

May Meeting

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for May 1

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

Meeting Topics: Statewide Zoning, Prop A & Prop B, and Parking in Hyde Park

- ❖ Discussion and vote on draft letters to Sen. Eckhardt and Rep. Hinojosa urging their opposition to state legislation that would restrict local zoning authority
- ❖ Discussion and vote to send a financial donation to support Community not Commodity's efforts to oppose state legislation that would restrict local zoning authority
- ❖ Presentation on Austin Police Reform Propositions A and B
- ❖ Introduction to ideas about potential new parking strategies for neighborhood streets near commercial areas in Hyde Park
- ❖ Updates:
 - Membership Software
 - I-35 Project
 - 2023 Homes Tour
- ❖ Announcements

**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=V3hIKzhLVGxIVTNqVCtVTHVZeVZYUT09>

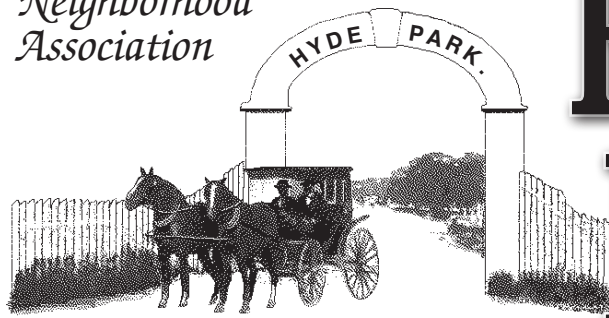
Meeting ID: 473 813 0850

Passcode: 728004

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The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association



Pecan Press

May 2023 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 49, No. 05

Bunny Parade a Great Success

The 3rd Annual HPNA Easter Bunny Parade was a tremendous success! We had our largest turnout yet with over 150 participants, and the HPNA was able to raise \$1,350 for the Hope Food Pantry.

The HPNA and the Hope Food Pantry would like to thank our generous sponsors,



HPNA Vice Presidents Lead the Way

the SPJST and the National Slovak Society of the USA, for their significant contributions to the success of the event. Both fraternal benefit societies have been helping and enhancing community involvement for over 100 years.

The HPNA presented our donation to the

Hope Food Pantry at a special ceremony.

— Stephen Gonzalez

More parade pictures on page 9



Bunny on Parade



Followers of the Float



The Texas Legislature meets every two years in a beautiful domed building a short walk away from our homes, but many of us in Hyde Park understandably prefer to view the Legislature's activities from a distance. Of course, we as individuals might occasionally interact with our State Senator Sarah Eckhardt and our State Representative Gina Hinojosa. Representative Hinojosa, for example, is a regular customer at Julio's.

It is also rare that HPNA's General Meetings discuss issues being considered at the state level, as HPNA's policy focus is usually on the City Council. However, that will change at our May General Meeting, as the Steering Committee plans to ask the general membership to take a position on particular Texas Senate and House bills, which, as of this writing in mid-April, are being debated at the state capitol.

Elsewhere in this issue there are copies of draft letters to Sen. Eckhardt and Rep. Hinojosa that the Steering Committee is asking the HPNA membership to authorize me to send, should the bills described in those letters still be active during the Legislative Session. These bills would change zoning regulations in the City of Austin and in other cities around Texas. SB 491 and its companion HB 2198 would eliminate our city's authority to regulate the height of buildings constructed near neighborhoods. SB 1787 and its companion HB 3921 would drastically reduce the size and density requirements for homes built on residential lots. Each of these bills would severely restrict city zoning authority and impose a one-size-fits-all set of zoning regulations statewide.

The stated purpose of these bills is to increase the housing supply in large Texas cities. While that might be an understandable goal, it is not wise to put the state in charge of solving essentially local problems. These proposed statewide zoning laws don't take into account the variety of neighborhoods and the diversity of communities that make up Austin. Also missing in these bills are the affordability guarantees that the City of Austin would require. Austin's land code politics might be challenging and complicated, but those challenges and complications arise because many local voices need to be heard whenever a planning and zoning decision is made. These Senate and House bills will effectively silence those voices.

The Steering Committee will also ask the general membership to support making a donation to the local advocacy group Community not Commodity to help pay for a lobbyist that group has hired to defeat these zoning bills and other bills hostile to local control. Other Austin neighborhood associations have already made contributions to pay for the lobbyist. One proposal is for HPNA to donate at least \$1,000 to the group.

At our May meeting we also plan to have two presentations on issues of interest to the neighborhood. First, we will have a discussion on Proposition A and Proposition B – proposed police reform measures on the Austin May 6, 2023 ballot (Early voting April 25 to May 3). Second, we plan to present an introduction to ideas

Continued on page 14



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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

– HPNA Officers & Steering Committee –

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

Co-Vice Presidents

• Kathy Jackson
 • Paul Smith

Co-Secretaries

• Katie Vignery..... vigneryk@gmail.com
 • Ann Duncan..... slomm3@gmail.com

Co-Treasurers • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

• Susanna Walker..... suzwalkercpa@gmail.com
 • Lorre Weidlich..... lweidlich@mail2sevens.com

Additional Steering Committee Members:

• Stephen Gonzalez • Lisa Harris • Nik Krishna • Marsha Riti
 • Katie Turner • Brendan Wittstruck • Chris Wooster •

– HPNA Committees & Task Forces –

ASH (joint HPNA-CT committee)

• John Williams jawilli@grandecom.net

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep.

• Lorre Weidlich..... lweidlich@mail2sevens.com

Church-Neighborhood Liaison

• Phil Seibert, phil.seibert@gmail.com

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Development Review • David Conner, daypaycon@yahoo.com

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Flooding • Kevin Heyburn, kmheyburn@gmail.com

Graffiti Patrol • Lisa Harris, ljharrisus@yahoo.com

Historic Preservation • Joan Burnham, jgiburnham@gmail.com

Members Tour • Vacant

Membership • Katherine Mydra

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Nominating • Adam Wilson adam@griffinschool.org

Parks & Public Space • Mark Fishman, mlfishman@gmail.com

Social Events Coordinators • Marsha Riti, marshariti@gmail.com

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• Katie Turner, katieturner050@gmail.com)

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

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

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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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jiro.daniels@autintexas.gov

May Membership Vote

At the May meeting, the HPNA will be voting on sending these messages to our state Senator and Representative. For details, see "From the Desk of the President" on page 2 of this issue. In addition, the HPNA will have the opportunity to vote on contributing to the non-profit organization Community not Commodity, which has hired a lobbyist to attempt to defeat the bills described in these letters.

Dear Sen. Eckhardt:

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) requests that you vote against SB 491 by Hughes and SB 1787 by Bettencourt. Both bills would severely restrict city zoning laws and instead impose a state-wide "one size fits all" set of zoning regulations on the City of Austin and on other cities. SB 491 will dictate building height restrictions in the City of Austin. SB 1787 will dictate the size and density requirements for residential lots in the City of Austin.

HPNA is an association of neighbors in Hyde Park in central Austin. Our membership believes that the best city planning takes place at the city level where all local stakeholders can be heard. Neither SB 491 nor SB 1787 takes into account the variety of neighborhoods and the diversity of communities that make up Austin.

Please vote against these bills and persuade your colleagues to vote against them also.

Sincerely,

Kevin Heyburn
 HPNA President
 On Behalf of the HPNA

Dear Representative Hinojosa:

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) requests that you vote against HB 2198 by Heffner and HB 3921 by Goldman. Both bills would severely restrict city zoning laws and instead impose a state-wide "one size fits all" set of zoning regulations on the City of Austin and on other cities. HB 2198 relates to building height restrictions in the City of Austin. HB 3921 relates to the size and density requirements for residential lots in the City of Austin.

HPNA is an association of neighbors who live in Hyde Park in central Austin. Our membership believes that the best urban planning takes place at the city level where all local stakeholders can be heard. Neither HB 2198 nor HB 3921 takes into account the variety of neighborhoods and the diversity of communities that make up Austin.

Please vote against these bills and persuade your colleagues to vote against them also.

Sincerely,

Kevin Heyburn
 HPNA President
 On Behalf of the HPNA

Membership Information	Submission Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership in HPNA is open to all residents 18 years or older residing within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of its boundaries. • University students are free. • All memberships expire on December 31st of each year. • New members and members who lapse in dues for over six months are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues. • Membership dues can be paid in several ways: By signing up at an HPNA meeting or event, by mailing in the membership form, or by joining online using PayPal. To pay online, go to www.austinydepark.org and click on the Join Now button. Dues paid online are \$6. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at lweidlich@mail2sevens.com. <i>Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.</i> • Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at herzele@gmail.com. <i>All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.</i>

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____		Phone _____	
Address _____			
Email _____			
Dues per Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/yr. <input type="checkbox"/> Senior - \$1/yr. <input type="checkbox"/> Student - Free <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____ Amount _____	Mailing Address: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 <i>Make checks payable to HPNA.</i>

COMPASS

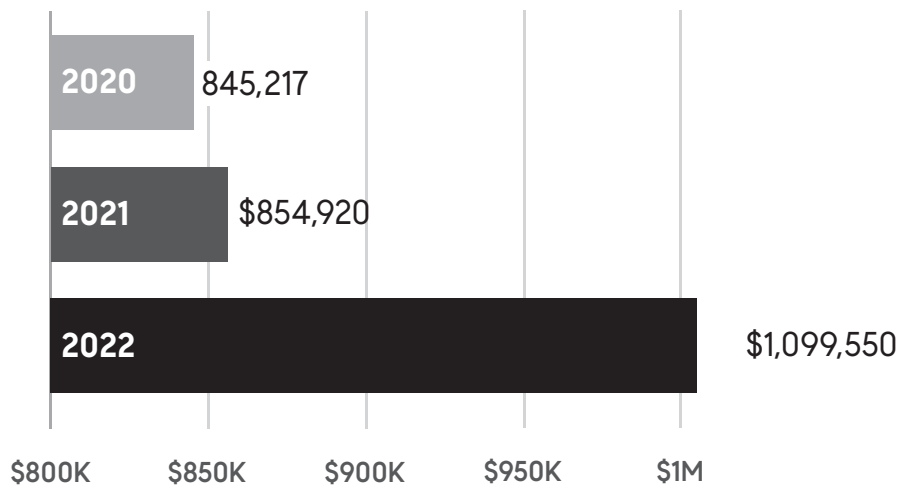
Central Austin Specialist

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.



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ahbcs.org

Monthly Calendar

May

- 1 — HPNA General Meeting
- 4 — DRC Meeting
- 4 — Closing Reception for The Path I Took exhibit at the Ney
- 5 — Recycling Pickup Day
- 6 — Election Day
- 8 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 19 — Recycling Pickup Day
- 22 — Happy Memorial Day



Pecan Press is online at www.austinhdepark.org

HYDE PARK

New Pecan Press Advertising Rates

(Effective September, 2015)

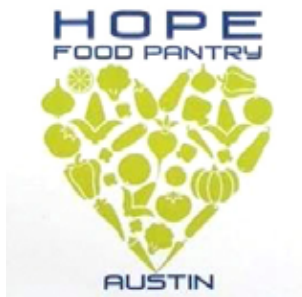
Size	(width X height)	Price
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1/2 Page	(7.5" X 5")	190.00
1/4 Page	(3.63" X 5")	100.00
1/6 Page	(3.63" X 3.25")	80.00
1/9 Page	(3.63" X 2.25")	60.00
1/12 Page	(3.63" X 1.63")	50.00

Around & About the Avenues

Hyde Park Resident Featured in Chronicle Opinion Article. Bruce Elfant, Hyde Park resident and, incidentally, Travis County Voter Registrar, published the article "Online Voter Registration Saves Money and Reduces Fraud, so Why Won't Texas Allow It?" in the March 31 issue of the *Austin Chronicle*. Bruce itemized the reasons (security, accuracy, and financial savings) for online registration. Bruce has achieved the highest voter registration rate among Texas' urban counties (97%).



Hope Food Pantry Needs Volunteers. Hello fellow neighbors! The Hope Food Pantry needs volunteers on Saturday, June 3, 8:00 to 11:00 am, to distribute food to their patrons. Younger people may volunteer with the assistance of their caregivers. If you are available to volunteer, please contact Betsy Clubine at coordinator@hopefoodpantryaustin.org. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please go to the Hope Food Pantry donation page at hopefoodpantryaustin.breeze-chms.com/give/online. Thank you so much.



– Marsha Riti, HPNA Hope Food Pantry Liaison



Vulpine Visitor to Hyde Park. A gray fox made itself at



home on top of a house on Avenue C in mid-April and spent the day enjoying the spring sunlight. Neighbor Jeff Patterson



photographed the visitor. Welcome to the neighborhood and come back again!





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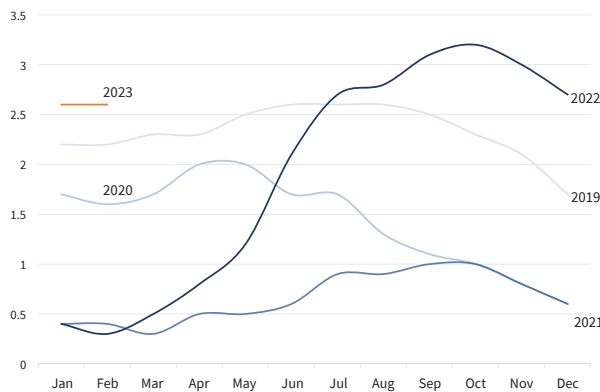
DATA. Know the market before you sell.

PROCESS.

COMMUNICATION.

Data sets the foundation for a successful approach to the market. Our advanced analysis informs our clients so they can make the best decisions to meet their real estate goals. Whether you sell now or never, we are here as a resource for you.

Austin Area Months of Housing Inventory



The Austin market is shifting rapidly. Homebuyers have more leverage now than in 10+ years. For home sellers, correct pricing and go-to-market strategy are critical for success. Get in touch with us for more market insight!



Jen Berbas

Your Hyde Park Neighbor
Platinum Top 50 Austin Realtor '18-'22
(512) 655-3830
Jen@BerbasGroup.com

Check out our video:



HPNA General Meeting Minutes: April 3, 2023

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He announced that Travis County Tax assessor – and neighbor – Bruce Elphant will be the guest speaker to-night.

Kevin asked David Connor to give a quick update on planning for the Hyde Park Homes Tour. David is looking for homes for the Tour. There are three homes on the list so far and one pending. He would like to have at least six. The Homes Tour committee is meeting this Thursday, April 6, at 5:30 at Trinity Church. Please email Kevin if you are interested in being on the committee. This is a very important fundraiser that brings neighbors together and provides an opportunity for others from around the city to come and see our neighborhood.

Kevin then welcomed Bruce Elphant. Bruce was elected to his position in 2012. He is a native Texan, Astros fan, and was formerly a Constable. He is married to former HPNA President Lisa Harris. Bruce has many accomplishments and awards for public service. As a result of his efforts, Travis County has the highest voter registration rate of any urban county in Texas.

Bruce gave a brief history of the Tax Assessor office. It was created in 1876 to collect taxes. In 1905, Texas started registering vehicles and decided to let the Tax Assessors handle that; later, it decided the same about poll tax. Bruce stated that there are over a million vehicle title transfers and registrations each year in Travis County. Title transfers are not available online, but vehicle registration is available online. Bruce highly encourages us to use the online vehicle registration system. He's trying to get people to go online to register to free up capacity for titling.

Bruce then discussed property appraisals. He stated property owners will get notices in mid April. The good news is that residential appraisals are generally flat. Apartments are up, but commercial property is down a little bit. Historic properties have special exemptions: 25% of land and 50% of improvements are exempt. Bruce talked about a recent article about the appraisals not taking into account that historic properties cannot be torn down. He stated that property in Texas is appraised at fair market value. Buyers of historic properties establish the fair market value, so it is not a valid argument that the appraisals are not done properly for historic properties.

The appraisal protest deadline is May 15. He noted that, for many, the taxable amount is less than the fair market value due to the 10% increase limit. Bruce asked the audience how many had protested in the past? A number of attendees raised their hands. Bruce talked about the issues that could affect value, for example, a leaky roof or foundation problem. He discussed building a case and needing evidence to get the appraisal district to listen to your argument. Appraisal districts are prohibited by law from looking at MLS listings to help appraise property. There is more data that they can look at available on the residential side, so they can get closer. There are a number

Continued on page 9

Word Find: Their TX Birth City

by der Brat

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

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. Beyonce, Jim Parsons, Kenny Rogers in H-Town. (7)

2. Woody Harrelson out west near Odessa. (7)

3. Usher, Owen Wilson, Nick Jonas – Big D, little soul? (6)

4. Selena Gomez – big grassland near Big D. (5,7)

5. I like Ike almost in OK (rhymes with venison). (7)

6. Eva Longoria, Farrah Fawcett down on the coast. (6,7)

7. Steve Martin where the Bears roam. (4) _____
8. Nelly, Ethan Hawke – once was Waterloo. (6)

9. Willie Nelson – not Costello's straight man. (6)

10. Forest Whitaker – East Texas town with lengthy vision? (8) _____
11. Jessica Simpson, T-Wayne – not the prettiest town I've ever seen! (7) _____
12. Debbie Reynolds and "Beto" ...but not Marty Robbins. (2,4) _____
13. Scott Joplin...almost in Clinton's state. (9)

14. Buddy Holly and Mac Davis – it's good when it's in your rearview mirror. (7) _____
15. Janis Joplin – part of the "golden triangle" (hah!). (4,6)

16. Alright, alright, alright, Matthew and Dale Evans. [long before the shooting!]. (6) _____
17. Can you spell LBJ?...near Johnson City. (9)

18. Carol Burnett and Megan Thee Stallion ... remember their Mission. (3,7) _____
19. Renee Zellweger...right on I-10. (4) _____
20. Kris Kristofferson about as far south as you can go. (11) _____
21. Kelly Clarkson and "JR" in Cowtown. (4,5)

Answers on page 14

Spring Events

Ribbon-Cutting at the Helping Hand Home for Children

After two and a half years of construction, on March 20 the Helping Hand Home for Children cut the ribbon on its expanded new campus, marking the next chapter in its long legacy of giving hope and restoring the lives of victimized children. Seventeen additional beds in eight new “homes” are designed to help the children heal and flourish in individual bedrooms with shared full baths, kitchens, dens and outdoor play areas. The children who live at the Home decided the names



of the eight homes, each one an animal of Texas –Roadrunner, Eagle, Falcon, Hummingbird, Bobcat, Mustang, Puma, and Buffalo.

In addition to new living quarters, the Education Building now accommodates modern classrooms and a playground for the charter school, which operates in partnership with the University of Texas. The Foster and Adoption Program also received new digs to

fit the growing number of case managers who place children of trauma into forever families. The upstairs multi-purpose room is used for the training of foster and adoptive families and staff and as an auditorium for children who attend the charter school.

The design of the new campus mirrors the historic Hyde Park neighborhood. “The Help-

ing Hand Home is a highly regarded member of our neighborhood. The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association is proud to have the staff and children who live and work at the Home as our neighbors,” says Kevin Heyburn, President of HPNA.

– Adapted from Helping Hand Home press release

Volunteer Appreciation Party

On St. Patrick’s Day, HPNA hosted a volunteer appreciation party for all of the neighbors who have volunteered their time to support the neighborhood association. HPNA would not be able to function without our neighbors serving on the Steering Committee and volunteering to help at the Fire Station Festival, the Homes Tour, and the Winter Party. Our neighbors have also stepped forward to work on the Santa and Bunny parades. And HPNA owes a huge debt of gratitude to all the folks who write for and deliver the *Pecan Press*.



At the Volunteer Appreciation Party, two people were given the Walter and Dorothy Richter Award in recognition of their distinguished service to Hyde Park. Neighbor Grant Thomas received the award for his 32 years as editor of the *Pecan Press*. Former City Council Member Kathie Tovo received the same award for her more than a decade of service representing Hyde Park and the other neighborhoods in District 9 on Austin’s City Council. Grant and Kathie epitomize selfless and dedicated public service and we were so glad they let us honor them.



HPNA hopes to have other special events to honor and thank all of its volunteers. Without our volunteers, there would not be a neighborhood association.

– Kevin Heyburn

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

of commercial properties that are fairly unique, so it is more challenging to appraise this type of properties.

On the property tax side, there is a firewall between the appraisal district and the property tax office. The reason is to avoid any pressure on the appraisers to raise values to increase revenues. Bruce said it is frustrating at times, but it is important to maintain the firewall. His job is to collect the taxes after the appraisals and protests are done. The entities set their tax rates and then his office calculates the taxes due, considering exemptions. His office handles 147 taxing entities and \$6.5 billion a year goes through his office. Taxes must be paid by the deadline at the end of January. There is a 7% penalty and interest as of February 1, per state law. He encourages paying in advance and not waiting until the last minute. Be wary of U.S. mail. There have been incidents where payments sent by mail have been stolen, around \$700,000 last year. It costs only \$1 to pay by eCheck online. You will get an immediate receipt. You can sign up for eBill and you will get your bill first.

Bruce thinks we rely too much on property taxes to fund services. He spoke about the Robin Hood system where 50% of school taxes in Austin go back to the state. He would like to see a better funding mechanism. If he were in charge he would replace 50% of the property tax with an income tax. Modest income people whose houses have increased dramatically in value cannot pay the high property taxes, whereas income taxes are based on current earnings and reflect the ability to pay. He knows this is unlikely, but he doesn't know what else they can do. The current system is not sustainable much longer.

The United States is 100th in the world in voter turnout and Texas is 47th in the nation. The good news is Travis County has the highest rate of registration of the

urban counties. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help should check out the website. Volunteers take a class or watch a video to learn the process. They are always looking for new locations to register voters. Austin is a mobile community with people moving all the time, especially apartment dwellers. Wednesday, April 5 is the registration deadline for the May 6 election. There are two propositions on the ballot. Typically, there is only about a 15% turnout for elections of this type. These are important issues for the city.

In addressing questions, Bruce responded with the following information:

- Postmarks must be timely to be accepted without penalty. The mail system is not as reliable as in the past, so online is safer.
- For historic structures, there are some tax breaks for major rehabilitation work to bring them back to contributing status. There might also be some state tax breaks.
- The agency takes prepayments, but there is no related discount. Seniors can do quarterly payments.
- The legislature is considering a property tax bill to allow ten installments. This sounds good, but it will put a huge demand on tax office resources, so the agency is not in favor. The other downside of 10 installment payments is that there are more chances to be delinquent.
- There is an election bill to remove polling places from college campuses. Bruce considers this a terrible idea.
- Another bill concerns data sharing with other states to help remove people who move. There is a movement to leave this data share. We would go from information sharing with more than 30 states to none, which doesn't make sense.

Bruce closed by reminding us that he just sends out the bills.

The next report was from Stefan Gonzales about the Easter Bunny parade. He brought a flyer with the QR code to use to make a donation of \$10. As of this meeting, \$290 has been donated. He secured a matching donation

Continued on page 12

Bunny Parade a Success!... ...cont'd from page 1



Refreshments in Shipe Park



President Kevin Heyburn Draws Raffle Tickets



5108 Woodview Ave. • \$2,495,000
4 beds + office • 3.5 baths • 3,660 sq. ft.

SOLD



505 E 40th St. • \$1,650,000
5 beds • 4 baths • 2 half baths • 3323 sq. ft.

SOLD



5514 Evans Ave. • \$1,190,000
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
2 beds • 2.5 baths • 1,616 sq. ft.

SOLD



Tammy Young

Owner, Broker, Realtor®, GRI,
CRS, CLHMS, Million Dollar Guild

512-695-6940
hello@seedpropertygroup.com

REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

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



MEDIAN PRICE FOR
SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES
-12% to \$436,419



NEW LISTINGS
ON THE MARKET
-1% to 2,764



AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET
55 days to 84 days



ACTIVE HOMES
ON THE MARKET
+499% to 7,167



AVERAGE
INVENTORY
+2.3 months to 2.6 months



PENDING
SALES
-9% to 2,465

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News from the Ney

This month, the Elisabet Ney Museum would like to express our gratitude towards our visitors, partners, artists, neighbors, and friends!

Recently, we toured various excited school groups, hosted a costume party film screening with our community partners, and were the starting point for the neighborhood's spring holiday parade. Our attendance numbers have grown with the lovely weather and we are finding more and more reasons to celebrate the work and life of Elisabet Ney. We have shared Ney's love of the natural landscape with over four hundred guests who attended our annual Nature



artist, Deborah Mersky, in our contemporary exhibitions gallery. In this intimate space, we showcase innovative female artists alongside Ney's busts and ephemera from her life. Through May 14, the exhibition, "The Path I Took," fills the walls of the reception room in Formosa. Through painted and stitched artworks, Mersky retraces memories of a childhood in



Photos by Ulises Garcia Vela



Austin spent wandering along creeks and railroad tracks. She combines these abstracted sensory memories with versions of her current daily walking routes, leading to visual and tactile translations of an untamed world close at hand. Mersky describes these paper and textile artifacts as direct evidence of her days, past and present. Our contemporary artist program is funded through the efforts of the Friends of the Elisabet Ney Museum group and allows us to contextualize the work of Ney through the lens of contemporary female artists. We will have a closing reception for this exhibition on May 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. As always, we look forward to seeing you at the Elisabet Ney Museum. SURSUM!

Day in March. We collaborated with artists and many community organizations to share information about birds, natural dyes, composting, and so much more. This family friendly event was very much in line with the various events Ney would have hosted over one hundred years ago, admiring the landscape and sharing ideas around the arts and nature in community.

In addition to the historic grounds blooming into life this month, you can enjoy the work of local



My First Year in Austin

Beans in the chili?
Texans say they don't belong
What else will I learn

— Hollie Granato

Haiku

Spring buds bloom flowers
On The beautiful elm tree, half dead.
I feel a deep pang.

— P. Delahoussaye

April Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 9

for everything up to \$500. The goal is to raise \$1000 with the match. He needs someone to help man the booth. He has six volunteers but can use a few more. The parade is on Saturday, April 8. Stephanie from HOPE food pantry will speak and there will be a raffle. Flyers have been put up around Duval Center and elsewhere in Hyde Park. There will be a float decorated for Easter. The event starts at 3 pm and will be over by 4:15 pm. An email went out to the mailing list with the QR code.

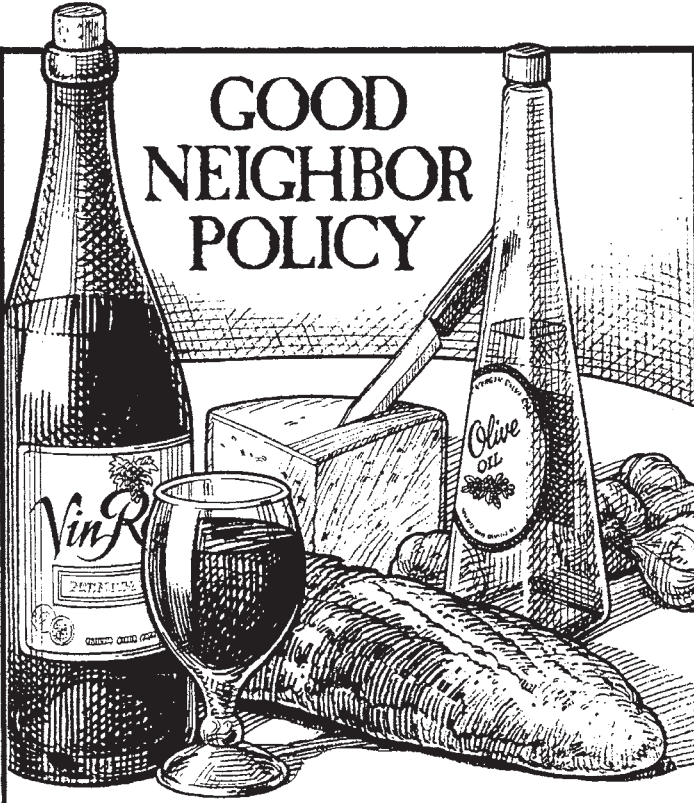
The next update was on membership software by Chris Wooster. The new software is working well. So far, 38 people have joined in the last 30 days. The software offers the opportunity to register for multiple years. It's simple to use and there is a QR code in the *Pecan Press*. Also, HPNA is moving to a different website platform. It will be easier to administer and less likely to be hacked. All good news!

Brendan Wittstruck gave a brief update on I-35 expansion plans. He said it's quiet right now. The next engagement will be on April 11, when City of Austin will discuss enhancements planned for the 51st Street area. The city is working on a project for an artificial bridge over the freeway with a park on top. A group of neighborhoods are working together to make this project better. The letter HPNA wrote about the I-35 project is on the HPNA website.

The final announcement was that HPNA has created through its Bylaws a business membership (non-voting) for \$25 and a non-resident property owner membership (non-voting) for \$5. There will be more discussion about these at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

— Ann Duncan
HPNA co-Secretary



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Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston



Driving to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center: The Myth

The Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center (RRDOC) is a true gift to Austin. However, many Austinites (particularly from north Austin) don't go there because it seems so far away and they think it takes too long to get there.

I did a little experiment to see how long it really takes to get there and how much time the whole expedition takes. I live in north central Austin near Camp Mabry. I left my house on a Monday morning at 10:14 am and arrived at the RRDOC thirteen minutes later. I got lots of help unloading my stuff and, after a few minutes of telling the employees how much I appreciate what they do, I was back in my car by 10:37. I was home at 10:56 am. Total time spent - 42 minutes. The best thing is that now I have one carload less of stuff in my garage.



My Great Adventure at the Balcones Resources Recycling Facility

I was recently asked to make a recycling presentation to the employees of Balcones Resources; this is the recycling facility for city residents north of the river. It was such an honor for me. We discussed composting, "wishcycling," recycling challenges, and other matters relating to residential recycling. I was presented with a lovely plaque honoring me as a Lifetime Recycling Hero. I will always treasure this. I was also taken on a private tour of the facility. Explore Balcones Resources with this video link: <https://vimeo.com/782720848>.



New Information

- Black plastic is very difficult to recycle. The optical scanning equipment at the recycling facility cannot recognize it. Whenever possible, avoid items made of black plastic. They need to go into the trash can for disposal.
- Be sure all plastic bottles are empty before putting them into the blue recycling bin. Plastic is separated by weight by air lift and liquid in the bottles affects that process.

Information from a Reader

Visit <https://insidebooksproject.org/donate-books> for a place to donate books and magazines less than 2 years old. This is an organization that collects books and reading materials for prison inmates.

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 recycling@hpwbana.org.



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Hyde Park Poets —

Spring Tease

Spring, you are early, teasing us
 With warm, balmy days, pink buds,
 All the green leaves, and any of
 The many ways you show yourself,
 Are very welcome,
 Following fallen branches and
 The sadly, cruelly, stripped trees,
 Crushed houses, cars, entire landscape,
 A result of the ice that enshrouded them,
 We are only too happy to forget.
 Sing your bird songs!
 Send forth your blossoms,
 We are grateful, always,
 For the reprieve.

— *Herzele*
 03/05/2023

Word Find Answers from page 7

- 11)HOUSTON; 2)MIDLAND;
- 3)DALLAS; 4)GRAND PRAIRIE;
- 5)DENISON; 6)CORPUS CHRISTI;
- 7)WACO; 8)AUSTIN; 9)ABBOTT;
- 10)LONGVIEW; 11)ABILENE;
- 12)EL PASO; 13)TEXARKANA;
- 14)LUBBOCK; 15)PORT ARTHUR;
- 16)UVALDE; 17)STONEWALL;
- 18)SAN ANTONIO; 19)KATY;
- 20)BROWNSVILLE; 21)FORT WORTH



President's Letter... ...cont'd from page 2

about strategies for ensuring residential and guest parking near commercial centers in Hyde Park. This second presentation is intended to start the conversation on solutions to potential parking issues arising from the planned ending of free public parking at the Duval Center parking lot on the corner of 43rd Street and Avenue H. The presentation will also be an opportunity to discuss other parking issues in the neighborhood.

Before I close, I want to thank neighbor Stephen Gonzalez and all of the volunteers from HPNA for their work on this year's Bunny Parade on Easter weekend. We had a great turn out of kids and families and raised \$1,350 for the Hope Food Pantry. My thanks to the Hope Food Pantry for partnering with us, and a big thank you to the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas (SBJST) for once again donating their beautiful float for the parade.

We hope to see you at HPNA's General Meeting on May 1!

— *Kevin Heyburn*
 HPNA President



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