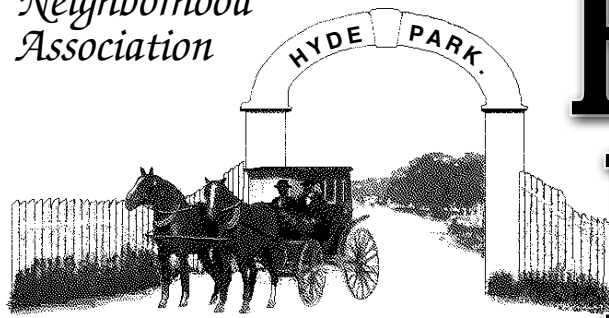


June Meeting

HPNA meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the June meeting has been cancelled. We hope to see you later in 2020.

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

June 2020 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 46, No. 06

Shipe Park and Pool Update

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) is taking small, incremental steps in managing park system operations to ensure that recreational activities are being offered in a healthy, safe manner and that they do not contribute to increased risks associated with COVID-19. The City of Austin has stated it will continue modified operations at least until May 29, 2020, resulting in a majority of PAR facilities and park amenities being closed and all direct programs being either canceled or postponed. The Aquatics Division will not resume any operations until after May 30, 2020. Additionally, when we are able to open swimming pools, we will be operating under reduced capacities at all locations as recommended by the CDC and local health officials.

Based upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations provided on May 8, 2020, several COVID-19 aquatic industry common practices, available department resources, and the assurance that recreational activities are offered in a health and safe manner, the PAR Aquatics Division is currently drafting proposed operating protocols. PAR is also developing a comprehensive plan to re-establish aquatic operations in a manner that we believe to be equitable and safe.

Continued on page 12

Exploring Hyde Park

The Moving History of the Hyde Park Presbyterian Church

A glimpse of the Hyde Park Presbyterian Church – the gleaming white, simple but elegant structure set within well-tended landscaped grounds – is enough to move the viewer. The church structure, built in 1895, has been physically moved twice, expanded, and included on the National Register of Historic Places. Through its 100 years of changes, it has provided a welcoming setting for all.



Photo by Lizzie Chen

The story begins in 1909, with a trilogy of circumstances: the desire by three students of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to open a Presbyterian church in Hyde Park, a well-conceived plan to remove an operating saloon from the neighborhood, and an offer from Monroe Shipe to donate land if all could come together quickly – a triple play that would likely be next to impossible to execute today!

In 1909 and 1910, Hyde Park Beer Garden operated at 404 West 40th Street between Avenue A and Avenue B, to the displeasure of many neighbors and land owners. Its liquor license was coming up for annual renewal. The Presbyterian Seminary students enlisted Dr. O. Pennick, a professor from the UT Greek Department and a member of the University Presbyterian Church, who conceived the plan to rid the neighborhood of the saloon and simultaneously establish a Presbyterian church in the neighborhood. Dr. Pennick approached Monroe Shipe with his plan. Shipe, eager to help, offered to donate the land for the church on one condition – the church had to be on the land in time to keep the saloon from receiving its liquor license that year.

Continued on page 8

From the Desk of the Co-Presidents



Happy June to everyone! Like many other things, the *Pecan Press* is embracing its online presence and will remain digital-only this month. We'll see what happens this summer with regard to future issues and in-person meetings. Until then, we have updates for you on a few neighborhood goings-on.

Several of you have contacted us with concerns about disruptions related to the Google Fiber install in Hyde Park, especially now that so many people are at home. We've included the latest update from Google in this issue ("Around & About the Avenues" on page 7).

Like you, we are eager for face-to-face interactions at the newly renovated Shipe Pool as soon as it is safe for diving. According to its

Park & Pool Update, which we have included in full in this issue, the Aquatics Division will not resume any operations until after May 30, 2020; once open, we can expect that pools will be "operating under reduced capacities." Friends of Shipe Park is in frequent contact with PARD and we will share updates as they are available.

COVID has also impacted the 2020 Hyde Park Homes Tour, which we have canceled this year - with plans to revive it in 2021. While we will miss the day, there is a wonderful outdoor-only walking tour of the neighborhood compiled by the Austin History Center, which you can find at <http://www.austinhiddepark.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Walking-Tours-Hyde-Park.pdf>.

You can also learn about past homes tours, dating back to the 1970s, by browsing through the Homes Tour brochures archived at <http://www.austinhiddepark.org/homes-tour/history/>.

We hope to see you soon. Until then, stay safe and stay well.

— Sarah Cook and Betsy Clubine
Co-Presidents, HPNA



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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(Effective September, 2015)		
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1/9 Page.....	(3.63" X 2.25")	60.00
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Jumbled-up Viruses

by der Brat

Unscramble the given word or words to make the virus or condition indicated by the clue in brackets. The shaded boxes are the letters that unscramble to fill in the riddle. Solid boxes are word breaks.

CARNIVOROUS [it's in the news now]

SERBIA [why you don't pick up bats on the ground]

EEL MASS [making a comeback – thanks, antivaxxers]

STAR WAR PLANT [sores on the soles]

Riddle me this:

Did you hear about the cool internet video about COVID?



Solutions on page 12

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*Pecan Press is online at
www.austinhdepark.org*

Membership Information

- 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.
- All memberships expire on September 30th 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.austinhdepark.org and click on the **Join Now** button. Dues paid online are \$6.

Submission Information

- Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at lweidlich@mail2sevens.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 Membership Form

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Hyde Park Area: Year in Review

	2017	2018	2019 (YTD)
Number of Homes Sold	27	25	18
Avg. Sales Price	\$602,463	\$700,920	\$793,949
Avg. Square Feet	1,714 SF	1,817 SF	2,022 SF
Max Price Sold	\$1,200,000	\$1,185,000	\$1,220,000
Median Days on Market	14 Days	14 Days	25 Days

For more detailed market information about your home contact Sam Archer, Broker Associate.
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All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family residences.

Monthly Calendar

June

5 — Recycling Pickup

8 — Steering Committee Meeting *

19 — Recycling Pickup

*Meeting will be held via Zoom; for information to join, email cooksicle@gmail.com or betsyclubine@gmail.com.

Hyde Park Poets —

House of Shadows

I am a house of shadows
I am alone amidst the trees
Shadows cast from a misbegotten cabin
Did we say 1847?
A cabin on a remote road
RR something off the beaten track
I have seen this one before
In sepia, or was it brown?
Perhaps it was an ochre shade
No mind, I see it now
And green — I call it Texas Tornado
The winds swirl in my mind
The sky turns green in Texas
Foretelling winds of woe
Winds that blow the world away
Winds that blow and blow
The sky turns green and
All around, change blows into great howls
But this is calm before the storm
Green because I know,
Green because last time,
It was brown, and had no name
It's not the same,
This house, my house, my me
I am a house of shadows,
Blown away, blown away,
Blown away.

Herzele

04/28/2020



News from the Ney

As of the writing of this *Pecan Press* update, it's still not known for certain when the Ney will reopen. Please keep your eyes and ears open for announcements on Facebook and Instagram as well as Nextdoor and elsewhere. The Museum's staff misses your company, but all in due time.

Though its doors are closed, like much of the museum industry, the Ney has added to its list of activities — including tours and activity demos — at the museum's website! Go to www.elisabetneymuseum.org for details. There, the site provided by the City of Austin has links to a video tour of Elisabet's work, as given by Museum Site Coordinator Oliver Franklin; a tour of the Barbara Attwell exhibit (which will remain on exhibition when the museum reopens); and a tour of the spring landscape, given by the museum's landscape specialist and Hyde Park resident Mino Giunta.

Dig a little deeper into the website and you'll find a tour of the museum's second floor and the tower; a great kids' activity demo with Barbara Attwell; and other Ney staff educators showing you fun and creative things like bookmaking, plein air painting, and more. There's also curriculum with activities on Texas women's history, art activities, the intellectual world of pre-Imperial Berlin, and clay arts.

Finally, note that the Centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment is coming on August 18, 2020! Elisabet, of course, was a very deeply committed suffragist. The Ney is planning a very cool project for that date. Since reopening protocols are still undetermined, details of the event are going to have to wait till the next *Pecan Press*. But mark your calendars!

Till the doors open again, Sursum!

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Around & About the Avenues

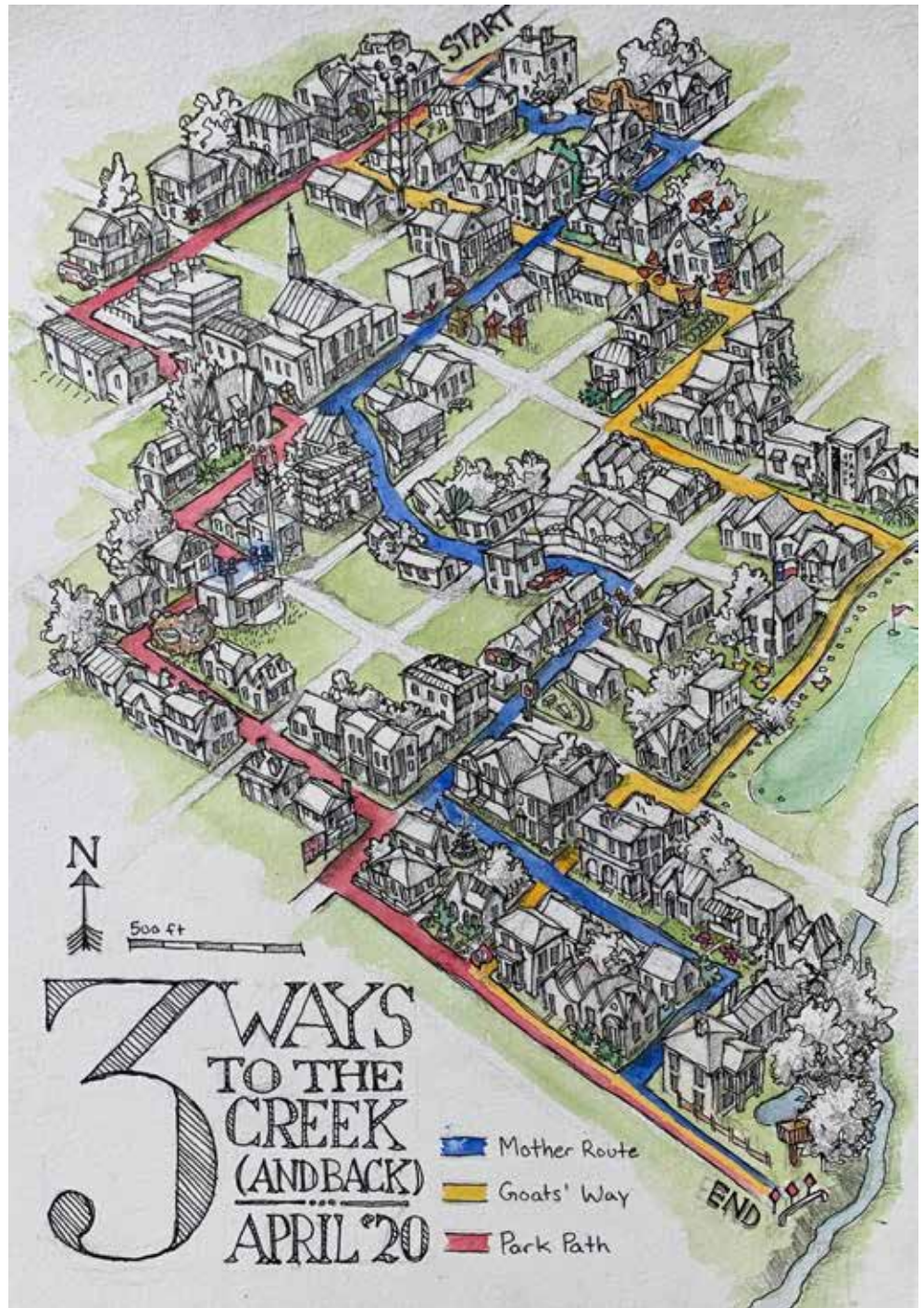
Update on Google Fiber Installation. Google Fiber does not have a work completion date for Hyde Park, but expects construction to continue for the next few months as it moves into different parts of the neighborhood. As of mid-May, Google Fiber is still primarily focused on building out the area along Avenue G, as this serves as the backbone of its network for the neighborhood. North of 45th Street, Google reports that quite a bit of construction remains, though most of the intrusive work (that is, microtrenching the street) has been completed. After this initial installation phase winds down, there will be additional work done in the future, both north and south of 45th Street, to splice the fiber that has already been laid and to connect whenever a neighbor orders service. However, according to Google Fiber, these phases of construction are far less invasive. If you have any problems that result from the network installation, call the dedicated construction hotline at 877-454-6959.



Hyde Park Residents Found Online Art School. After noticing that so many people who are interested in art never had the opportunity to take an art class in college, Renee Lai and Sarah Fagan, Hyde Park residents and lecturers at the University of Texas and St. Edward's University, decided to address that situation. To that end, they created The Art Local, offering classes that are more rigorous and intellectually engaging than wine and drink places, but less pressure than taking a class at a community college. It's a way for people who are interested in art to have a chance to learn more about it in a pared-down, university-style course. They are currently offering lightly guided Drink 'n Draw drop-in figure drawing sessions over Zoom, with a professional clothed model and a suggested donation of \$5. They are also rolling out classes for the summer, including a color theory weekend workshop, an intro to drawing course, and a sequential art course for teens (similar to a one week camp). Contact Renee and Sarah at theartlocal@gmail.com and view their website at theartlocal.com. Their Instagram tag is [@theartlocalatx](https://www.instagram.com/theartlocalatx).

Hyde Park Artist Work Published by CityLab. CityLab recently invited readers to draw maps of their worlds in the time of coronavirus. More than 300 artists, from all over the world, responded, including Hyde Parker Champ Turner. Champ's map, *3 Ways to the Creek*, was published by the CityLab website (<https://www.citylab.com/life/2020/04/neighborhood-maps-coronavirus-lockdown-stay-at-home-art/610018/>) on April 15. Many of you will recognize your houses on his map.

Continued on page 10



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Exploring Hyde Park... ...cont'd from page 1

Pennick's plan was simple: He had learned that the Hyde Park Baptist Church was planning to build a new sanctuary. He arranged to purchase their existing sanctuary, built in 1895 and located on the south west corner of Speedway and 39th Street, for a sum of \$450 and to move it to the property adjacent to the saloon. According to legend, Dr. Pennick rode on the roof of the structure with a pole to raise and lower the trolley lines while D.D. Smyth, later elected one of the elders of the new church, led the four strong horses pulling the structure, holding two kerosene lanterns at night to avoid automobile and trolley traffic. The next morning, the saloon keepers were astonished to find a church as their next-door neighbor. The Baptists and the Presbyterians shared the small relocated church sanctuary until the new Baptist church was completed.

The church remained on the north side of 40th Street, between Avenues A and B, until 1919 when prohibition was voted in. At that time, the congregation decided to move the church to its current lot on Avenue B, which included stately oak trees that made the small sanctuary even more attractive. Once more, Monroe Shipe offered the land, but this time for the price of \$1,400. The second move was completed in December, 1921. Expansion of the sanctuary followed, to be completed in 1926 for a cost of \$1,118. The juxtaposition of older long-leaf pine to newer oak flooring shows the line of addition. The greater part of the debt was paid by the Ladies Aid Organization, which was also responsible for many of the material achievements during the early history of the church. Other renovations followed, including the donation of a new pulpit and new pews in 1921 by two parish families. The almost 100-year-old pews still exist today.

In 1948, the church purchased an Army barracks to attach, with architectural finesse, to the back of the sanctuary. This was christened Wooten Hall in honor of Ed Wooten, Clerk of the Session 1943-1977. Wooten Hall housed the pastor's office until the room was changed to a nursery. Later the church added a full kitchen. During the 1980s, the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association held their monthly meetings in Wooten Hall.

Further renovations and additions included the replacement of choir lofts in the sanctuary and the purchase, in 1952, of the 1947 house next door. This house was named the Mavis House after Mavis Buck, who was active in the church as well as in community and charitable organizations. It became the church annex and has been used by many bridal parties. The most recent work took place in 2010 - a complete renovation, including new siding, windows, signs, and porch, accompanied by impeccable landscaping of the grounds and the addition of an irrigation system. Even a new shed in back, built in 2018, is picture perfect.

For the foreseeable future, the Hyde Park Presbyterian Church is stable. It has served the Austin community and Hyde Park neighborhood for over 100 years and continues to do so, with acts of generosity, hospitality, and social justice, and it welcomes everyone.



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Little Things

Little things elude me now,
Names of characters in TV shows I watch,
Words that describe certain things,
I try to ask about one, “Hey, Siri,
What is it called when you have a lot of words
In a sentence...” (that’s me
Trying to put my thoughts together)
“I found this on the web...”
Nuh uh – the word I wanted was alliteration
And I don’t know why I even wanted to know that
At 1 a.m. in the morning.

Sometimes, it takes a while for a word to come,
Short-term memory loss, mild cognitive
impairment (MCI)
Will it creep up on me? Will I be living
In my own private universe where it is perfectly
normal
To not remember words?

Maybe I know too much about dementia and,
Maybe I just need to get my fears out,
Maybe there’s a word for that but,
I’ll be damned if I know what it is.

— *Herzele*
01/24/20



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by Dena Houston



WEIRD RECYCLING

I have a friend who told me that he would do a better job of recycling if he knew the reasons why there are certain rules and guidelines. Some of these rules and guidelines don't seem to make sense at first, so they seem weird. Let's explore some of them.

What is the difference between compostable and biodegradable? 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 and bags into the green curbside compost collection bin.

What is the advantage to biodegradable products if they never completely go away? They are made with fewer fossil fuels, so they reduce the demand for crude oil in their production.

Why can we put plastic coat hangers but not wire coat hangers into our blue recycling bin? Wire coat hangers get wrapped around the sorting machinery at the recycling facility. It is very costly to repair the damage caused by wire coat hangers. It is also very dangerous to the workers to remove them. Plastic coat hangers do not cause any problems to the machinery.

My pizza boxes look clean. Can I throw them into my blue recycling bin? No. Even if the box looks clean, it has absorbed grease that is not visible. This grease makes the cardboard unable to be processed properly for recycling. All pizza boxes can go into the green curbside compost collection bin or the trash can.

My newspaper got wet but dried out. Can I put it into my blue recycling bin? No. When paper gets wet, the paper fibers deteriorate and are shrunk by the liquid. This makes the paper not recyclable. Wet paper can go into your green curbside compost bin or into the trash can.

Straws are made of plastic. Can they be recycled? No. Straws are difficult to recycle because of their size and shape. They are too small to get sorted properly at the recycling facility. They can fall through the cracks on the sorting conveyor belts and therefore get thrown into the landfill. They can also get wrapped around the machinery and cause damage. Plastic straws should go into the trash can.

Can I recycle plastics if they don't have the recycling triangle on them? No. The triangle marked on plastics tells what constitutes the plastic. This helps the workers sort the plastics properly at the manufacturing recycling facility (MRF). If plastic is not labeled, the MRF won't know how to process it. These types of plastics need to go into the trash can.

Check out the very informative City of Austin recycling website, <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to recycling@hpwba-na.org.



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Shipe Park & Pool Update... ...cont'd from page 4

Other challenges associated with re-establishing swimming pool operations are related to available certified lifeguards. In March 2020, PARD suspended lifeguard training classes in response to COVID-19. Currently, the Aquatics Division has approximately 234 fully trained lifeguards ready to work upon confirmation of safe work conditions. The Aquatics Division typically hires 800 lifeguards; therefore, it will operate on a modified schedule. In addition, another challenge will be each individual's willingness to work with the uncertainty of COVID-19.

As for a grand Shipe Pool opening party, all ceremonies and social gatherings are prohibited at this time. Once we return to substantially normal operations we can work on resuming events. The safety and well-being of our citizens and staff are the most critical concerns for the PARD Aquatics Division. We acknowledge that access to a safe pool space is an essential part of the Austin experience. We will continue to make every effort to meet the needs of communities by finding amicable solutions during this unprecedented time. We thank you for your continued patience.

– Jodi Jay, Aquatic Division Manager
City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department



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VIRAL**

Around & About the Avenues ...cont'd from page 7

Hyde Park Resident Featured in Austin American-Statesman Article. The work of Hyde Park resident Laurie Eiserloh as an advocate and reformer was the subject of a March 20 article in the *Austin American-Statesman*. "Eiserloh follows political trail blazed by mentor Glen Maxey," by Ryan Aultullo, discussed Eiserloh's career in the early 1990s, just after her graduation from UT Law School, while she worked in the Texas Capitol as Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. She drafted hate crimes legislation, successfully fought to restore AIDS funding, and worked to end discriminatory laws. Read the article at <https://www.statesman.com/news/20200320/eiserloh-follows-political-trail-blazed-by-mentor-glen-maxey>.



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HYDE PARK & NORTH UNIVERSITY HOMES GALLERY



3501 WOODROW ST.

Stately 1933 brick American Four Square home with 4BR, 2BA, 2LIV plus guest house. Park-like yard with pool on half-acre lot. Fun fact: Childhood home of QB Drew Brees!

Listed at \$1,890,000



3512 RED RIVER ST.

Custom built in 2001 and updated in 2019. Over 3,000 SF with 3 BR, 3 BA, 2 LIV, 2 DIN, study or optional 4th BR. Hardwoods, soaring ceilings. Decks, fenced yard, garage.

Listed at \$1,195,000



600-A EAST 49TH STREET

Just completed-modern restoration of Hyde Park bungalow. Open floor plan with 3 BR, 2 BA, spacious living/dining/kitchen. Built-ins, re-finished hardwoods, covered porch.

Listed at \$669,000



4404 AVENUE D

Charming and colorful 1948 stucco bungalow in the Hyde Park Historic District. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 LIV, updated kitchen, master suite addition with private screened porch.

Listed at \$795,000



4010 AVENUE H

First time on the market in 50 years! Adorable 1939 cottage with 3 BR, 2 BA on oversized lot (65'x125'). Ready for renovation. Original garage/workshop.

Listed at \$750,000



515 EAST 49 TH ST.

Custom Craftsman home built in 2000 with 5 BR, 3.5 BA, 3 LIV plus separate 1 BR, 1BA garage apartment. Swimming pool, decks, oversized garage with workshop.

Listed at \$1,395,000



3306 HARRIS PARK AVE.

Upstairs unit of 1930s brick duplex with 2 BR, 1 BA. Updated with new appliances, refinished floors, screened porch. Looks out on tree-tops. Walking distance to U.T.

Listed at 2,100/mo.



704 LANDON LANE

Unique and whimsical 1936 Spanish Revival stucco cottage with separate guest quarters. Main house has 2 BR, 1 BA with updated kitchen. Incredible perennial gardens.

Listed at \$799,000

Hyde Park & North University homes continue to be in high demand! Call your neighborhood expert today for a complimentary market analysis and customized marketing plan for your property. Check out new listings for sale on [Instagram](#) @hydeparkrealtor .

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