

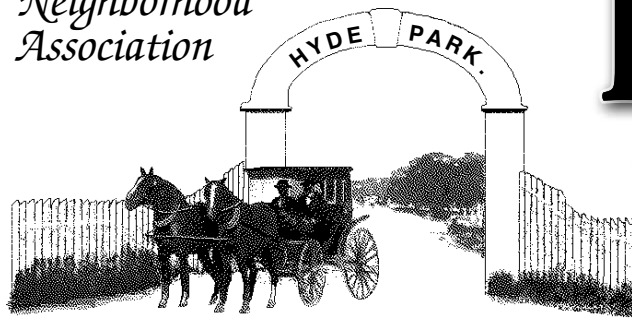
August Meeting

HPNA will not hold a general meeting in August.

We look forward to seeing you in September, when we will be hosting CM Zo Qadri.



The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

August 2023 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 49, No. 08

HPNA Tech Tune-Ups Include Relunched Website

Throughout 2023, we've been launching and revisiting the many technology tools we use to keep members connected.

Earlier this year, we launched our online membership tool (unfortunately named GlueUp), helping more than 150 new and returning members pay and join online since March alone.

Next up is our just-relaunched website, with refreshed content and tools. Use it to keep up on

Continued on page 11

Greetings from The Rosette

We're about to begin our second full season at The Rosette, Austin Classical Guitar's concert and creative learning center in the Baker School at Avenue B and 40th Street.

In our first season we were thrilled to be a stop on the Hyde Park Homes Tour, and it was wonderful to welcome so many new friends and



Matt Hinsley



The Rosette



Photos by Jack Kloecker.

neighbors to breakfast events, community gatherings, classes, and concerts featuring artists from all across the world.

This fall we're excited to add early childhood music classes, in partnership with Armstrong Community Music School, for young ones age 0 to 5. These will complement our evening beginning guitar classes for adults, ensemble rehearsals, open mic nights, breakfast talks, community fundraisers, and more. Soon we'll be announcing a morning wellness series as well.

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HYDE PARK HOMES TOUR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12



THE HYDE PARK HOMES TOUR IS LOOKING FOR DOCENTS

Docents lead the tours. It's fun being a docent. You'll be invited to a meeting with your house captain at the home a week before tour day. Our experienced researchers, working with the house captain, will train you for the home you are assigned to. The day of the tour you'll work a 2 hour shift.

Volunteers will receive free admission to all stops on the tour and will be invited to the afterparty which happens immediately after the tour.

Contact Kip Dollar (kipdollar@gmail.com)

From the Desk of the President



If you attended July's general meeting you will know that John Eastman, the city official we had invited to speak to us about sidewalks, was not able to join us. Fortunately Mr. Eastman did take time to answer questions that some neighbors had previously submitted, and you can find his answers to those questions in the meeting's minutes and on HPNA's website. The installation of new sidewalks in Hyde Park is going to take place for the next six months, so if you have questions, we provided information on how to reach the relevant city officials. We also hope to re-invite Mr. Eastman to join us at a future general meeting.

We will not have a general meeting in August. Our next general meeting will be on Monday, September 11, when we will host our newly elected City Council Member Zo Qadri. CM Qadri was elected to the District 9 City Council seat previously held by Kathie Tovo. District 9 includes Hyde Park, the University of

Texas, downtown, and most of the Central Austin neighborhoods. While members of CM Qadri's staff joined us in June for Hyde Park's Ice Cream Social, September's meeting will be the first time HPNA will formally get to introduce itself to CM Qadri since his election.

I anticipate neighbors will have a number of questions for CM Qadri. As this letter goes to publication, the City Council will be discussing and possibly voting on a resolution that will instruct city staff to draft proposed zoning amendments to the city's Land Development Code (LDC) that will impact Austin neighborhoods. The proposed resolution is authored by CM Leslie Pool, with co-sponsors that include CM Qadri, Mayor Kirk Watson, CM Paige Ellis, and CM Chito Vela.

According to the newsletter Community Impact, CM Pool's resolution calls for the following:

- Reducing Austin's single-family minimum lot size from 5,750 to 2,500 square feet or less – staff would come up with a final figure – allowing existing lots to be divided up into smaller parcels.
- Bumping up the unit cap per single-family lot from two to three or more.
- Creating a new three-family residential use to bring more "flexible housing configurations" to single-family areas.

If this resolution passes, city staff will be instructed to prepare code language that complies with the resolution for City Council to vote on this fall. We cannot be sure how these zoning amendments will affect Hyde Park until we see the final language on which City Council votes. However during the drafting process HPNA will watch what the city does and seek input from neighbors. We would like to

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Pecan Press

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Submissions to Pecan Press

- Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com.

Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.

- Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at herzele@gmail.com.

All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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Hyde Park Updates

Guadalupe Street Flood Risk Reduction Project

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be digging 14 temporary holes on multiple streets to find out the exact location of water lines. This helps us know the exact location of water lines that need to be moved when we install new storm drain pipes and will help us avoid delays during construction.



There will be some temporary lane and sidewalk closures, including bike lanes, when we dig the holes. The lane closures will be relatively brief and will move around. We do not expect to be in any one location for more than about four hours.

There will be test holes at these locations:

- Guadalupe Street, between 32nd and 35th Street
- 45th Street, between Triangle Avenue and Avenue A
- Speedway
- Home Lane
- The alley between 39th and 40th Streets (the alley will be temporarily closed).
- 35th Street
- 37th Street
- 40th Street
- 41st Street
- 43rd Street
- 44th Street

Please slow down in the construction area, follow the instructions of flaggers, and expect some traffic delays.

Continued on page 11

Hyde Park Water & Wastewater Renewal Project

Dear Hyde Park Neighbors,



Several of you have asked why Austin Water crews sometimes leave a street before finishing construction, only to return and start work again later. We realize this back and forth causes frustration, so we wanted to provide an update.

Working in the Hyde Park Neighborhood, our crews have encountered many unexpected blockages that have forced them to halt construction. These blockages are usually caused by old utility equipment, such as gas lines and storm sewers, installed decades ago but not properly recorded. (At the time of these old installations, tools that could accurately capture underground placement did not exist.)

Whenever our crews encounter one of these obstacles, they have to halt their work until the appropriate authority can get the blockage removed. Occasionally, construction plans for that spot must even be redesigned.

We do not want the Hyde Park Water and Wastewater Project to stall while we are on hold resolving an unanticipated problem, so in this situation, the contractor relocates the crews to work on another street. This keeps the overall project in motion.

Thanks to this strategy, the Hyde Park Water and Wastewater Project remains on schedule despite all the unforeseen obstacles. Approximately 50% of the work is completed, and we still anticipate a February 2024 finish.

Continued on page 11

Join the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Join and renew online at www.austinhdepark.org/join.

- Secure online payment
- Opt-in for auto renewal
- Email reminders for renewals
- Join for multiple years

Residents 18 or older living within the boundaries of Hyde Park are welcome to join. Current members may vote on HPNA resolutions concerning issues facing our community. New and lapsed members (over six months) must wait 30 days after dues payment to vote on HPNA resolutions.

Learn more about membership options and policies at austinhdepark.org/join or join us at a general meeting.

HPNA does not share, sell, or publish any contact information; it's only used for membership administration.

Questions? Email hydeparkna@gmail.com.

To receive reminders about HPNA events, email subscribe+hpna-notice@googlegroups.com.

Need to join by mail?

Complete and mail this form with cash or check (payable to HPNA) to
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Email (required): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

New Member Renewing Member

Membership Types (choose one):

- Individual, resident: \$5/year
- Individual, non-resident (non-voting): \$5/year
- Senior, resident (65+): \$1/year
- Student, resident: FREE
- Business (non-voting): \$25/year

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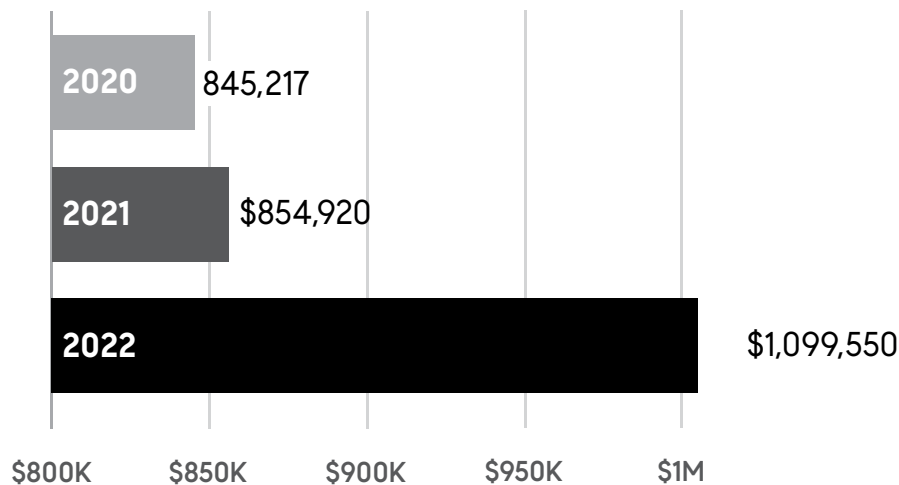
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Sam Archer, Juice Real Estate Group
512.633.4650 | sam.archer@compass.com

As a Central Austin REALTOR and resident, I have keen insight into what makes this neighborhood special and how to communicate that value to buyers and sellers. I love this neighborhood and that connection makes a difference. Whether you are buying or selling, I will help you with incomparable professional experience and personal commitment that goes beyond the transaction.




Average Sales Price: 2020—2022



For more detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker Associate.

All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family homes

 Compass is a licensed real estate broker. All material is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description or measurements (including square footage). This is not intended to solicit property already listed. No financial or legal advice provided. Equal Housing Opportunity. Photos may be virtually staged or digitally enhanced and may not reflect actual property conditions.

HPNA General Meeting

Minutes: July 10, 2023

MEETING TOPIC: Sidewalks in Hyde Park

President Kevin Heyburn started the meeting at 7:03 pm.

Presentation on Sidewalks in Hyde Park

John Eastman, of the city of Austin Sidewalk Program, was unable to attend the meeting. Kevin and Chris Wooster read questions submitted to Mr. Eastman together with his written responses.

Q: Can homeowners decline to have sidewalks built in front of their property? A: No, sidewalks are constructed within the dedicated city right of way (ROW) and not on landowners' property. Sidewalks can only fulfill their function of providing safe and accessible pedestrian routes when they are connected as part of a complete network.

Q: Another neighbor said she doesn't understand how your department prioritizes needs. She thinks that a sidewalk is desperately needed on the southwest corner of Avenue F between 40th and 41st. She says there is frequent flooding there, and there is no ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access. A: She is likely correct. Due to decades of deferred maintenance only 32% of the city's sidewalk network is in a functionally acceptable condition. We're working hard to fix sidewalks citywide and have made significant improvements over the last 7 years (in 2015 only 16% of sidewalks were functionally acceptable). There are over 1,900 miles of sidewalk that need work in Austin and current funding levels are only sufficient to address around 50 miles per year. The prioritization of those limited funds is based on the Sidewalk Master Plan/ADA Transition Plan Update (https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Public_Works/Street_%26_Bridge/Sidewalk_MPU_Adopted_06.16.2016_reduced.pdf).

A third neighbor had questions about trees and sidewalks:

Q: What are the city's plans for detailed design around existing obstacles, such as trees? A: Retrofit sidewalks are routed around trees to the greatest extent possible within the limits of the city ROW.

Q: Are those plans available to the public? A: To allow flexibility in working with landowners while also addressing city tree requirements, sidewalks are installed using a field-engineered approach. If there are questions about a specific location, the Consulting Engineer for the project, Imad Salem, will meet with adjacent property owners on site. He can be reached on his mobile at (512) 296-3932 to arrange a site visit.

Q: What are the responsibilities of property owners to maintain and prune planting along the sidewalk in front of their property? A: Adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining vegetation so that it does not block sidewalks or streets.

A fourth neighbor has questions about sprinklers and sidewalks:

Q: When the sidewalk crew damages an in-ground sprinkler system (as she says the city did on the 4200 block of Speedway) who pays for the repairs-- the city or the property owner? A: The city takes care of all repairs and costs to relocate existing functional irrigation systems that are impacted by sidewalk projects. Please note that this approach is above and beyond city requirements for

Continued on page 7

Monthly Calendar

August

- 5 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney Museum
- 10 — DRC Meeting
- 11 — Recycling Pickup
- 12 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney Museum
- 14 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 19 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney Museum
- 25 — Recycling Pickup
- 26 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney Museum

September

- 4 — Happy Labor Day!
- 5 — ACGtalks Happy Hour at the Rosette
- 8 — Recycling Pickup

Pecan Press Advertising Rates

(Effective September, 2015)

Size	(width X height)	Price
Back Cover.....	(7.5" X 10")	400.00
Full Page.....	(7.5" X 10")	300.00
1/2 Page.....	(7.5" X 5")	190.00
1/4 Page.....	(3.63" X 5")	100.00
1/6 Page.....	(3.63" X 3.25")	80.00
1/9 Page.....	(3.63" X 2.25")	60.00
1/12 Page.....	(3.63" X 1.63")	50.00

Save the Date

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association will proudly host the Fire Station Festival on October 22 from 3 to 5 pm at 4301 Speedway. The costume parade will begin at 2:30 pm at Shipe Park. All Hyde Park residents are invited to wear their costumes and walk with us to Fire Station #9.

Want to sponsor a booth? Email Stefanie Bertram at Stefanie.Bertram@gmail.com.

Questions? Email Katie Turner at katieturner050@gmail.com.



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Read what others are saying:



July Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 5

irrigation systems that were installed in the city ROW without a valid license agreement.

Q: Do the crews advise homeowners to shut off in-ground sprinkler systems before sidewalk work begins? A: Yes

Q: If a property owner is out of town and didn't get a message to shut off a sprinkler system, what happens if or when a crew damages a sprinkler line or water main? A: If the contractor has been unable to reach a landowner because he or she is out of town the water will be shut off at the meter for a short period of time to relocate the irrigation system that was installed in the city ROW.

Q: Will the crew shut off water to the property at the city shutoff or will it just flood until the homeowner returns? A: Water will be shut off temporarily and then turned back on when work is complete.

Q: What is the schedule for new sidewalks? A: Crews are currently scheduled to be in the Hyde Park area for another 5 to 6 months; for a map of upcoming sidewalk work please visit the Sidewalk Program website or use the following link: <https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=02eef190f5241f19f92492d63ba5ce2>.

Q: How were the priorities determined? A: Council adopted Sidewalk Plan/ADA Transition Plan.

Q: Are there specific plans or drawings for new sidewalks where there are large trees and fences? A: No. To allow flexibility in working with landowners while also addressing city tree requirements, sidewalks are installed using a field-engineered approach. If there are questions about a specific location the Consulting Engineer for the project, Imad Salem, will meet with adjacent property owners on site. He can be reached on his mobile at (512) 296-3932 to arrange a site visit.

Q: If there are no drawings, how are locations determined? What are the instructions to the contractor regarding placement? A: Consulting Engineer provides direction to contractor on sidewalk placement following guidance of the Sidewalk Plan, Transportation Criteria Manual, Environmental Criteria Manual, city tree preservation ordinance, and consultation with adjacent landowner if requested.

Q: Should property owners remove items in the right of way? A: If there are concerns about needing to possibly move items in ROW, the adjacent landowner should contact Consulting Engineer Imad Salem at (512) 296-3932 to arrange a site visit.

Q: Why are sidewalks being replaced that appear to be in good shape, for example, the 4200 block of Speedway? A: Sidewalks that appear to be in good shape sometimes do not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and need to be replaced to provide a complete ADA compliant route. In addition there are times where sidewalks need to be rerouted to mitigate potential tree impacts that can involve removing otherwise good sidewalk.

Questions about the Speedway and 43rd Street intersection:

Q: The city has poured a sidewalk at the curb at this lot apparently to avoid moving some homeowner bushes. It appears to be creating a problem with the ability to connect with the ramp across 43rd Street. The city also appears to have also poured a new driveway and sidewalk for this homeowner. Can you please explain this design? Will the homeowner's work be paid for by the City? What policies should the neighborhood expect going forward? A: All work necessary to provide an ADA-compliant sidewalk route is funded by the city including constructing driveway approaches and relocating irrigation systems where needed. When complete there will be connecting ramps at all intersections included in the project. (A member noted there is also a heritage tree on the 43rd and Speedway property.)

Following the Q&A reading, Karen McGraw, who has worked on Hyde Park sidewalk projects for many decades, shared a brief neighborhood history. She noted that that the Neighborhood Plan was supposed to include sidewalk priorities. At that time the city said it would never build sidewalks on both sides of the street. Karen cited an illustration in Sarah and Thad Sitton's book, *Austin's Hyde Park: The First 50 Years*, indicating Monroe Shipe's intention

Continued on page 12

TV Shows in the '90s

Word Find by der Brat

T H E N I N E T I E S S H O W S
 C A T E R E I S A R F S O F K I
 B A T H E R O I N E S R A S E X
 F O R M E N A H S E O M O R E D
 R R O M E S I D L A I D O E R B
 I N E X E Z I E N L I L Y E C E
 E D I S H N U M Y O O O E H S A
 N L H A H L S M P C M S O C N K
 D E C C C P A A G S U Y H O O M
 S F L A T T R N N O O O A S S A
 L N E X T A I I H D O N O R W N
 L I K E E V W L N L I D S E A S
 I E R E I L L Y B C H E A P D O
 B S A L E U V U A R E A G E N T
 E Y N E F I S H Y B U F O O T U
 M I A R E N S T I M P Y F F U B

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. Top show about nothing. (8) _____
2. Brandy N deals with it. (6) _____
3. The guy everybody loves. (7)

4. Remember when Rachel kissed Ross? (7)

5. Still going in the 20s ... doh! (3,8)

6. Another day at the beach. (8) _____
7. Spin-off of #16. (7) _____
8. Followed the movie ... still no idea. (8)

9. Up this w/o a paddle? (7,5)

10. Did Urkel do that? (6,7)

11. Famous killer of blood suckers. (5) _____
12. Saget has his hands full. (4,5)

13. Bill Clinton on sax. (7) _____
14. Will Smith in Bel-Air. (5,6)

15. Psycho dog and dumb cat separated by &. (3,6)

16. Where everyone knows your name. (6)

17. with 18. It's the Science guy. (4) _____
18. see above. (3) _____
19. His World ... also science for kids. (8)

20. The Wayans have some fun. (2,6,5)

21. Where in the world is she? (6,8)

22. Field trip with Ms. Frizzle on the Magic _?_.

Answers on page 18

News from the Ney

We have enjoyed seeing so many families at the Elisabet Ney Museum this summer. Our Family Days at the Ney have been so successful, with families creating art together in the Museum and under the lovely shade of the oak trees. We have transformed the Ney's reception room into a maker's space and studio to showcase all the wonderful art produced by all. Thank you for spending Saturdays with us! We continue to share the museum as a space for education and artmaking this August with Saturday Morning Drawing Salons taking place August 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 10 am to 12 pm.

Stay cool and join a group of fellow artists and newcomers to the rewarding task of drawing before the museum is open to the public. Sketch Elisabet's realistic sculptures in her own Formosa studio. Each session is hosted by our museum educators, and all of the required materials will be provided. Participation is free and open to everyone, regardless of age or level of experience. No RSVP is required, so we hope to see you all there.

We would also like to thank all the Hyde Park businesses for sharing their offering for the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association's annual Ice Cream Social. We hosted over 600 guests on the grounds and had a wonderful time together. It was wonderful to share food, books, and drinks in community with so many on the lovely Ney grounds. Many thanks to all the volunteers for making it possible. We look forward to it again soon!

We are looking forward to the upcoming fall and many more wonderful opportunities to celebrate Elisabet Ney, her profound contribution to Austin, and her amazing art.

Sursum!

Inside the Ney on Ice Cream Social Day.
Photos Courtesy the Elisabet Ney Museum.

President's Letter...

...cont'd from page 2

bring as many neighbors' voices as possible into a conversation about these zoning changes and about what position HPNA should take on those changes. To that end, the HPNA Steering Committee is working on different ways for neighbors to share their views with HPNA and with each other. We will soon have more information about this on HPNA's website.

HPNA also continues to work on ways to bring neighbors together by sponsoring upcoming community events. Plans are underway for Hyde Park's annual Fire Station Festival and parade, to be held on Sunday, October 22. HPNA is also planning its annual neighborhood Holiday Party, which will be in early December at the Elisabet Ney Museum. And we will soon announce details about the Historic Hyde Park Homes Tour, which will be held on Sunday, November 12. The tour will need around 130 volunteers, so please consider volunteering to help make the tour a success. To volunteer, please go to HPNA's website.

We hope to hear from you about the city's new zoning plans, and we look forward to seeing you at Hyde Park's upcoming events.

— Kevin Heyburn





Join the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

Join the HPNA to add your voice to local issues — and to help us with community events we sponsor here in one of Austin's oldest and most vibrant neighborhoods.

Current members can vote on resolutions and contribute efforts toward events like the annual Hyde Park Homes Tour, and local events like the Bunny and Holiday parades, the Ice Cream Social, and the Hyde Park Fire Station Festival.

Memberships are just \$5 per person, per year. Learn more about membership at www.austinhypark.org/contact.

Apply online:



app.glueup.com/org/austinhypark/



The Rosette...

...cont'd from page 1

We have an exciting fall with a European ensemble playing new original music live during the screening of a 1927 Lon Chaney Sr. thriller call *The Unknown*, extraordinary talent and internet sensation Stephanie Jones from Australia in concert, and a marvelous virtuoso from France named Jeremy Jouve, among others. Our artistic director will be giving a full season preview on Thursday, September 7 at 6:30 pm for our first ACGtalks Happy Hour event of the season. We'd love for you to stop by!

We're not the only ones making art at The Rosette! Artists, community groups, individuals, and businesses are now using the space for events ranging from theater productions to film screenings. We have a full calendar of public events, in addition to Austin Classical Guitar shows, at our new website: RosetteATX.org.

Our big hope at Austin Classical Guitar is that our new home will be your home, too. We welcome your ideas and requests and hope very much that The Rosette will be a space for thriving creativity and community connection. Do you have thoughts, or would you like a tour? I welcome your email at matt@austinclassicalguitar.org.

I hope to see you soon.

— Matthew Hinsley

Matt Hinsley is executive director of Austin Classical Guitar, a concert, education, and social service organization, dedicated to doing good in the world with music.



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SOLD



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Duplex • 6 beds • 4 baths • 2,516 sq. ft.



604 E 42nd St. • \$995,000
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,515 sq. ft.



9707 Vista View Dr. • \$855,000
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,980 sq. ft.

SOLD



4521 Speedway • \$795,000
3 beds • 2 bath • 1,224 sq. ft.

SOLD



3008 East 16th St. • \$795,000
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,592 sq. ft.

SOLD



4410 Hank Avenue. • \$795,000
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SOLD



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REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

Austin Board of Realtors, MLS data shown is for Austin area addresses February, 2023



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Guadalupe Flood Risk Reduction... ...cont'd from page 3

Project Status

We are currently adding water and wastewater improvements to the construction plans. Because this project requires a full reconstruction of some of the streets, Austin Water has asked us to include some additional work on aging water and wastewater infrastructure, which has experienced higher maintenance activities. Combining drainage and water improvements into one project is more efficient and cost effective with public funds. It will help prevent the city from coming back shortly after finishing construction on the drainage system to work on aging utility infrastructure.

The project team also continues to work on the concept plans for Adams Hemphill Neighborhood Park and the design of the proposed storm water detention basins.

Due to the size and estimated cost of this project, construction is likely to occur in phases. Construction of the first phase will not begin before 2025.

Project Purpose

This project will improve and expand the storm drain system between 47th Street and 33rd Street. The storm drain system was built in 1928 and generally runs under Avenue A. We suspect that when the neighborhood was built, an entire small creek was diverted underground and homes were built where the creek used to be. Austin's development rules would not allow this to be done today.

The old storm drain pipe is undersized. When it reaches capacity, storm water flows through areas where the creek used to be and floods houses and roads. Multiple houses have flooded repeatedly in the past 10 years and more than 200 structures are at risk of flooding in a 100-year storm (13 inches of rain in 24 hours).

Questions?

There's more information on our website, <https://www.austintexas.gov/GuadalupeDrainage>. Please direct questions to Hanh Thai, Project Sponsor, 512-974-9232 or Hanh.Thai@austintexas.gov.



HP Water & Wastewater Renewal... ...cont'd from page 3

However, we realize this approach means there are disrupted areas of streets that remain disrupted, sometimes for weeks, and we are grateful for your patience. Unanticipated blockages are typical in older areas; unfortunately, the older the area, the more unrecorded blockages we tend to encounter. We are currently working to resolve this sort of problem on East 47th as well as Avenues D, F, G, and H.

New utilities are coming to the Hyde Park area as part of Renewing Austin (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/pipeline-renewal>), a city-wide project to update Austin's water infrastructure as we prepare for the future.

Please feel free to contact a member of the project team with any questions.

Project Contacts

Lisa Whitworth, Project Manager, 512-974-5615, lisa.whitworth@austintexas.gov

Joshua Ramos, Construction Coordinator, Mobile (737) 500-6458

Cynthia Miller, Public Information, cynthia.miller@austintexas.gov

HPNA Tech Tune-Up... ...cont'd from page 1

upcoming events, meetings, resources, and news from around Hyde Park. Behind the scenes, enhanced security and an easier-to-use interface makes maintenance much easier for our volunteer teams.

Nostalgia and history fans can browse back issues of the *Pecan Press* – dating to 2005 – and Homes Tour booklets with mountains of architectural notes from residences across Hyde Park, all the way back to the first Homes Tour in 1979.

On the tech side, we'll also be test driving several digital tools that we hope enhance the at-home experience for those joining our monthly meetings remotely. We expect improved audio and video using a new or used, dedicated, HPNA-owned laptop, camera, and speaker-microphone better tuned for the Griffin School's large meeting room. We're doing our part to improve the experience; we ask you to do yours and remember to mute your mics when joining the meetings.

To join or renew your membership, sign up for email lists, get volunteer information, and more, visit the improved HPNA site at www.austinhydepark.org.

– Chris Wooster



July Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 7

that trees be planted in the right-of-way. Later city plans required sidewalks to be within two feet of the property line; this is now the standard. Karen described some neighborhood streets as creating a crooked "drunkard's path" because construction was not to city standards but rather to individual homeowner preferences. Karen and others reported that engineers on the Sidewalk Project say there are so much impediments that they have to go lot by lot rather than create an overall plan.

The city's later plan to create accessibility ramps resulted in entire corners being concreted. Karen and Wanda Penn consulted federal standards and pushed for the city to build straight ramps with return to curbs. A number of those ramps were built; Karen said this design should be the standard throughout the neighborhood.

Doron Weber, who lives at the southeast corner of 44th Street and Avenue D, noted that there is a fire hydrant on the corner of her property and that her 1920s house is very close to the property line. If general guidelines were followed, the sidewalk would be only one or two feet from the house. Imad Salem drove to the property and Facetimed with the owner, who was out of town. Mr. Salem said the picture online was not the plan, and emphasized that each lot is being individually appraised. In this case, he will try to have the sidewalk hug the curb as much as possible. Ms. Weber was satisfied with the compromise plan, and encouraged other homeowners to talk directly with Mr. Salem about their concerns.

Seema, who lives on the corner of 40th Street and Avenue C, said she also spoke with Mr. Salem. He told her the project is following federally-mandated ADA requirements. The city has ten years to comply, by which time every street in Austin will have a sidewalk. He also said that workers are starting at Avenue D and 41st Street, proceeding towards Duval; and that workers will not get to Seema's house for the next two years at least. Noting that heritage trees are protected under the plan, she expressed concern that younger trees planted by owners in the right-of-way do not have protection. She also wondered how the "drunken sidewalk" problem could be resolved given trees and other obstacles.


Chris Wooster agreed that straight sidewalks are not possible given large trees in the right-of-way. He thinks the city has done a good job in the instances he has seen. Seema wondered how many trees the project will remove. She noted the efforts she has taken to nurture trees planted to replace old post oaks. The lack of protection for younger trees "seems shortsighted." In connection with tree watering, Mr. Salem informed her that individuals do not have the right to irrigate public property.

One member remarked that as long as the plan is ADA-complaint she is satisfied. Ellie Hanlon reinforced Chris's remark, specifying that the city has done a good job on Caswell sidewalks between 47th and 48th Streets.

Nancy Hohengarten asked about the rules: Can homeowners decline to build a sidewalk on their property? Karen explained that the city now requires builders or homeowners to install sidewalks for a new house or for a remodel that adds 50% or more to the space of an existing house. In some cases the owner can pay a fee-in-lieu instead of building the sidewalk. (Karen reiterated Mr. Eastman's point, above, that if the city wants to build sidewalks in its right-of-way it has the right to do so anytime.) Susan Marshall noted that the fee-in-lieu exception seems to contradict ADA requirements. Seema wondered whether the city might think about using impervious materials for ramps. On a related note, Wanda observed that people have gotten used to walking in the street, including those with sidewalks. She noted the danger of drivers not seeing people walking on the street.

A member asked whether there will be sidewalk work north of 45th Street. Chris said extensive work is occurring at 46th and Red River as well as on Caswell. In response to another question,

Continued on page 14



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Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston



Party Time with Zero Waste!

Summertime is a great time for parties. I frequently have large parties and my goal is to have parties with zero waste. Here is what I do to make that happen:



- For hot drinks, I provide coffee mugs, not disposable cups.
- All wine bottles, aluminum cans, and plastic recyclables go into the blue bin.
- I use compostable paper plates, napkins, and bowls.
- All eating utensils are BPI certified compostable.
- All leftover food goes into compost.
- At the party, I have containers marked “trash,” “compost,” and “recycle.”
 - I use a 13-gallon compost bag in the container marked “compost.” I then put that directly into my green compost bin.
 - I empty the “recycle” container into my blue recycle bin. Please remember: don’t put bagged recyclables into the blue bin.
 - The only trash I ever have are chip bags and the tops to the beer bottles!

More Information about Recycling Black Plastic

I mentioned in a previous “Lettuce Recycle” that black plastic is very difficult to recycle because the optical sorters at the recycling facility cannot recognize the black plastic. I learned more about this and want to share what I learned with my readers.

Even though black plastic containers might be marked with a recycling symbol, they are not recognized by the optical sorting machines at the recycling facility and therefore will be sent to the landfill. The optical sorters needed would require a significant financial investment. Unfortunately, there is not a strong enough market for black plastic to justify the expense at this time. Black plastic containers should be reused whenever possible or put into your trash can. Black plastic containers from plant nurseries can often be taken back to the nurseries for reuse.

Biodegradable vs. Compostable

Compostable material is always biodegradable, but biodegradable material is not always compostable. Compostable materials will break down in a compost pile and become dirt or humus. Biodegradable products are designed to break down into smaller pieces, but they never become dirt or humus. For example, a biodegradable plastic bag degrades into small pieces of plastic, while a compostable plastic bag becomes dirt. Therefore, it is important that you place only compostable materials in the green curbside compost bin. All plastic bags in the green compost bin must be BPI certified compostable.

What Does BPI Certified Mean?

BPI certification means that an item labeled “BPI certified compostable” meets the standards to be composted

in a commercial facility and break down into compost in a timely fashion and have pure, high-quality compost as an end result. There is no assurance that products without this certification will meet these standards.



Here is what is frustrating: many people might assume that products made with agave, sugar cane, cornstarch, or other plant-based materials will compost. In reality, these products do not compost organically and completely in 120 days.

Recycling Cheat Sheet for the Blue Bin

As the author of “Lettuce Recycle,” I receive many recycling questions. Below is a cheat sheet for recycling. It doesn’t address all recycling questions, but it helps provide a basic understanding of what can and cannot go into the blue curbside bin.

1. Nothing smaller than a credit card.
2. No mixed materials, for example, plastic soap pump with metal spring, candy wrappers, orange juice cartons, waxed paper coffee cups.
3. No contaminated paper products, for example, wet paper (even if dried out), pizza boxes, paper with food product on it.
4. Nothing that can wrap around sorting machinery or that poses a danger at the recycling facility, for example, plastic bags, wire coat hangers, rope, garden hoses, hypodermic needles, or aerosol cans with anything in them. Empty aerosol cans can go into the blue bin.
5. Lid rules:
 - All glass jars need to have their lids removed.
 - Keep all plastic lids on plastic bottles and containers.
 - All separate lids smaller than a credit card go into the trash.
6. Shredded paper does not go into the blue recycling bin. If it is contained in a paper or compost bag, it can go into the green curbside compost bin.
7. Do not bag any recyclable in the blue bin.

Questions and Answers

How do I recycle old hearing aides and their batteries? The University of Texas Speech and Hearing Center will take these either by drop-off or by mail. It is located at 2504 Whitis Avenue, Austin, Texas 78702, 512-471-3841.

The cart labels have faded on my trash, compost, and recycling carts. How do I get new ones? You can print new ones from the following website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/signmaker>.

What do I do with propane tanks than cannot be refilled? Take them to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center.

Please Remember:

- When in Doubt, Throw it Out! Recycling and composting contamination is a huge problem. If you have exhausted all reuse possibilities and are still unsure, put the item into the trash can.
 - Nothing Smaller than a Credit Card in the Blue Bin.
 - Remember the City of Austin Recycling Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.
- Stay tuned for future tips for creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to denahouston3309@gmail.com.

July Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 12

it was clarified that the sidewalk and sewer projects are separate programs.

Kevin encouraged members to submit questions, which he will forward to Mr. Eastman. It was confirmed that the map on page 13 of the July *Pecan Press* is current.

Updates

Membership Software

Chris Wooster reported a continuing stream of new members. He said that clicking on the website **Join Us** button is the easiest way to sign up.

2023 Homes Tour

Kip Dollar, Chair Emeritus of the 2022 Homes Tour, noted that this is the 44th year for the Tour. This year's Tour will require about 130 volunteers. The first priority will be the six house captains – ideally in place by Labor Day. The next priority is recruiting docents (tour guides) for each home. Kip encouraged people with and without volunteer experience to sign up, noting that training is available for first-time volunteers. Kip himself became a House Captain in 2017, without any docent experience. He also encouraged members to tell friends (“the three Ns, nieces, nephews, and neighbors”). Kip can be reached at kipdollar@aol.com or at kipdollar@gmail.com.

Kevin Heyburn mentioned the neighborhood-building nature of the Tour, and pointed out that Tour proceeds fund many other Hyde Park events and activities. He encouraged members to join the Homes Tour Committee. For more information about the Tour and to volunteer, go to <https://www.austinhypark.org/homestourinfo>.

New HPNA Business Membership

Chris Wooster reported that the Steering Committee has agreed on a Business Membership fee of \$25. Benefits will consist of a link and contact information on the HPNA website and a monthly listing in the *Pecan Press*. A member asked whether the business needs to be located in Hyde Park. Chris said it does not, though he noted that HPNA retains discretion about which businesses can become members. This new membership level will be made public soon.

Announcements

I 35 Project

Brendan Wittstruck introduced himself as Chair of the North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC), which comprises thirteen neighborhood associations on both sides of I-35. Brendan noted the I-35 Central project's complexity and the fact that the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) is moving very fast. Although the period of public comments ended in April, TXDOT has not since then released significant information to the public. The final Environmental Impact Statement is expected in August; at that point the required federal environmental review will be complete. In summarizing the project, Brendan said that the south segment (Ben White Blvd to 130 south) is already under construction and the north segment (Highway 290 to 130 north) will start construction soon. Construction of the central segment, Ben White to 290, will begin in 2025. The area between MLK and 51st Street is expected to start construction in 2026 and complete in 2031. TXDOT recently presented a construction schedule to CAMPO (Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization). The project is going to take longer than the six years TXDOT originally projected; now it is expected to be completed in 2032. In response to Nick Van Bavel's request for a high-level overview of the project, Brendan described TXDOT's main goal as improving interregional mobility and decreasing travel times through Austin. Under the current plan, the number of lanes will be expanded from 10 or 12 to closer to 20 lanes. Brendan noted that the original project plan called for adding managed lanes. Though the initial plan included toll roads, there has been no mention of these since 2016. The

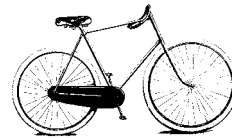
upper deck section will displace 140 homes and businesses.

Other Announcements

- Kevin recently met with Representative Lloyd Doggett. Among other topics of interest to Hyde Park residents, Kevin brought up the TXDOT I-35 project, possible changes to the land development code, and Project Connect. Rep. Doggett could not commit to attending an HPNA General Meeting owing to his schedule constraints, but he will continue to attend events when he is in town.
- Lisa Harris noted that the Friends of Shipe Park basketball court project has been completed. She encouraged members to let the Austin Parks and Recreation Department know if they are pleased with the work, as the project was their initiative. Kevin asked members to notify him of any misuse of the courts.
- The HPNA Steering Committee will discuss this year's Fire Station Festival at its next meeting.
- There is no general HPNA meeting in August. The next meeting is Monday, September 11, when Council Member Zo Qadri will speak to members.
- Chris Wooster thanked members--and credited Homes Tour proceeds--for helping to fund the new meeting hardware (laptop, speakers, and camera) now in use. Kevin thanked Chris for his efforts in building a reliable virtual-meeting platform.
- Bennett Maddox, referring to an article in the June *Pecan Press* about improperly trimmed trees at an Avenue F home, asked whether the *Pecan Press* had approached the new owner before publishing the article; and whether the owner was aware of the city tree ordinance. *Pecan Press* Editor Lorre Weidlich replied that neighbors had approached the homeowner. She did not know whether he was aware of the ordinance, but noted that he will have to pay a fine.
- On a related note, Wanda Penn pointed out that limbs fall in summer and during storms and that Hyde Park has many old trees that will sooner or later have to be removed. She suggested that to make homeowners more conscious of their trees, the neighborhood organize a fall or spring cleanup. Ideally an arborist would participate at a discounted rate. Susan Marshall suggested that an arborist be invited to write a piece for the *Pecan Press*. Karen mentioned the city ordinance requiring vegetation to be at least 8 feet above the sidewalk and at least 14 feet over the street.

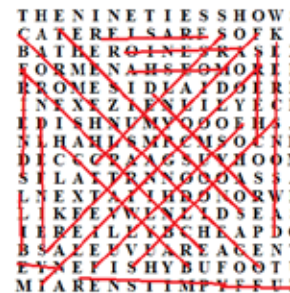
Kevin adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

– Submitted by Katie Vignery
HPNA Co-Secretary



Word Find Answers from page 7

- 1)SEINFELD; 2)MOESHA;
- 3)RAYMOND; 4)FRIENDS;
- 5)THE SIMPSONS; 6)BAYWATCH;
- 7)FRASIER; 8)CLUELESS;
- 9)DAWSONS CREEK;
- 10)FAMILY MATTERS; 11)BUFFY;
- 12)FULL HOUSE; 13)ARSENIO;
- 14)FRESH PRINCE; 15)REN STIMPY;
- 16)CHEERS; 17)BILL; 18)NYE;
- 19)BEAKMANS; 20)IN LIVING COLOR;
- 21)CARMEN SANDIEGO;
- 22)SCHOOL BUS





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