

# June Meeting

## HPNA General Meeting Agenda for June 7

- Welcome
- HPNA 2021 Homes Tour Update
- Vote: New Steering Committee Member
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) District Overview (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/transit-oriented-development>)
- Hancock Golf Course Status
- Austin Living Streets (<https://www.austintlivingstreets.com/>)
- Friends of Shipe Park
- Announcements

**Not a member? No problem!**  
You can attend anyway.

### Join Zoom Meeting at 7 pm at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82897122797?pwd=dDl2QUJlcmZkbXhTTy81R0VCeGsvUT09>

Meeting ID: 828 9712 2797

Passcode: 068740

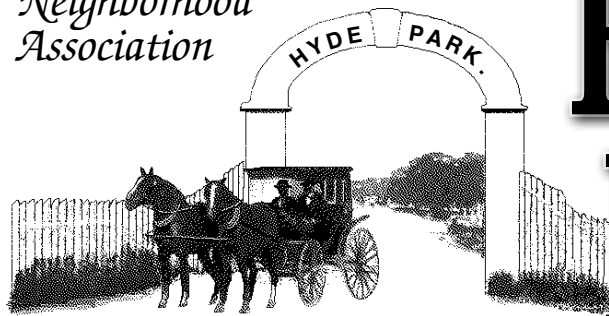
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The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association



# Pecan Press

June 2021 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 47, No. 06

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Flag Day Celebration

Austin's long-running Flag Day Celebration returns to the streets of Hyde Park on Sunday, June 13 (the day before America's least-celebrated holiday) for the twenty-sixth year.

Flag fans will gather at the cul-de-sac at the intersection of Fairfield Lane and Eilers Avenue in Patterson Heights starting at 2 pm and run until 6 pm. Speaking of running, the ever-popular Flag Fun Run will start at 3:30 pm with flag wavers circling the traffic circle two times.

There will be two vexillological educational presentations:

- ACC Professor of Philosophy Bryan Register, founder of De-Confederate Austin, will talk about the dark and convoluted history of the so-called Confederate flag. Examples of these flags will be shown as a part of the interview but not included in the large display. See <https://www.facebook.com/deconfederateaustin/>.
- Stars over America will be a display of current, historic, and even possible future United States flags, with various numbers of stars including 48 stars (1912 to 1959), 49 stars (July 4, 1959 to August 21, 1959), and 50 stars (the current official US flag). There will also be two possible future flags featuring 51 stars (in consideration of the Statehood for DC bill now before Congress) and 52 stars (should DC and Puerto Rico become states) – a fascinating bit of vexillological history unfurling. Other US variant flags include NYC artist David Hammond's Marcus Garvey Movement-inspired African-American flag and a Thin Blue Line flag, showing support for law enforcement. See <https://resipsausa.com/blogs/journal/a-brief-history-of-the-american-flag>.

Also on display will be scores of flags from the Austin Airwaves flag collection, including – for the first time – the much improved Mississippi state flag, now sporting a lovely magnolia flower.

As usual, there will be the display of the very large Texas flag draped over the intersection of Fairfield Lane and Eilers Avenue. Flag fans are encouraged to walk or bike under the display or drive it "Avenue G slow."

Last year's event was canceled because of the COVID pandemic. This year's celebration will be entirely outdoors, with masks and distancing requested. There will be free fancy waters and soft drinks for all VIPs (Vexillologically Important Persons). There will be judging and awards for the best flags in a wide variety of categories. Contact Jim at 512-796-4332 for updates.

– Jim Ellinger

**26th Annual Flag Day Celebration**  
Free! Fun! Flags! Corner of Fairfield Ln & Eilers Ave  
**Sunday, June 13th, 2021**  
6-10pm, Flag Fun Run @ 6:30pm

Look for the GIANT TEXAS FLAG!

Longtime Hyde Park Residents  
Jim Ellinger & Karen Horan's  
**FLAG DAY Celebration!**  
Flags a Flyin' in the Austin Airwaves!

**Austin's Biggest, Oldest, Weirdest Flag Day Event!**  
Bring a Flag (free bamboo poles provided.)  
Home made, international and unusual flags are particularly encouraged, though (almost) any kind of flag is welcome.  
48, 49, 50, 51 & 52 Star American Flags on Display!

Plus! Retirement Party for the WMDB Awards for the best flags in various categories and soft drinks and water. A flag-friendly kids event!



Before we discuss the agenda for our upcoming June general meeting, we want to take the opportunity to thank former HPNA co-President Sarah Cook for her service to the neighborhood. Sarah will be starting an exciting new job that will require her leaving the HPNA Steering Committee. We are very happy for Sarah, but we will miss her insight, warmth, and intelligence at our meetings. Fortunately, Sarah will be in the neighborhood, so we will be able to see her and seek her advice and counsel from time to time.

Our June HPNA general meeting will cover topics of interest to everyone. First, we will consider and vote on the nomination of Katie Turner to fill an open at-large member seat on the HPNA Steering Committee.

Another item of interest is the ongoing discussion about the future of the Hancock Golf Course. The City sent out a survey seeking input from the public in March. Some have advocated that Hancock Golf Course

remain a golf course, others argue that it should become a public park. Still others are concerned about the City possibly placing the golf course under private management. We will receive an update on the City's survey.

We will also receive an update on the City's proposal for transit oriented development (TOD) in conjunction with Project Connect. Project Connect is Capital Metro's seven-billion-dollar plan to create new light rail lines, commuter rail trains, and enhanced bus services in Austin. "Transit oriented development" refers to urban planning designed to bring people closer to public transit so that they can reach housing, businesses, and public spaces without having to use a car. We will be discussing the City Council's plans for implementing TOD and how TOD might play out for Project Connect's new light rail Orange Line, to be built on Guadalupe bordering Hyde Park.

It is never too early to talk about the Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour. Our agenda will also feature an update from Homes Tour co-Chair Kip Dollar. The Homes Tour team is currently planning the tour for this November, with the expectation that we will be able to run the tour and follow the latest precautions related to COVID. HPNA will need neighbors to volunteer as house captains and docents to insure the success of the Homes Tour. Following the Homes Tour update, we will get the latest news about Shipe Park's It's My Park Day and the status of the Shipe Park pool opening. And we also will get an update on the future of the Living Streets program, a topic of interest to many neighbors.

In our last letter we discussed bills in the Legislature that would affect Hyde Park. Specifically, we discussed a bill that would help neighbors remove racially exclusionary language in their property records; a bill that relates to tax appraisals in historic districts; a bill that would affect an individual's right to protest city zoning; and a bill that would limit Austin's authority to regulate amplified sound. Because we are submitting this letter before the Legislature adjourns, we are not able to give you a definitive update on these bills, but we will do so in a subsequent letter.

— Kevin Heyburn  
Michele Grieshaber  
Lisa Harris  
HPNA Co-Presidents

## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765  
[www.austinhdepark.org](http://www.austinhdepark.org)

— HPNA Officers & Steering Committee —

### Co-Presidents

- Michele Grieshaber..... mgrasshopper001@gmail.com
- Lisa Harris .....ljharrisus@yahoo.com
- Kevin Heyburn..... kmheyburn@gmail.com

### Co-Vice Presidents

- Kathy Jackson
- Paul Smith

Secretary • Ben Reid ..... ben.reid@austin.utexas.edu

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

- Susanna Walker..... suzwalkercpa@gmail.com
- Lorre Weidlich..... lweidlich@mail2sevensas.com

### Additional Steering Committee Members:

- Betsy Clubine • Stephen Gonzales • Sumit Guha • Peniel Joseph • Marsha Rita • Elena Rojo

### — HPNA Committees & Task Forces —

#### ASH (joint HPNA-CT committee)

- John Williams ..... jawilli@grandecom.net

#### Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep.

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#### Crime & Safety • Carol Welder, cjwelder@msn.com

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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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## APD District Representative for Hyde Park

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# Hancock Golf Course: An Update

It began as a financial problem the city needed to solve. To put it mildly, the solution initially proposed by the city was not well received by the community. Conservancies were formed. Neighborhood associations held discussions. The Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) was requested to seek more community input - and here we are today. The results of the survey for community input are now public.

## PARC's Financial Problem

The Hancock Golf Course "...has struggled to cover its costs." "...Golf Fund has received \$1.0 M annually from the general fund ...Hancock Golf Course has specifically recorded between \$150,000 to \$250,000 shortfall over the past five years." PARC seeks a solution to "...achieving fiscal solvency in order to avoid drawing from the general fund."

The looming rollbacks due to tax caps also weighted heavily on the minds of PARC staff. The National Golf Foundation opined that the city had three options - conversion to a passive park, invest (over a million dollars) to transform into a modern golf learning center, or partner with a private entity for investment funding and operation of the modern golf learning center. The city chose the private entity partnership as the solution - thus the outcry from the community.



Concept for Southwest Corner  
Printed with Permission of Hancock Conservancy

At this point, I must say that one should not be distracted from the real issue - a financial problem to be solved. This is not a pro or con golf issue. This is not pro or con passive park issue. The rhetoric of many can be compelling and divert the conversation away from the fact that this is a financial problem to be solved.

**Continued on page 8**

## 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.
- University students are free.
- 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.austinhypark.org](http://www.austinhypark.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](mailto:lweidlich@mail2sevens.com).  
*Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.*
- Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at [herzele@gmail.com](mailto: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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Notify me by email of HPNA meetings & events \_\_\_\_\_

Dues per Person

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior - \$1/yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="checkbox"/> Student - Free	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member	Amount _____

Mailing Address:  
 HPNA Membership  
 P.O. Box 49427  
 Austin, Texas 78765  
*Make checks payable to HPNA.*



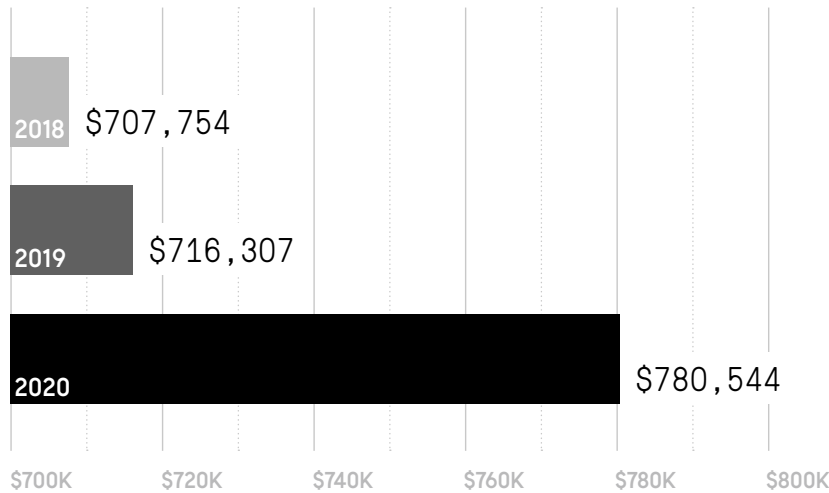
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[hydeparkismyhome.com](http://hydeparkismyhome.com)

All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family residences.





## News from the Ney

The big news for June 2021, of course, is that the museum will be reopening its doors on Wednesday, June 9, returning to its regular Wednesday-through-Sunday, noon-to-5 pm hours. Masks will likely still be suggested for visitors. Consult the museum's website for the most up-to-date information.

When the museum opens, there will also be an exciting new exhibition on view: Jade Walker's *Reweave: 2021*. You might already have visited *Mire + Mend*, the installation around the 45th street signage. Hopefully, you have engaged with it, adding strips of fabric or rope or other threads to the piece. It's there for you to enjoy. Inside the museum you'll find Jade Walker's *BirdSong*, a piece that considers the ecological state of our planet and the ways in which humans conflict with one another in the face of this challenge but offers hope in the balance between activism and care. *BirdSong* asks the viewer to look at what is around us and listen for bird songs as a marker of safety and potential. For an online exhibition of these pieces, visit [www.theney.org/reweave-jade-walker](http://www.theney.org/reweave-jade-walker). There you'll also find video of Jade Walker explaining both pieces and expressing her thoughts on art and its capacity for healing and affecting communities. The online exhibition is available now. The exhibition itself will end in November 2021.

In tandem with this exhibition, the museum will host events throughout the summer. On Saturday, June 26, from noon to 2 pm, you can join other members of the community in an outdoors, all-ages, socially-distanced family weaving event! Mini looms will be erected in which anyone, even little ones, can engage with the healing process. Bring strips of fabric (say, from old shirts), rope, old leashes, whatever you have, to integrate your story. These pieces will also remain on the grounds for the duration of the exhibition, so you can be a landscape artist too! Family-friendly refreshments will be served, and other art activities such as face-painting and slingshot-weaving

## Monthly Calendar

### June

- 4 — Recycling Pickup
- 5 — Landscape Workday at Ney Museum
- 7 — HPNA Meeting
- 9 — Ney Museum Reopens
- 10 — DRC Meeting
- 13 — Flag Day Parade
- 14 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 14 — Large Brush Collection
- 18 — Recycling Pickup
- 26 — Family Weaving Event at Ney Museum

will be held. A larger scale opening and healing event will take place on July 24, complete with an artists' talk and more.

You might also have noticed how the May rains made the native prairie landscape recreation go technicolor! After a long dry spell, the rains gave the wide-ranging late spring wildflowers a needed boost. A stroll along the trail provides a symphony of color and lovely scents. The happy, busy pollinators add their presence to the performance. There are still plant species that need removal, however, in order to make the most of this fine show. On Saturday, June 5, from 9 to 11 am, join the museum's Environmental Educator Mino Giunta and other volunteers in an educational landscape workday. The primary culprit, *Torilis arvensis* or hedge parsley, will be the main focus of the day. You can join the fun by signing up at [GivePulse.com](http://GivePulse.com) or writing Lindsay Barras at [lindsay.barras@austintexas.gov](mailto:lindsay.barras@austintexas.gov). Or just show up! Bring gloves, water, and a mask.

The museum looks forward to reopening and seeing old friends. #Sursum!

HYDE PARK

**Capital**  
PROPERTIES

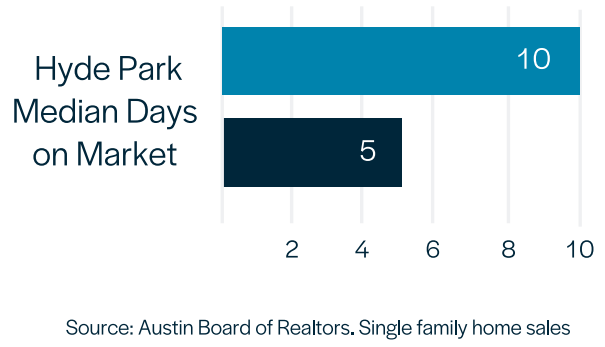
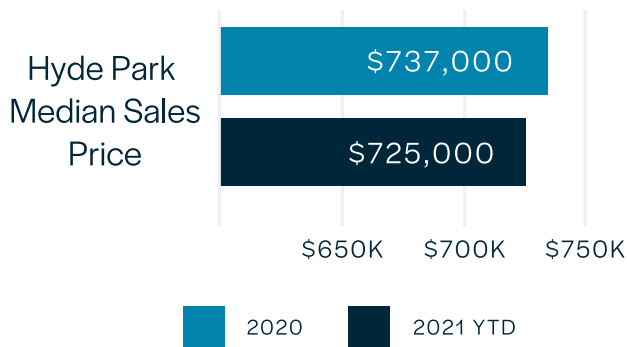
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Jen has lived, worked, and invested in Hyde Park for over 20 years. She understands historic homes and what makes our neighborhood special. If you are looking for a trustworthy real estate advisor, reach out to Jen. Whether you are simply curious about the market or need a market analysis for your home, she is happy to help!



Source: Austin Board of Realtors. Single family home sales

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# Around & About the Avenues

**APD Officer to Give Safety Talk to Kids.** Due to the pandemic, many children have been out of school and as a result have missed many of the supplemental programs provided by APD, AED, and similar organizations intended to teach children about safety and life skills. Because of that, parent Grayson, Hyde Park APD liaison, to talk to Hyde Park children, 5 to 12 years old, about bike safety, traffic safety, and how to interact with strangers. His talk is scheduled for June 9 at 5 pm, in the yard at 3912 Avenue G and it will last around half an hour. All Hyde Park parents and children are welcome to participate.

**POSTPONED**



**New Sign for Brown's Flower Shop.** Brown's Flower Shop, formerly at 4301 Avenue A, has been gone at least 15 years, but the current owners

of the property, Evan and Brandi Johnson, have continued to display the sign on their garage as the marker of a significant Hyde Park location. Inevitably, the sign began to deteriorate, so the Johnsons commissioned a replica, painted to match the 1940s look of the original, to display in its place. They donated the original sign to Mr. Brown's grandson. Walk by to see the new sign!



**Trinity Church Pastor to Retire.** Sid Hall, pastor of Trinity Church for 33 years, will be retiring on July 1. During his tenure at Trinity, the church and the neighborhood have established a warm relationship: the church has hosted numerous steering and committee meetings for the HPNA and the Contact Team and has served as starting point for Historic Hyde Park Homes Tours. Reverend Hall will be moving to Windsor, Colorado to join his son's family. We thank him for his years of service and wish him a long and happy retirement.



**Hyde Park Resident Runs for District Judge.** Laurie Eiserloh of Avenue C, earlier a candidate for Travis County Attorney, has declared her candidacy for District Judge for the new 455th Civil District Court. While the election is not until March 2022, she has gathered around 600 public supporters. Eiserloh is known for her work fighting for the rights of LGBTQ Texans. Read about the new court and her candidacy in the *Austin Villager* ([http://www.theaustinvillager.com/current/page6\\_May14.pdf](http://www.theaustinvillager.com/current/page6_May14.pdf))



**Hyde Park Post Office Closing Covered by Austin Periodicals.** The closing of the post office on Speedway has caught the attention of more than one Austin periodical. *Austin Monitor* covered the story on May 17 in an article by Marisa Charpentier that featured quotes from Hyde Park resident Deaton Bednar and HPNA co-President Michele Grieshaber. (<https://www.austinmonitor.com/stories/2021/05/a-beloved-post-office-in-hyde-park-is-closing-the-austin-neighborhood-wants-to-know-why/>) Deaton Bednar supplied the *Austin Monitor* quote of the day: "It's a real community, and a big part of that is the post office." On May 7, Nick Barbaro reported on the situation in his "Public Notice" column in the *Austin Chronicle* (<https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2021-05-07/public-notice-just-to-clarify/>). He clarified that rumors about the reason for closing were incorrect: "But no, this isn't a parable about gentrification and densification, and there's no bad guy to blame. Not locally, anyway."



**Quack's Bakery Featured in Community Impact.**

The April issue of *Community Impact* devoted its "Dining Feature" column to Quack's 43rd St. Bakery and its Mueller sibling, Lady Quackenbush's Cakery. The article, by Nicholas Cicale, covers the history of the various incarnations of the bakery since its beginning in 1983 (<https://communityimpact.com/austin/central-austin/business/2021/04/29/quacks-bakery-has-been-embracing-austins-quirks-for-nearly-40-years/>). Quack's 43rd St. Bakery has been a Hyde Park institution since 1999 and has no plans to close.



**VisitAustin Must-See Historic Sites Include Hyde Park Locations.**

VisitAustin, the website devoted to marketing Austin nationally and internationally as a tourist destination, included three Hyde Park locations in its April 12 posting, "35 Must-See Historic Sites in Austin." Austin's moonlight towers, one of them located on Speedway in Hyde Park, were on the list, along with the Avenue B Grocery and the Elisabet Ney Museum. Check out the complete list at <https://www.austintexas.org/austin-insider-blog/post/30-must-see-historic-sites-in-austin/> and read the blogger's comments about these historic sites.



# Hancock Golf Course... ...cont'd from page 3

## Formation of Groups to Propose Alternative Solutions

To golf or not, to be in a park or not: these are paths to the possible solutions to solve this financial problem. Some believe golf can pay its own way till the end of time. Some believe that a passive park will cost much less and thus funds can be raised to create and maintain a park for all. Thus two conservancies were created. The Hancock Conservancy came onto my radar in the summer of 2020 and the Hancock Golf Course Conservancy in the fall of 2020.

## Results of the Survey

PARD staff memo to PARD Board states "Responses received regarding support for continuing Hancock Golf Course as a public course, were overwhelmingly positive. The survey results highlight the public's desire to maintain Hancock as a golf course regardless of survey delivery method."

A report of survey results was provided by Austin Energy to PARD with an analysis of Yes and No responses. The responders' comments in the open text fields were presented as raw data with no analysis. Three delivery methods were used to inform the community of the survey.

- Email with unique link method resulted in 71% support for keeping golf. 40,000 emails were sent with 3,629 responses to the survey. It appears that zip code 78751 was not selected to receive any direct emails with links. There is no data for 78751 on the zip code map image. Note that 78751 includes residents of Hyde Park and Hancock neighborhoods.
- Open link survey shows 60% support keeping golf. It had 4,754 responses. 78751 on the zip code map appears to indicate that less than 50% of responders supported keeping golf.
- QR code survey resulted in 92% support for keeping golf. It had 721 responses. Note that QR code was posted "in and around municipal golf courses."

## Now What?

The PARD Director Kimberly McNeeley, in her memo to the PARD board, outlines plans to have multiple community meetings that include gathering feedback on financial questions and strategies.

City of Austin PARD PGA Golf Division Manager Kevin Gomillion said the course is currently performing at record revenues each month. Performance will be monitored and the City will work with groups to raise funds to improve current use. An RFP (request for proposal) solution is not necessary at this time and other options will be exhausted prior to using an RFP process to raise funds. Updates to the community on performance and partnerships will be provided.



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Hancock Golf Course Conservancy founder Kevin McKinney provided monthly revenue and rounds played in 2021 compared with 2020 and the increases are dramatic: "...over \$280,000 so far this year and shows no signs of slowing down. And this is without any of the so-called necessary changes for the golf course to be profitable." He said they would continue to promote golf as they have been doing and emphasized that they do not want a driving range or any changes to the historic existing golf course. "We also do not support a third-party coming in and running the golf course. We feel that the best way to protect this green space is to continue it as it is." "At the moment we are continuing to pursue our special status with the Austin Parks Foundation, which will aid in fundraising efforts."

Hancock Conservancy founder Adam Sparks said that a meeting with PARD Director McNeeley resulted in a shared desire for a partnership of PARD and the Hancock Conservancy in caring for this park land. Current goals and projects include creating a Waller Creek Grow Zone, new tree plantings, improving the SW corner as a park area, creating a natural play area for children, and regular periods of time designated as closed to golfing and open for all as a park. The Hancock Conservancy is meeting with a wide variety of experts such as local conservancies, non-profit organizations providing grants for improvements and restoration. Just a few days ago, the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department met with members to educate and offer support to restore Waller Creek as it runs through the land.

To keep informed and perhaps be a part of the solution, be a member of your neighborhood association, join one or both of the conservancies, and communicate with your city council member or PARD board and staff members.

– Deaton Bednar

#### Links:

- <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/hancock-golf-course-planning>
- [https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/NGF\\_Final\\_Austin\\_Report.pdf](https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/NGF_Final_Austin_Report.pdf) (National Golf Foundation report)
- <https://www.imaginehancockpark.org/>
- <http://hancockgolfcourseconservancy.org/>
- <https://www.hancockna.org/www/content/hancock-neighborhood-association-statement-hancock-golf-course> (Hancock Neighborhood Association Statement on the Hancock Golf Course)
- <https://www.texastribune.org/2019/06/12/abbott-signs-property-tax-bill-sb2/>
- [http://www.austinydepark.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/PARD-Memo\\_Hancock-Golf-Survey-Results\\_05.09.2021Combined.pdf](http://www.austinydepark.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/PARD-Memo_Hancock-Golf-Survey-Results_05.09.2021Combined.pdf) (PARD memo of May 9, 2021 on HPNA website)

## Word Find: Born in June

by der Brat

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

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. Actual name: Lhamo Thondup. (5,4)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Mr. Freeman of Shawshank. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Miracle Worker subject. (5,6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Activist Stokely. (10) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Judy from Oz. (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Young Frankenstein director. (3,6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Angelina, Voight's daughter. (5) \_\_\_\_\_
8. "All Night Long" creator. (6,6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Actual name: O'Shea Jackson. (3,4)  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Revolutionary Pancho. (5) \_\_\_\_\_
11. Formerly an unsayable symbol. (6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Gene, Young Frankenstein. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
13. Two kings: III and V. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
14. "Stormy Weather" singer. (4,5) \_\_\_\_\_
15. "Technoking" of Tesla. (4,4) \_\_\_\_\_
16. Paul of the Fab 4. (9) \_\_\_\_\_
17. Marilyn (Norma Jeane first). (6) \_\_\_\_\_
18. George (but really Eric Blair). (6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. Famous diarist. (4,5) \_\_\_\_\_
20. Actress Phylicia. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
21. "Sophie" with an awful choice. (5,6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. Cyndi, who wanted to have fun. (6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
23. The Good Earth Nobelist. (5,4)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 14

# Keeping it Local

The corner of 43rd Street and Duval has long been a vibrant restaurant hub with Asti Trattoria, Hyde Park Bar & Grill, Julio's Cafe, Mother's Café, Quack's Bakery, and Uncle Nicky's. Eat local! So, when Mother's Café closed in 2020, after over 40 years in Hyde Park, I was saddened by the loss. Thankfully, another Austin-grown eatery, Curra's Grill, will open this month in its place at 4215 Duval Street.

Curra's Grill started in 1995 as a family-run restaurant and continues the tradition today. "My parents had just moved to the United States and they wanted to do something productive, so we said, 'Why don't we do a small restaurant?'" reflected Jorge Garcia, referring to himself, his brother, and his sister. His son, Daylon, was an infant when Curra's opened in South Austin and has fond memories of time spent in the restaurant as a child. Flash forward 26 years and Daylon is now working alongside his father to open Hyde Park Curra's and will manage the location.

But why Hyde Park and why now? "Even though it was the middle of the pandemic, with all this craziness going on, we love this neighborhood," Jorge explained. "Daylon's mother was baptized here at Hyde Park Baptist Church, so the whole family has a lot of history in the neighborhood. We love the neighborhood, we love the location, and we know it's just going to be a great one."

The father-son team sees Curra's Grill as a good complement to the other restaurants on Duval. "We bring a different style of Mexican cuisine and are going to be bringing in a variety of new cocktail and wine programs," Daylon shared. Of course, signature drinks, like their avocado and cucumber jalapeno margaritas will stay on the menu. The restaurant will start by opening for dinner, from 4 to 10 pm, and will add lunch for delivery once they are completely staffed. Golf carts will be used for deliveries in the neighborhood.

— Betsy Clubine



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# Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston



## Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center: An Austin Gem

When the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center (RRDOC) was closed during the pandemic, Austinites really came to appreciate it and were anxious for it to open again. I received emails daily from my readers saying things like “I am overrun with styrofoam!

Can't wait for the center to open again.” and “I have spent weeks in isolation

passing the time by cleaning out my garage – can't wait to be able to take all the stuff to the RRDOC.”

I had the privilege of interviewing Donald Hardee, the Division Manager of the RRDOC, to learn more about the center's history and to get Mr. Hardee's personal perspective on this gem's operations. Following is a summary of my interview.

### History

The RRDOC began as the Household Hazardous Waste Center, a hazardous materials collection center. When the City purchased the property where Ecology Action (EA) was located, EA decided to close and go in a different direction – environmental education. The City wanted to continue the work of EA, so it expanded the Household Hazardous Waste Center to collect the same items EA had been collecting, including styrofoam. That's when the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center was created.

### Challenges

When asked what the biggest challenges of the center currently are, Mr. Hardee said, “space and convenience of location.”

- Space – The facility was not designed to handle the current amount of traffic from the public drop-off material or the large trucks hauling the recycling material away. The by-appointment-only system has helped control drop-off traffic and allowed more time and space for the hauling

trucks. The RRDOC will continue to use this system for the foreseeable future. Go to <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/recycle-reuse-drop-center> to make an appointment.

- Location – Far south Austin is not convenient for a large part of Austin. The City hopes to eventually have another facility in north or west Austin, but there are no definite plans or locations at this time.

### Future Projects

There are some exciting styrofoam repurposing projects being developed at the RRDOC. Some of the densified styrofoam is being formed into polyethylene blocks to create wheel chocks (blocks of sturdy material placed closely behind wheels of large trucks to prevent accidental movement). RRDOC is also investigating the use of styrofoam for curb stops in parking lots.

### Story to Share

I asked Mr. Hardee for an interesting story from his experiences at the RRDOC and he shared the following:

One day, a woman brought in a vial of something she had found in her basement after her husband had passed away. He had been a pharmacist and this substance had been used in cardiac medication. She didn't know what to do with it or exactly what it was. It was labeled “Tetrodotoxin,” which is pufferfish toxin. Tetrodotoxin is deadly to humans – up to 1,200 times more poisonous than cyanide and without a known antidote. There is enough toxin in one pufferfish to kill 30 adult humans.

The center accepted it and disposed of it properly. They were so grateful she brought it in rather than throw into her trash or, worse yet, her compost bin.

### In Conclusion

I am grateful that Mr. Hardee took time out of his busy day to share his RRDOC knowledge with me and my Lettuce Recycle readers. We are fortunate in Austin to have the Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center to help Austin reach its Zero Waste commitment.

### PLEASE REMEMBER - WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

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](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).

# HPNA General Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2021

Lisa Harris welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Election of New Steering Committee Member, Dr. Peniel Joseph:

- Adam Wilson introduced and recommended Dr. Peniel Joseph as a candidate for the HPNA Steering Committee. Dr. Joseph lives in north Hype Park. He is the Barbara Jordan Chair in Ethics and Political Values at The University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs and also a professor in the UT Department of History. Dr Joseph gave a brief introduction and shared that he has been a Hyde Park Resident for 6 years.
- Paul Smith seconded Adam's motion to elect Dr. Joseph to the Steering Committee.
- Attendees voted on the resolution: 31 voted in support; 0 abstained; 0 voted in opposition.

Vanessa Davila gave an update on the construction at the Helping Hand Home:

- Vanessa is the Director of Strategy and Planning at Helping Hand Home, has been with the Helping Hand Home for 10 years, and has been working with Austin nonprofits for 20 years.
- The Helping Hand Home has been in Austin since the 1930s, serving victims of abuse and neglect. About half of Helping Hand's students attend Lee Elementary.
- Currently there is a major construction project underway at the Helping Hand Home aimed at replacing deteriorating housing and adding housing for the attending children.
- The project will also add a permanent charter school including four classrooms. The school used to be comprised of portables used as classrooms, but these have already been removed to make room for the new buildings. There was also a cottage located on the property; it was relocated to Round Rock where it will be repurposed and become a coffee shop.
- After the project's completion there will be fewer children per living area, each child will have his or her own bedroom, and the residential units will look and feel more like homes.
- Construction started in January. The wood frame structures you see when driving by are some of the children's housing units. There will be a total of eight new children's homes, with five children per home.
- The big concrete slab will be the main education building. The project is going very quickly, even with COVID-related delays. The first two homes will be done by October. The main education building will be done by February, and then additional housing construction will commence after additional existing structures are demolished.

- Ability to serve the community will increase by 40% as a result of this project, and capacity will increase from 41 children (currently) to 57 children, ranging in age from four to twelve years old.

Kristen Remeza gave an update on crime and safety in the neighborhood:

- Since the last HPNA meeting, Kristen has spoken to Officer Grayson, Hyde Park's APD contact, to get an update on a self-proclaimed Proud Boy who has been seen driving through Hyde Park, playing music loudly, flying confederate flags, and making threats to people of color. This individual has also been seen making a gun symbol with his hand and making a shooting motion at people, and he has also displayed an actual firearm. The offender's name is Trevor C. Dreyer. He drives a silver Kia Forte, license plate BFG7638; is a white male, six feet tall, with blue eyes, short brown hair, in his late 20s; and is a former resident of apartments at 41st Street and Avenue A. If you see this individual and are able to call authorities at the time, please call 911. If you are calling after the fact, please call 311 to report your observations.
- There has been an increase in thefts of catalytic converters in Hyde Park. Vehicles most prone to this crime are late model Toyotas, Priuses, and Nissans. This crime happens very quickly (in a matter of two minutes in some cases), so it is recommended that you park in a well-lit area. It is possible to have your converter welded to the frame of your vehicle as a deterrent, and it is also recommended to set your car alarm to go off with vibrations. You can also have your vehicle identification number (VIN) engraved onto your converter.
- Mail and package theft have also increased. One neighbor clearly caught a thief on-camera taking a package, but has not been able to get any significant response from police.
- Some neighbors observed and reported a large group of motorcycles riding through the alleys of Hyde Park several weeks ago. Kristen researched this activity and discovered this is an annual event that happens in Central and East Austin and is called the Alley Cat Scramble. The scramble is legal, but some neighbors reported seeing the motorcyclists running stop signs, which is illegal. There was very little response from APD regarding this event.
- Some general safety reminders are to have situational awareness of your surroundings, lock your car and house doors, and close your blinds at night.

Jill Nokes gave an update on the opening of Shipe Pool:

- Across the city, pool season is unfolding very slowly this year.
- Lifeguard training is not occurring yet because almost every city pool was damaged by the hard freeze in February. Additionally, private pools were also damaged, making replacement parts very scarce.
- At Shipe Pool, the pump room and restrooms were both damaged.
- Another hurdle is that no work can be done until the facilities are tested for lead (this is a state law, and tests must be done even though the Shipe facilities are new), and it takes weeks to perform the tests and to get test results.
- The city is working to get the year-round pools open first, so that lifeguard training can begin.
- If the city gets down to pandemic stage 1, it is possible that Shipe pool might be able to have an extended season, but as of now the city can't even schedule an opening.
- The city currently has 130 lifeguards hired, but they still need to hire and train 600 more to open all city pools.
- Kids (of all ages but at least 15 years) can lifeguard this summer. For application information, go to <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/lifeguarding-austin>.

Ben Reid gave an update on the Hyde Park Post Office:

- Rumors have been circulating in the neighborhood that the post office at 43rd Street and Speedway is going to be permanently closing.
- After discussions with post office staff, the Austin Postmaster's office, and the owner of the property, the rumors have been confirmed as true.
- The post office will be permanently closed on June 19, 2021.
- The primary issue causing the closure of the post office is differing appraisal values of the property and how that would affect a new lease agreement.
- HPNA officers met with the owner of the property, Blake Thompson, on April 29, 2021, and Blake reported that he worked very hard to reach an agreement with the Postal Service.
- Blake's appraisal differed significantly from the appraisal performed by the Postal Service; and even though Blake offered to work with the Postal Service to get another appraisal done by an appraiser on which they could both agree, the post office rejected his offer.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Hyde Park needs your help! Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

### Pecan Press Delivery

- A *Pecan Press* coordinator to deliver ten bundles of *Pecan Press* newsletters to block walkers each month. The deliveries are in central Hyde Park, with a few to Hancock. This is a critical first step in the delivery process.
- *Pecan Press* deliverers are needed for four routes:
  - 3900 through 4000, Avenue B
  - 600 through 800, north side of E. 45th Street
  - 500 block of E. 46th Street
  - 500 through 600, E. 47th Street

Please contact Betsy Clubine at [betsyclubine@gmail.com](mailto:betsyclubine@gmail.com) if you're interested in any of these positions.

### Hyde Park Homes Tour Photography

The Homes Tour Committee is looking for a photographer to take interior photos of our featured homes and other structures for the tour booklet. If you're a good photographer and willing to provide your services, please contact Kip Dollar at [kipdollar@aol.com](mailto:kipdollar@aol.com). You will be credited in the tour booklet and receive a ticket to the tour and an invitation to the post-tour party.

- During the negotiation process, the Postal Service told Blake it would take one to two years to move out of the facility if a decision was ever made not to renew the lease, so Blake was under the impression that, at minimum, there would be a lease extension.
- Blake contacted the Postal Service earlier this year in an attempt to discuss a lease extension, but got no response; he was also surprised to learn the post office would be closing in June.
- In addition to the post office building, Blake owns the Patio on Speedway apartments just north of the post office. These two properties encompass the entire block of Speedway, from 43rd to 44th Streets, on the west side. He also owns the post office employee parking lot on the other side of Speedway and a home between this parking lot and the fire station.
- Blake says his immediate plan is to get the post office spruced up a bit, including abatement of some asbestos, and to get the building rented again as quickly as possible so it's not sitting vacant. He envisions renting out this building as a creative office space while he comes up with a longer-term plan for the space.

Continued on page 14



# May Meeting Minutes...

## ...cont'd from page 13

- Long-term plans for the property are unknown, but it sounds like all options are being considered including commercial storefronts, residential space, or a combination of the two. Blake did specifically mention that he would be open to including a small postal office storefront (minus a sorting facility).
- Blake is very familiar with the Hyde Park NC-CDs. He is an Austin native and is sensitive to the overarching concerns of our neighborhood such as noise, traffic, parking, flooding, and our aging infrastructure.
- The officers encouraged Blake, as he develops future plans for the post office property and he has more information to share, to get in touch with the Hyde Park Contact Team and to consider attending one of our future monthly general meetings.
- The Hyde Park Post Office building was built in the late 1950s for the post office but was never owned by the Postal Service. The Postal Service has been the only occupant of this building since its construction. Blake purchased the property in 2015.

Michele Grieshaber gave an update on legislative issues affecting the neighborhood. There are four bills under consideration that could affect the neighborhood:

- HB 1474 - This bill is related to requirements for the designation of a property as a historic landmark and the inclusion of a property in a historic district by a municipality. This bill is out of committee and a vote is pending.
- HB 3813 - This bill is related to the authority of certain municipalities to impose regulations on amplified sound from certain venues. It would prevent the city from regulating music coming from bars between 10 am and 2 am. This bill is out of committee but currently postponed.
- HB3971 - This bill is related to appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of residential real property located in a designated historic district. This bill is out of committee, has been passed by the House, and is going to be sent to the Senate for a vote.
- HB2989 - This bill is related to certain notice and protest provisions applicable to municipal zoning changes. This bill would eliminate the requirement for municipalities to notify property owners prior to making zoning changes. It is still pending in committee.



**Pecan Press is online at**  
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Marsha Riti gave an update on deed restriction legislation:

- SB30 is the bill related to removing discriminatory stipulations from deeds.
- This bill passed the Senate and is out of committee in the House, with substituted language. It will now go to the floor. It has wide bipartisan support so should face no challenges becoming law.
- To view the bill language, go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/html/SB00030E.htm>.

Announcements:

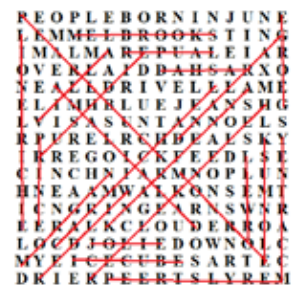
- The HPNA is still in need of one more Steering Committee member. Anyone interested in participating or recommending someone should contact Adam Wilson ([adam@griffinschool.org](mailto:adam@griffinschool.org)).
- The *Pecan Press* is always looking for interesting articles. High School students are also welcome to submit articles. Contact Lorre Weidlich for more information ([lweidlich@mail2sevenseas.com](mailto:lweidlich@mail2sevenseas.com)).
- Brendan Wittstruck noted that the I-35 reconfiguration project is currently receiving input on the project for the southern part of the city. In the southern stretch of this project, elevated lanes are under consideration and there is minimal opposition to this idea. If you are concerned, please provide feedback. For more information, go to <https://capexsouth.mobility35openhouse.com/environmental-overview/>.

- Submitted by Ben Reid  
 HPNA Secretary



### Word Find Answers from page 9

- 1) DALAI LAMA; 2) MORGAN;
- 3) HELEN KELLER; 4) CARMICHAEL;
- 5) GARLAND; 6) MEL BROOKS;
- 7) JOLIE; 8) LIONEL RICHIE;
- 9) ICE CUBE; 10) VILLA; 11) PRINCE;
- 12) WILDER; 13) GEORGE;
- 14) LENA HORNE; 15) ELON MUSK;
- 16) MCCARTNEY; 17) MONROE;
- 18) ORWELL; 19) ANNE FRANK; 20) RASHAD;
- 21) MERYL STREEP;
- 22) LAUPER; 23) PEARL BUCK;





## Maufrais

A complexion silky smooth  
 compared to some  
 a few wrinkles  
 but with each a uniqueness  
 (a concrete antiqueness)

the color of pale lifelessness, for certain  
 but your veins contain fluid

I know  
 and the scars of previous surgeries  
 I have seen

Are you alive?

at points along your path  
 you have been lifted by the roots  
 Does that hurt?

at other points along your path  
 you have been buried alive

are you alive?

by the way, your name  
 is it French?

— David Courtney

## Ribbons

Ribbons make me happy.  
 Ribbons are decorations,  
 I always take a ribbon  
 If there is one to be taken,  
 Maybe wrapping something,  
 A present, or to liven up a table,  
 I can always use a piece of ribbon,  
 I can wrap up my feelings,  
 Especially love, especially delight,  
 I like the silky ones,  
 Especially if they are a bright color,  
 Like red, or green or purple,  
 I like ribbons.  
 You can use them to tie up a gift,  
 A thought, an evening,  
 Ribbons make me happy.

— HERZELE  
 05/13/2021



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