

March Meeting

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for March 4

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Griffin School
(5001 Evans Avenue) and on Zoom

Meeting Topic: Update on I-35 Expansion

- Message from Helping Hand Home
- Update on I-35 Expansion
- Philanthropy Spotlight: Ladies Let's Talk
- Discussion of Future Meeting Topics
- Update on Bunny Parade
- Announcements

We hope to see you at the meeting!

Not an HPNA member?

You're welcome to join the meeting anyway!

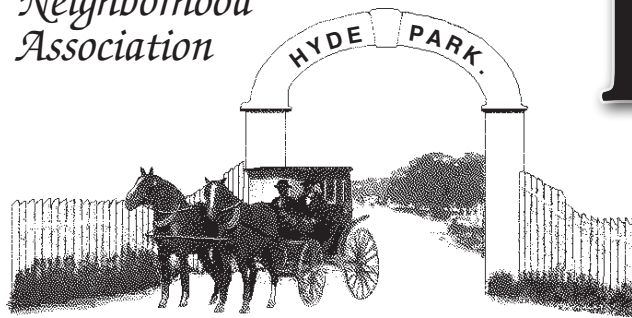
Join Zoom Meeting at 7 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4738130850?pwd=V3hIKzhLVGxiVTNqVCIvTHVZeVZYUT09>

Meeting ID: 473 813 0850

Passcode: 728004

The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association



Pecan Press

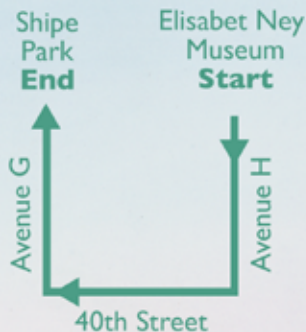
March 2024 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 50, No. 3

The Easter Bunny is Hopping Back to Hyde Park!

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and the Hope Food Pantry are once again teaming up for the Hyde Park Bunny Parade on Saturday, March 30 at 11 am. Donate to The Hope Food Party using the provided QR code and you'll be entered in the Hyde Park Raffle to be held immediately after the parade (\$10 per ticket). The prize list is growing and available on the QR code landing page!

Continued on page 14

Hyde Park Bunny Parade Route



BUNNY PARADE Saturday, March 30 Starts at 11 a.m.

Refreshments and raffle at Shipe after 11:30 a.m.

Benefiting The Hope Food Pantry



Use the QR code to donate to
The Hope Food Pantry and you'll
be entered in the Hyde Park Raffle.
There are fun prizes and you'll be
supporting The Hope Food Pantry!

Brought to you by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and SPJST, helping Texans since 1897



From the Desk of the President



This month's General Meeting will focus on the Texas Department of Transportation's expansion of I-35. Construction of the expanded freeway is slated to begin between Holly Street and Highway 71 (Ben White Boulevard) this May. Construction work is set to begin between Airport Boulevard and downtown this winter.

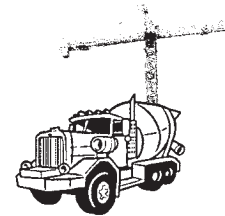
Supporters of this project hope a newer, bigger freeway will alleviate congestion and improve pedestrian walkability, especially between the neighborhoods east and west of I-35. These improvements will come at an estimated cost of \$4.5 billion and take a decade to complete. The project's construction will cause traffic congestion and lane closures and will displace up to 59 businesses.

Fortunately for HPNA, we have neighbors who have been closely following this enormous project. They will be at HPNA's March meeting to tell you what to expect and how you can learn more about the expansion of I-35. No doubt this project will be the source of many conversations on and off the road during the next 10 years.

of those neighbors, please contact me and share your story. I can be reached at hydeparkna@gmail.com. The Steering Committee is making plans to celebrate the HPNA's 50th birthday and welcomes your ideas.

See you at the March General Meeting.

— Kevin Heyburn
HPNA President



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765
www.austinydepark.org

— HPNA Officers & Steering Committee —

President

• Kevin Heyburn.....kmheyburn@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents

• Kathy Jackson
• Paul Smith

Co-Secretaries

• Kelsey Brown.....kelseyelizabethbrown@gmail.com
• Katie Vignery.....vigneryk@gmail.com

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• Ann Duncan.....slomm3@gmail.com
• Lorre Weidlich.....lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com

Additional Steering Committee Members:

• Sharon Brown • Stephen Gonzalez • Holly Granato •
• Lisa Harris • Marsha Riti • Katie Turner •

— HPNA Committees & Task Forces —

ASH (joint HPNA-CT committee)

• John Williams.....jawilli@grandecom.net

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep.

• Lorre Weidlich.....lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com

Church-Neighborhood Liaison

• Phil Seibert, phil.seibert@gmail.com

Crime & Safety • Kristen Remeza, kremeza@yahoo.com

Development Review • David Conner, daypaycon@yahoo.com

Finance • David Conner, daypaycon@yahoo.com

Flooding • Kevin Heyburn, kmheyburn@gmail.com

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Homes Tour • Kip Dollar, kipdollar@gmail.com

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Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, mcgrawka@earthlink.net

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• Stephen Gonzalez, stephen.gonzalez.sd@gmail.com

• Katie Turner, katieturner050@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator • Ellie Hanlon, ellie.hanlon@gmail.com

Technical Coordinator • Chris Wooster, chriswooster@gmail.com

Tree Preservation • John Walewski, jwalewski@civil.tamu.edu

HPNA's 3rd Annual Bunny Parade will be held the morning of Saturday, March 30, the day before Easter Sunday. As part of the parade HPNA will be raising money through a raffle for the Hope Food Pantry. Please read the article in this issue of the *Pecan Press* for more information. We hope to see you, your friends, and your family there!

This year HPNA will also be celebrating its 50th anniversary as a neighborhood association. Some of our readers remember the early days of the HPNA. If you are one



HPNA Business Members

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JET of Texas: Carport, Patio, and Pool Shade Cover

Chris Wooster Creative

Onella Home Care

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• Anna Muckelroy, Director of Community Outreach
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Pecan Press

The *Pecan Press* is published monthly by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas. Advertising deadline: 15th of the month preceding publication. Editorial deadline: 10th of the month preceding publication.

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S of 45th/E of Speedway

• Martha Campbell..... 452-2815

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• Phillip Sparkman

For the Baker District, call..... 512-974-5340

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 Water & Wastewater Renewal Project: Project Update from Austin Water, February 14

Dear Neighbors,

The Hyde Park Water and Wastewater Renewal Project continues, with three major areas left for us to tackle – pipe installation on Duval, Speedway, and 45th.

Because these streets are heavily traveled, traffic control is complex. At this time, signaling plans are being reviewed, and we anticipate that we can start installation within a few weeks.

We are also engaged in connecting homes to the new water lines that have already been installed, followed by testing. You will see crews in the neighborhood, but because this part of the project is on a smaller scale we will not need to close streets.

While we still have major work ahead of us, we hope to be finished and repaving within a few months.

Project Contacts:

- Lisa Whitworth, Project Manager, Office 512-974-5615
- Joshua Ramos, Construction Coordinator, Mobile 737-500-6458
- Cynthia Miller, Public Information, Office 512-972-0268

Website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/hydeparkwater>



Welcome New HPNA Business Member Onella Home Care

The HPNA would like to welcome Onella Home Care as a Business Member in 2024.

Onella's Executive Director Javis Teke Ndumbe explains their services: "The Mission of Onella Home Care is to enable patients under our care to live independently and retain a sense of freedom of choice as they age. Our specialists work closely with the patient, their physician, and family to improve care coordination and communication using a team-based approach. As a fully insured and licensed home care agency, we offer a wide range of home care services to families in the Austin Metro area. Our in-home care service can provide everything from companion care and assistance with daily living activities."

You can learn more about them at onellahomecare.com.

Discover other businesses supporting HPNA as non-voting Business Members at austinhypark.org/businessmembers.





Pecan Press is online at www.austinhypark.org

Join the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Join and renew online at
www.austinhypark.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 austinhypark.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
HPNA, P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765.

Name: _____

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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Sam helped my wife and I find our home in Austin and was amazingly helpful throughout the process. His deep knowledge of the area and his strong network helped us make a deal that would have been impossible without him on our side.



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Around & About the Avenues

Preservation Austin Tour to Include Hyde

Park House. Preservation Austin will present its 31st Annual Homes Tour on April 20 and 21, 10 am to 5 pm. The homes on their 2024 tour embody more than a century of Austin's remarkable heritage – from a log cabin to a mid-century marvel and everything in between, including a house in Hyde Park. Five different homes will be featured each day. To learn more about the tour and to buy a ticket, access <https://www.preservationaustin.org/events/2024-homes-tour>. There will also be a block party in the Rogers-Washington-Holy Cross Historic District, in partnership with the City of Austin's Equity-based Preservation Plan initiative. If you're interested in volunteering to help with the tour, contact Programs Manager Rosa Fry at rosa@preservationaustin.org.



Oops! We made two errors in the February issue. First, we misspelled Sree Sen Bhasin's name; it is not "Bhasi" but "Bhasin." Second, we stated that Charlotte Herzele was publishing her second book of poetry. In fact, her new book is her twelfth book of poetry: the first ten were self-published with Lulu and the last two were published by the New Journalism Project. Our apologies to both of these people and to our readers.



Austin Classical Guitar Presents ACGtalks. Austin Classical Guitar will present a free breakfast event on Thursday, March 28 at 9:30 am at the Rosette, 3908 Avenue B, Suite 116. The event will be an update on ACG Education, which has built programs in every Austin ISD school and has partner teachers in 45 Texas school districts and 40 US states. ACG will share beautiful stories and inspiring plans, including the latest details on their deep investments in Title 1 schools and the Juvenile Justice system. RSVP at austinclassicalguitar.org.



Monthly Calendar March

- 1 — Recycling Pickup
- 2 — Sunshine Community Garden Plant Sale
- 2 — It's My Park Day at Shipe Park
- 4 — HPNA General Membership Meeting
- 11 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 13 — Deadline for April Pecan Press
- 15 — Recycling Pickup
- 28 — ACGtalks Breakfast at the Rosette
- 29 — Recycling Pickup
- 30 — HPNA Bunny Parade

April

20 & 21 — Preservation Austin Homes Tour

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News from the Ney

It has been a busy few months at the Ney in preparation for a new set of programs and collaborations! The mission of the museum is to preserve the memory and legacy of Elisabet Ney for educational, historical, and artistic purposes.

Through a number of new programs, the museum will focus our efforts this spring on education both in our historic landscape and in partnership with local libraries,



Drawing Salon at the Ney, Photos Courtesy of City of Austin

schools, and partnering institutions. Be on the lookout for our new monthly landscape series providing a hands-on approach to discovering the wonders of the native Texas prairie landscape kicking off this April. Catch us at the Bob Bullock Museum for March Homeschool Day, a celebration of the arts and Women's History Month for the homeschool community. We will share the work of Elisabet Ney in the historical context of our state and visit the work of Ney in the Bullock's collection.

This month, the talented teams at Ten Eyck Landscape Architecture and Co'Design will combine visions to begin drafting plans for a landscape rehabilitation plan that will offer new vantage points and insight into the museum's native landscape. The plan is sponsored by the Friends of the Elisabet Ney. The teams joined local residents to share former Austin award-winning projects like the Holdsworth Center, Mayfield Park, and the beloved Kingsbury Commons at Pease Park at a kickoff event at the museum this month. We are looking forward to presenting drawings this year at our annual Ney Day in May.

Thanks to the many talented artists and families that participated in the Drawing Salons in January. The museum educator team enjoyed visiting with over 100 guests as they sketched from the neo-classic figurative work created by Ney in Texas and Europe. Join us this summer as we bring the program back in August!

You can find out more about the Elisabet Ney Museum at the following locations:

Website: austintexas.gov/ney

Website for Friends of the Elisabet Ney: <https://www.theney.org/>

Instagram: @friendsofelisabetneymuseum

Facebook: @Elisabet Ney Museum and @Friends of Elisabet Ney Museum



Saint Patrick's Day

Word Find by der Brat

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

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. Color associated with St. Paddy. (5) _____
2. Color he actually wore. (4) _____
3. Musical instrument associated with Ireland. (4) _____
4. Body of water dyed green each year. (7,5) _____
5. Where he was actually born. (7) _____
6. At 16 he was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a _?_. (5) _____
7. Large city having a parade each year. (3,4,4) _____
8. with 9. The date of the celebration. (5) _____
9. see 8. (9) _____
10. Plant associated with St. Pat. (8) _____
11. He used #10 to explain the _?_. (7) _____
12. Where the first parade in the U.S. was held. (6) _____
13. Meat dish associated with the day. (6,4) _____
14. Plant dish associated with the day. (7) _____
15. The date [8 and 9] is associated with his _?_. (5) _____
16. Century in which he was born. (6) _____
17. He was never _?_ by the Catholic Church. (9) _____
18. He drove out _?_ from Ireland, but there weren't any to drive out. (6) _____
19. Little person often associated with the day. (10) _____
20. The day is an excuse to celebrate all things _?_. (5) _____

Answers on page 14



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2102 EM Franklin Ave. · \$829,500
3 beds · 3 bath · 1,806 sq. ft.



208 E 33rd St. · \$795,000
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SOLD



1006 Ellingson Ln. · \$775,000
2 beds · 2 baths · 1,104 sq. ft.



304 W 41st · \$699,000
3 beds · 2 bath · 1,459 sq. ft.

SOLD



2301 Lawmont Ave. #2 · \$425,000
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REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

Austin Board of Realtors, MLS data shown is for Austin area addresses January 2024



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BETTY THOMPSON: IN MEMORIAM

MAY 25, 1935 – JANUARY 29, 2024

If you ever received one of Betty’s Christmas treats with a hilarious message; attended one of her ice cream socials on her property, a former dairy farm; or were invited to a ladies’ tea party in her living room, then you had the joy of knowing this longtime resident of Hyde Park, the indefatigable Betty Thompson.

Betty, a former elementary-school librarian, loved books so much that she had a library in her home, with more than twenty-thousand books, all in card catalog order. At the height of the pandemic, in June 2020, Betty christened a little library house in her yard, titled “Betty Loves Books – Connection” because she so loved sharing books with her neighbors, and wanted to encourage neighbors to share theirs as well.



Betty Thompson

Betty loved cats almost as much as she loved books. She was known to rescue and raise a few strays during her years in Hyde Park. Betty also owned hundreds of cat curios and decorations, which she displayed in her home and around her yard, affectionately earning her the nickname “Cat Lady” among her neighbors’ children.

Betty also owned and managed several rental homes and apartments in Hyde Park for many years, a business she learned from her parents, who had also owned several apartment rentals that served UT students and faculty.

Betty was born in Alpine, Texas, on May 25, 1935, to Harold Carl Byler and Clara May Meek Byler. She was raised in Yoakum, Texas, where she graduated from high school in 1953. She graduated from Baylor University in 1957 and initially began a career as a homemaking teacher at various Texas schools. Betty continued her career working for the Austin Independent School District as a kindergarten teacher and as a librarian at Ridgetop Elementary, Blanton Elementary, and Oak Springs Elementary, during her 38 years of service in Texas public education.

In 1960, Betty married Horace Wayne Thompson, a teacher and coach for AISD, and they remained together until his untimely death in 1993. When Betty and her husband moved to Austin in 1969, they joined Hyde Park Baptist Church, where she remained a member until her death. Betty had many happy memories from Hyde Park Baptist Church, where she once taught Sunday School to both children and older adults.



Betty's Neighborhood Library

Betty took ill on November 26, 2023, and her health continued to decline until her peaceful passing on January 29, 2024. She is buried in Austin Memorial Park. We wish a sad farewell to a Hyde Park legend.

Pecan Press Advertising Rates

(Effective September, 2015)

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Back Cover	(7.5" X 10")	400.00
Full Page.....	(7.5" X 10")	300.00
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1/6 Page.....	(3.63" X 3.25").....	80.00
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Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston



A Day without Plastics

I recently read an article written by A.J. Jacobs, a New York journalist, who tried to live 24 hours without using or touching plastics. His day began when he stepped out of bed onto his synthetic carpet. Busted! His first violation. His second violation was when he sat on the toilet (plastic).

He had planned ahead by ordering plastic-free items such as a bamboo toothbrush with bristles made of wild boar's hair, charcoal mint toothpaste pellets, a bar of shampoo, and a razor made of zinc and steel. He took a wooden chair onto the subway so he wouldn't have to sit on a plastic seat.

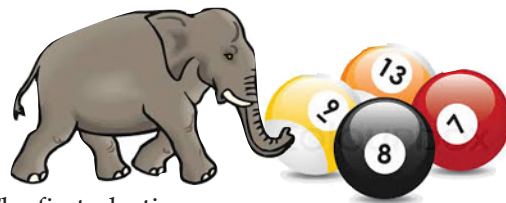
He could not use his cell phone or his credit card. He couldn't even use paper money because it has a plastic security thread. He had previously withdrawn about \$60 in coin from his bank and took money out of his kid's piggy banks. As he stacked the coins on the counter to pay for his groceries, the cashier told him that he meditates every morning to deal with such turmoil.

By the end of the day, he had 164 violations.

His conclusion was that his experiment helped him to be more aware of plastic items that we can't do without and the plastic items we might be able to give up. He decided that the most important thing was trying to give up single-use plastics. Those were the real enemy.

A Brief History of Plastics

Thanks to the Wild Elephant, Plastics Were Invented!



The first plastic was invented in 1869 by John Wesley Hyatt to replace the elephant ivory used in making billiard balls. The growing popularity of billiards had put a strain on the supply of ivory obtained through the slaughter of wild elephants. Hyatt won a \$10,000 prize for his invention.

This discovery was revolutionary. For the first time, manufacturing was not constrained by the limits of nature. Now, humans could create new materials and save some of the planet's precious resources.

During World War II, Plastic Production Skyrocketed!

There was a great expansion of the plastics industry in the U.S. during World War II. The need to preserve scarce natural resources made the production of plastics a priority. Nylon, a synthetic silk, was used for parachutes, ropes, and so forth. Plexiglas provided an alternative to glass for aircraft windows. During the war, plastic production in the U.S. increased by 300%.

Hyde Park Neighbors –

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Plastics – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Plastics – The Good!

Plastics and Food

- Plastic packaging keeps much of our food from spoiling. It also keeps food from overripening from exposure to other foods that emit ethylene.
- Plastic packaging is an important barrier against microbiological contamination.
- Plastic allows foods to be transported over longer distances and over longer periods of time. Therefore, it helps get food to people in developing countries, people who are less likely to get enough fruits and vegetables. If plastic were not used for food preservation, many more people would suffer from malnutrition.

Plastics and Modern Technology

- Plastics have made possible the development of computers, cell phones, and many other electronic devices. Replacing natural materials with plastic has made many of our possessions cheaper, lighter, safer, and stronger.
- The use of lightweight plastics in all forms of transportation has reduced fuel consumption.
- Plastics in the medical industry have revolutionized health and safety by creating products for one-time use. Eliminating the need to sterilize and re-use a device helps prevent the spread of dangerous diseases.
- The use of bottled water has improved the health of people who are living in countries where there are ongoing concerns about groundwater contamination.

Online Sources

- The Conversation: <http://theconversation.com/the-future-of-plastics-reusing-the-bad-and-encouraging-the-good-87001>
- Quartz: <https://qz.com/1189422/in-defense-of-plastic-the-worlds-most-wasteful-hazardous-downright-useful-material/>

Plastics – The Bad!

Plastics have a profound impact on the environment. They can kill ocean life, kill terrestrial wildlife, produce chemical pollution, and create microplastics that potentially can harm all living things.

It is estimated that 1.3 billion plastic bottles of water are used every day around the world. Most plastic bottles used for soft drinks and water are made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Although they are highly recyclable, they are a significant contributor to microplastic pollution in oceans. As their use soars around the globe, efforts to collect and recycle these bottles and keep them out of our landfills and oceans are failing.

Plastics – The Ugly!

The Pasig River was once a treasured waterway flowing through downtown Manila, Philippines, into Manila Bay. In 1990, the Pasig River was declared biologically dead. The problem is that many of the tributaries that feed this river are overflowing with plastic waste from settlements along their banks. One of the tributaries is so choked with plastic debris you can walk across it. This river is now listed among the top 10 rivers in the world that carry plastic waste to the sea.

Manila cannot provide the recycling programs necessary to address the problem of plastic waste. Many other countries are also so overwhelmed by the amount of plastic being thrown into the rivers and streams that it is impossible to get a handle on the situation.

What We Can Do to Help

- Purchase fewer single-use plastic products.
- Be more conscientious about placing plastic bottles and containers into our blue curbside bins.
- Take all plastic bags and film wrap to our local plastic collection bins located at most grocery stores.
- Try to reuse plastic as much as possible.

Online Sources

The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/28/a-million-a-minute-worlds-plastic-bottle-binge-as-dangerous-as-climate-change>

Aquasana: <https://www.aquasana.com/info/important-plastic-water-bottle-stats-pd.html#:~:text=In%20fact%2C%20it's%20estimated%201.3,about%201%20million%20per%20minute>

Twice The Ice: <https://www.twicetheice.com/blog/5-ways-plastic-harms-the-environment/>

Question and Answer

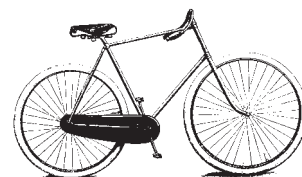
How do I dispose of vitamins and dietary supplements that are out of date? The Walgreens pharmacy at 5819 Burnet Road will take these as well as medications. Not all Walgreens do this, so please check with your local one. A pharmacy has to have a special license to take them. (Editor's Note: Hyde Parkers can dispose of these items at the Walgreens pharmacy at 45th Street and Guadalupe.)

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.



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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: February 5, 2024

Paul Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Paul introduced David Connor to present the annual 2024 HPNA Budget Resolution. Details can be found at <https://www.austinhiddepark.org/news/2024-budget-resolution-2024-hpna-budget>.

The first resolution pertained to the amounts that each HPNA officer and the Steering Committee are authorized to pay on behalf of the HPNA. The numbers are the same as in previous years but must be approved each year. David moved for a vote, which was seconded. HPNA members voted in person and online. All were in favor, none were opposed, and none abstained. The Budget Resolution was approved unanimously.

David also presented the 2024 Budget Overview. Notable changes this year include decreases to Website and Hardware & Software Updates and increases to the Fire Station Festival and Homes Tour. The total annual income is estimated at \$50,305, while total budgeted expenses are \$60,950, resulting in a budget deficit of \$10,645.

Several questions were asked regarding whether the deficit is to this year's budget only or to HPNA's reserves and whether these values are actual figures from last year or forecast amounts. Ann Duncan clarified that there is currently \$52,000 in HPNA reserves, so a budget deficit this year would not mean a deficit overall. David also stated that it is not likely each line item will be expended in full, and Chris Wooster clarified that the 2024 income amounts are forecasted based on 2023 income.

David also noted that one of the highest line items is Preservation & LDC with \$15,000 of the budget. This is typically unused but remains in the budget with consideration for the City of Austin's recent HOME initiative. Karen McGraw stated that it is unclear at this time how the HOME initiative will impact Hyde Park, as the city has not clarified how NCCDs and Historic Districts will be affected. If needed, this will provide for legal or other expenses associated with protecting the district.

Paul called a motion to vote, which was seconded. HPNA members voted both in person and online. All were in favor, none were opposed, and none abstained. The 2024 Budget Overview was approved unanimously.

Two representatives from the City of Austin's Transportation Public Works presented an update on the city's Neighborhood Bikeway Project. Laura Dier-enfield, Division Manager, began with an overview of the Neighborhood Bikeway Project scope. Neighborhood bikeways are designed to provide slow, shared streets that feel comfortable for bikes, pedestrians,



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and vehicles to interact together. Low profile speed humps or cushions manage speeds, which are ideally kept at or below 25 mph, and wayfinding features connect the bikeways together.

The city has selected streets that have relatively low traffic and speed, and there are a trio of neighborhood bikeways that connect the city from east to west. These include Cherrywood, 46th-47th & Bennett-Middle Fiskville-Clarkson, and North University Heritage Rosedale. The main crossways of busier streets requiring signals have already been completed in Phase 1.

Danny Peters, Project Manager, explained more about the completed and in-progress components of the project. The project is currently in Phase 2, which includes the north Hyde Park region of 46th-47th & Bennett-Middle Fiskville-Clarkson. The city has been continuing the installation of speed humps and cushions in higher speed areas. The islands at 47th Street and Duval have been completed but require some remaining updates following utility work. A short sidewalk segment is planned on the north curb of 46th Street between Avenue A and Avenue B with a protected walking path from Avenue A to Avenue H. Additionally, 51st Street and Caswell will receive more corner work, with a raised crosswalk in front of Ridgetop and a protected intersection. Phase 3, the final phase, will proceed once the utility work is completed.

Several questions were asked regarding safety and future plans. There is not currently a plan for additional lighting along these bikeways but they will share the concern with Austin Energy, which can conduct a study. Texas also recently became a stop state rather than a yield state, so drivers are required to provide right of way to pedestrians at crossings. The goal of the neighborhood bikeways design is to promote safety for cyclists and pedestrians through increased visibility. More narrow streets also provide environmental queues for drivers to slow their speeds and make the shared space a safer one.

Bike routes along Duval are not part of the project at this time but they often receive questions about this area and plan to continue internal conversations on the subject. There will also be signage to ensure everyone is aware of the changes in parking along 46th Street, as the new walking path on the north curb of Avenue A to Avenue H will relegate street parking to the south curb only.

Laura and Danny concluded their presentation and answered additional questions. Their contact information and presentation can be found at <https://www.austinhypark.org/news/city-of-austin-update-on-bikecrossing-improvements-across-hyde-park>.

Volunteer Coordinator Mondra Wright presented this month's Philanthropy Spotlight for Interfaith Action of Central Texas. The organization cultivates peace and respect through interfaith dialogue and discussion and invites all to participate. There are several volunteer opportunities that Mondra shared with the audience.

The Refugee Program served over 793 refugees in Austin in 2023. This program includes English Language Instruction for adults learning English as a second language. It is taught at all levels, online and in person, Monday through Friday, and is free to participants. Volunteers can assist the instructor in a variety of ways. Another component of the Refugee Program is the Youth Mentorship Program. This provides career assistance, tutoring, and mentorship to refugee youth between the ages of 15 and 24 adjusting to life in Central Texas. As part of the program, volunteer mentors visit their mentees twice a week for ten weeks and are available for a weekly phone call, if needed. Through this program, 128 refugee youth were mentored in 2023 and Interfaith Action of Central Texas plans to increase that number in 2024.

Another program offered is Hands on Housing. They provide services to low income, elderly, and disabled homeowners and supported 833 individuals in 2023. With the Handy Helper program, volunteers can use their repair skills in a variety of minor home repairs ranging from painting to carpentry, electricity, plumbing, and more. Clients provide a list of home repairs needed and will be matched with a Handy Helper's skills. All tools and supplies are provided. The Hands on Housing program also hosts biannual painting events, in which ten homeowners are selected for a paint refresh of the exterior of their homes. The painting is done in teams, each team assigned to one home. Volunteers can sign up as a team or individually to be matched with an existing team.

Mondra answered audience questions and shared that Interfaith Action of Central Texas serves refugees from twenty-one different countries. Home visits are required for the Youth Mentorship Program and the homes are all vetted by the organization. Mondra also shared brochures and answered questions after the meeting. Interested volunteers learn more at <https://interfaithtexas.org/>.

Paul concluded the meeting with announcements.

- The deadline for submissions to the *Pecan Press* is February 14th.
- The HPNA Bunny Parade will take place Saturday, March 30 and will include a raffle benefiting Hope Food Pantry. Last year HPNA raised \$1400 and we are hoping to surpass that number this year.
- Adam Wilson announced that March 2 is It's My Park Day and encouraged neighbors to get involved at Shipe Park from 9 am to 12 pm. Shipe Park will be sponsored by Quacks and will have live music provided by Blowcomotion, who practice in the park on Tuesday evenings. Volunteers can sign up at <https://austinparks.org/IMP/IMP/>.

Continued on page 14



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February Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 13

- Chris shared that many HPNA memberships expired at the end of 2023. These can be renewed through the Hyde Park website. If anyone is unsure of his or her membership status, that person can get in touch via hydeparkna@gmail.com to confirm whether his or her membership is current or not. Chris will help the person get squared away.
 - Marsha Riti announced that the Sunshine Community Garden is having a plant sale on March 2 from 9 am to 2 pm. The sales benefit the garden and they will have a variety of vendors and plants to select, including new tomatoes that are high-heat and high-humidity tolerant.
 - Paul also noted that anyone looking for work should look into the nearby Austin State Hospital, which currently has about 30 open jobs listed.
 - Kathy Tovo shared that she is currently running for Mayor of Austin after serving on City Council from 2011 to 2023 and serving as Mayor Pro Tem from 2015 to 2019. Her campaign focuses on a government of transparency that prioritizes people over profits. For more information, see www.kathyforaustin.com.
- Paul adjourned the meeting at 7:58pm.

– Kelsey Brown
HPNA Co-Secretary

Easter Bunny Returns to Hyde Park...

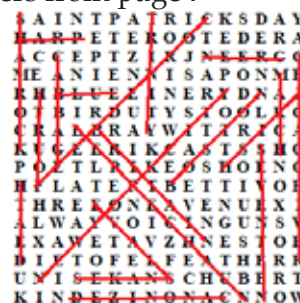
...cont'd from page 1

After the parade, Quack's will be providing a build-your-own cookie station at Shipe Park for the children and lemonade will be served. Come and partake in the festivities and support our neighborhood food pantry! We are hoping to beat last year's fundraising record of \$1,450!

– Stephen Gonzalez

Word Find Answers from page 7

- ANSWERS: 1)GREEN; 2)BLUE;
3)HARP; 4)CHICAGO RIVER;
5)BRITAIN; 6)SLAVE;
7)NEW YORK CITY; 8)MARCH;
9)SEVENTEEN; 10)SHAMROCK;
11)TRINITY; 12)BOSTON;
13)CORNER BEEF; 14)CABBAGE;
15)DEATH; 16)FOURTH;
17)CANONIZED; 18)SNAKES;
19)LEPRECHAUN; 20)IRISH



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