds were secured to provide a garbage receptacle, benches, and shade structures. In addition, the nice little trail that was built to the entrance was an Eagle Scout project.

If you would like to help fund the resurfacing project, you can make a donation at hpwbana.org. Be sure to specify in the comments section that you would like your donation to go to the Perry Park Tennis Courts. In addition, don't forget to join



Stephen and Magnus Bohls recently helped paint the backstop at the Perry Park Tennis Courts.

or renew your membership with HPWBANA. Membership dues also help fund projects in the neighborhood.

Thank you to all members of our community that have worked and continue to work to improve our neighborhood.

Friends of Perry Park will keep you posted on progress! http://friendsofperrypark.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS AT YARBOROUGH LIBRARY

In addition to weekly storytimes and monthly book clubs, the Yarborough Library has some great upcoming events in July and August! These unique events include their "Based on Books" Movie Screenings, a puppetry workshop, tap dance experience, and even a Super Smash Bros Brawl Tournament. For more information, go to www.library.austintexas.gov/locations and click on Yarborough Branch, or call 512-974-8820.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2014

2:00 PM Puppetry Workshop. The Library's own Literature Live! troupe will teach you how to make and use puppets. Learn how to bring your creations to life through the magic of puppetry! Ages 5 and up. Seating is limited at all programs. Please arrive a few minutes early to gain entrance.

MONDAY, JULY 7, 2014

6:00 PM Not for Human Consumption: Felt Food Workshop. Recommended for participants aged 12 to 17. Contact library for more information.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2014

2:00 PM The Tap Dance Experience with Terrence "Taps" Bennett. It's a kinetic hour of fantastic moves and thrilling rhythms as The Tap Dance Man, Terrence Bennett, shares his art. Ages 5 and up. Seating is limited at all programs. Please arrive a few minutes early to gain entrance and call ahead to make sure tickets are not required.

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

6:30 PM Based on Books Movie: Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, PG -

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 2014

2:00 PM Air Power! Demonstrations and hands-on experiments with aerodynamics and propulsion. Ages 5 and up. Seating is limited at all programs. Please arrive a few minutes early to gain entrance and call ahead to make sure tickets are not required.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2014

12:30 PM Super Smash Bros Brawl Tournament 2:00 PM Super Smash Bros Brawl Tournament

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2014

6:30 PM Based on Books Movie: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters, PG

Rebecca's HPWBAN Listings



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3402 Monte Vista Drive 4 Bedrooms, 4.5 Bathrooms, 3,896 sq.ft. per TCAD Offered for \$895,000

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MOPAC EXPRESS LANE Due to Open Fall, 2015

Steve Pustelnyk of Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority attended the June 16, 2014 HPWBANA Board Meeting and provided details regarding the changes that Austin and HPWBANA will experience in the coming months during construction of the Mopac Corridor Express Lane.

Steve stressed that the new lane under construction is not an HOV lane, but rather an express lane. The express lane will be managed by technology that will adjust the price for lane usage in a manner that will guarantee the lane keeps rolling—so that it is truly an "express" lane. In other words, the "free market" price to use the express lane will dictate the number of cars that chose to use the lane, with no cap on how expensive the lane may be at any given time.

CTRMA bases the predicted effectiveness on computer modeling technology as well as the successful implementation of this technology in other parts of the country.

Neighbors questioned Steve regarding the effectiveness of the sound walls that will be installed and how CTRMA intends to handle potential graffiti that might appear on the walls.

Video simulation of a future drive down Mopac from our neighborhood to downtown was shown to the audience and is available on the CTRMA's website. The express lane exit to Ceasar Chavez/5th Street will utilize a to-be-constructed tunnel exit which will feed onto the existing exit ramp. Neighbors are encouraged to learn more by subscribing to the Mopac e-newsletter at www.mopacexpress.com/new/ newsletters.php. In addition, you can sign up for text or email alerts that will provide information on delays at www. mopacexpress.com.

Mayfield Preserve Drinking Fountain

By Nadene Morning



Volunteers from Little Helping Hands stand show off the new drinking fountain they helped install at Mayfield Preserve.

Visitors to Mayfield may notice the brand new drinking fountain near the entrance! Austin Parks Foundation awarded a grant to Friends of Mayfield Preserve to make this project happen. Friends of Mayfield Preserve teamed up with Little Helping Hands for the volunteer component of the grant. They had 2 workdays every month at Mayfield Preserve for almost a year to complete the project. These little park stewards learned about the importance of volunteering as their hard work was tallied towards a permanent park amenity for Mayfield. In addition, volunteer hours for fire mitigation work and invasive plant removal efforts were also tracked. Over 750 volunteer hours were tallied for Mayfield Preserve for this project.

Many thanks go out to Friends of Reed Park who also made a significant donation towards the project.

It is just wonderful to see the community come together to help improve Mayfield!





Are You the Next Communications Chair for the HPWBANA?

The HPWBANA is currently seeking the next communications chair for the 2014-2015 year beginning in October. The communications chair is responsible for coordinating the flow of information to our neighbors, including announcements, news, and events in and around our community. Tasks include editing and submitting articles for our monthly newsletter as well as cross posting relevant items on our Yahoo Group, FB Page, and website.

Newsletter responsibilities include gathering articles relevant to the neighborhood that are free of advertising (ads can be purchased separately through PEEL, the company that prints and distributes the newsletter). Board members and residents are strongly encouraged to submit many of these articles, however, the editor can supply additional content.

The website tasks include updating our user friendly wordpress website, requiring only very basic computer and word processing skills. The communications chair does not have to be a board member

If you are interested in this position or have any additional questions, please send an email to newsletter@hpwbana.org



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Highland Park West Balcones Area





ACROSS 1. Chunk

5. Tramp

10. Confuse

13. Fraud

16. Taught

18. Hides

21. Brew

11. Cain killed him

15. Compass point

12. To that time

22. Large meals

26. Sheer, triangular scarf

28. Midwestern state

31. September (abbr.)

29. Electronic mail

alphabet

32. Polish

9. Run

- DOWN 1. Attired 2. Earring need 3. Organization of Petroleum **Exporting Countries** 4. Efface 5. Egg layer 6. Many times 7. Capital of Idaho 8. Eyed 10. Combustible material 14. Angry 17. Old Testament prophet 18. Fireproof storage areas 19. Climate 20. Summary 30. First letter of the Arabic 23. Fly alone 24. Matching 25. Secure 27. Whack

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