

# March Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, March 3, 2014

**Where:** The Griffin School  
5001 Evans Avenue

*Note: HPNA general meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.*

## HPNA General Meeting Agenda for March 3

- ◆ Announcements
- ◆ Update on occupancy limits
- ◆ It's my Park! Day – A wrap up
- ◆ Transportation: An overview and update on issues related to Hyde Park and surrounding neighborhoods

**See You There!**

## Contact Team Holds Elections

The Hyde Park Contact Team held elections on Monday January 27.

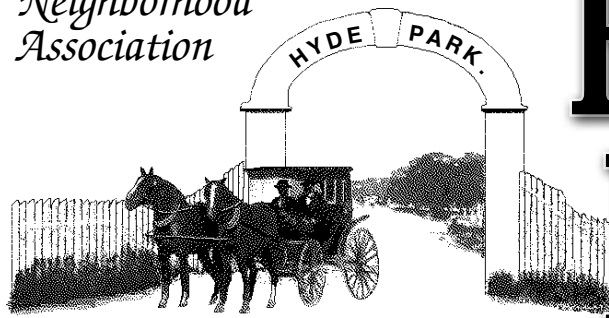
The purpose of the organization is to implement the city-adopted Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan and any changes that may be made to it. The officer positions are subject to limits of two terms. Since both the chair (Karen McGraw) and vice-chair (David Conner) had dutifully served two terms (four years each!), the nominations of new candidates were made. A round of applause demonstrated appreciation for the hard work that Karen and David have done over the years.

The elected candidates new to their positions are Pete Gilcrease (chair) and Lianna Mills (vice-chair). Mity Myhr agreed to a change from co-secretary to secretary. The following are short biographies of the officers and the vision they have for the neighborhood Contact Team.

Pete was born and raised in Weatherford, TX. He and his wife moved to Austin when she

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*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

March 2014 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 40, No. 3

## Project Connect: More Questions than Answers

Project Connect is a combined effort of the City of Austin, Capital Metro, Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and Lone Star Rail to build a high-capacity transit system.

On the morning of February 8, they held a public meeting at Austin Community College-Highland Mall to present and solicit feedback on transit alternatives being considered for the Central Corridor. They define that corridor as being bounded by RR 2222, Oltorf, Springdale/Grove and Mopac. They had different tables and displays set up to gather input on different aspects of the proposal, but this was not a very structured process. Numerous conversations were going on simultaneously in a fairly full room.

Few specifics were presented. In accord with the purposes of the meeting announced in advance, they did gather input, but were not fully prepared to answer questions. For example, the staff's answer to the question of how much right of way would be required for the various transit modes was that there would be no expansion of right of way and that how much existing right of way would be required would depend on the type of transit chosen.

The map of added transit to our area that was presented at the meeting had lines sketched on Duval to Bruning to Airport and along Red River to Clarkson to Bruning to Airport. The map is online at <[www.projectconnect.com/connect/sites/default/files/Preliminary%20Alternatives.pdf](http://www.projectconnect.com/connect/sites/default/files/Preliminary%20Alternatives.pdf)>. Staff indicated that routes not depicted on the map may still be considered. Participants were given sticky notes to use to make comments on the routes, which were depicted on five maps. The Hyde Park-area map ended up with the largest collection of colorful sticky note comments.

According to news reports, Project Connect is working towards a November bond vote on light rail routes along the "Highland Mall alignment" and Riverside. Although only those routes were shown on the maps presented at the meeting, staff indicated that other routes could still be considered. They further admitted that there would be challenges to putting rail on Duval or part of Red River; for example, narrow streets, multitude of driveways, and houses quite close to the street. We were told that the eventual project in the area in question might not even be rail, but another mode of transit such as trolleys or buses. However, it would be very strange if Project Connect's purpose were to put buses on

**Continued on page 7**



## Occupancy Ordinance

One of us stayed up far too late last night to watch the deliberations of Austin City Council. The ordinance to restrict the number of unrelated persons in single family structures, an issue of enough concern to our neighborhood association that it passed a resolution in support of restriction, was the final item of the day. Two Steering Committee members, Ellie Hanlon and Adrian Skinner, presented arguments in favor of the ordinance.

After a lengthy presentation by both sides, Council Members began their discussion. Different members introduced various amendments, most of which failed, and then passed the ordinance on first reading, 6-1, with the negative vote cast by Bill Spelman. The ordinance is restricted to the same area as the McMansion ordinance, but that area might be modified when the ordinance goes through its second and third readings. Council Members were also concerned about studying affordability efforts.

## First Meeting North!

Our first meeting at the Griffin School was a great success. It's an attractive place to meet, spacious and open. We had an interesting presentation by political consultant David Butts about the changes coming to Austin as a result of the 10-1 initiative. We thank Adam Wilson for offering the space and look forward to meeting there again in the future.

## It's My Park! Day

It's My Park! Day is one of Hyde Park's outstanding community events. Every year, neighbors gather to spread Dillo Dirt, paint park benches, clean out the pools, and do whatever it takes to prepare Shipe Park for the spring. This is a great way to meet your neighbors, to get some exercise, and to contribute to the neighborhood. We hope to see you there!

— Kevin Heyburn & Lorre Weidlich  
HPNA Co-Presidents

## Pecan Press

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Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15th of month preceding publication.

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## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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<http://www.austinhypark.org>

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#### Additional Steering Committee Members:

• Heidi Bojes • Jessica Charbeneau • Betsy Clubine

• Ellie Hanlon • Dorothy Richter • Eric Stumberg

• Pam Whittington • John Williams

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Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G 452-5117



## Letters Dept.

### Second Thoughts on the LHD

Dear Mr. Editor,

Kudos and thanks to long-time neighbor, model citizen and former HPNA president Larry Gilg for his piece in the February '14 edition of the Pecan Press, "Preservation as if People Mattered." When I ponder some of the profoundly uninspired "architecture" that has sprung up recently in apparent compliance with our Local Historic District status, as well as the ever-larger pile of LHD-related no-no's with which neighbors have had to contend, I am increasingly regretful that I ever signed on in support of the LHD in the first place. In any event, here's hoping that I will not be alone in heeding and appreciating Mr. Gilg's exhortation for folks in Hyde Park to be "...creative stewards of their own environment, rather than embracing a list of 'thou shalt nots' from a government bureaucracy." Amen!

— Grant Thomas  
4106 Avenue F

The writer was the editor of the Pecan Press for over 30 years.

# Historic Preservation: A Tool for Making People Matter

In his article in the February issue of the *Pecan Press* (<[www.austinhydepark.org/wp-content/uploads/Pecan\\_Press\\_2014\\_February.pdf](http://www.austinhydepark.org/wp-content/uploads/Pecan_Press_2014_February.pdf)>) Larry Gilg presents conservation as an alternative to preservation. I would like to challenge some of his claims.

## We should not preserve, we should conserve.

Hyde Park conserves by carefully managing its resources – old houses and neighborhood character. To conserve, Hyde Park has two Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts (NCCDs) for the areas north and south of 45th Street. Their purpose, according to the Austin Land Development Code, includes preservation: “To preserve neighborhoods with distinctive architectural styles that were substantially built out at least 30 years ago. An NCCD is a zoning overlay that can modify the base zoning district and create new site development standards and prescribe the allowable and conditional uses in an area in order to promote new development, redevelopment, or significant remodeling that is in character with the existing neighborhood.”

## The NCCD and LHD have a pro-infrastructure bias because they include few instances of such words as person or people.

These are legal documents; their vocabulary is determined by their function. The neighborhood plan describes a desired outcome by discussing human issues; the NCCD and LHD are tools that help Hyde Park achieve that outcome.

## The LHD requires extraordinary effort to obtain a building permit.

David Conner, chair of the Development Review Committee (DRC) for the past 8 years, can provide numerous cases to the contrary. He states, “I wish Larry would have given specific examples of where the LHD design standards stopped someone from doing some-

thing to their properties. As far as I know there has not been one case. ...In fact, there are more projects underway now in the LHD than before. Good compatible projects, and both homeowners and their neighbors like them. Drive down Avenue C, Avenue D, Avenue F. Nothing in the LHD ordinance stopped anything.”

John Williams, former HPNA president, adds, “Development and remodels within the LHD are not nearly as restrictive as some neighbors believe. I say this from first-hand experience by having just gone through a remodel process at my own house, which is a contributing structure within the LHD. The extra step of presenting plans to the Historic Landmark Commission, getting on its agenda, and having it issue a Certificate of Appropriateness was done at the same time the city’s residential building permit office conducted its reviews of our plans. It was not a big deal to go through this process with the Historic Landmark Commission.”

## The LHD is “counterproductive, weak and fraudulent.”

If so, why have only two demolitions occurred since it went into effect? There is no way to prevent a demolition except to specify within LHD standards that certain structures cannot be demolished. The Hyde Park LHD prevents the demolition of contributing structures except in extreme circumstances. One of the demolitions provided extreme circumstances: structural engineers confirmed it was beyond rehabilitation, and it was in the flood plain. A structure that fits the LHD design standards is replacing it. The other demolition was potentially contributing and was replaced by a superduplex. Given the issues en-

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment		2013-14 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
<b>Name</b> _____ <b>Phone</b> _____ <b>Address</b> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events. <b>Email</b> _____ <b>Dues (per person)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year/person <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year/person <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash    Date _____ Amount Paid \$ _____		Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:  <b>HPNA Membership</b> P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765  Make checks payable to HPNA.	All memberships expire on September 30th of each year. ✦ Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of the designated boundaries. ✦ 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.



## We Welcome Your Submissions to Pecan Press

Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry\*) by the 10th of each month to:

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 <[editorpecanpress@gmail.com](mailto:editorpecanpress@gmail.com)>

\*Send your poems to:  
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 <[herzele@gmail.com](mailto:herzele@gmail.com)>

Note: The Pecan Press will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.



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# Around & About the Avenues

**Calling All to Their Civic Duty:** If you haven't done so already, please vote in the upcoming party primaries on Tuesday March 4. A guide for voters is available online at the League of Women Voters' website: <[www.lwvaustin.org](http://www.lwvaustin.org)>.



**Attention Gardeners:** On April 5, Mayfield Park will host Trowel & Error, an annual spring event that attracts gardeners from all over Central Texas to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens. Sponsored by Friends of the Parks of Austin, it will feature three dynamic and knowledgeable garden experts: Amanda Moon (Heat and Drought Tolerant Plants You May Not Have Heard Of (Or Thought of Using)), Jay White (Fence Me In—Selecting the Proper Support for Tomatoes), and Patty Leander (Go Vertical in the Garden with Climbing, Vining and Twining Vegetables). Attendees relax among gregarious peafowl, towering palms, flowering trees and ponds filled with lilies...and for only a \$5.00 donation! For more information, visit <[www.mayfieldpark.org](http://www.mayfieldpark.org)>.



**Rainforest Partnership:** This nonprofit, founded and directed by neighbor Niyanta Spelman, will hold its annual Films for the Forest event on March 10 as a part of SXSW Community Film Screenings in the Marchesa Theater. More information online at <[www.filmfortheforest.org](http://www.filmfortheforest.org)>.



**Help Keep Austin Beautiful:** This year's Clean Sweep event will be held from 9 – 11:00 a.m. on Saturday April 12, with a volunteer appreciation party afterwards. At least one Hyde Park-area cleanup has already been registered (Waller Creek between 45th and 51st.). One can register to participate in or lead a cleanup at <<http://www.KeepAustinBeautiful.org/clean-sweep>>. The first 2,000 volunteers to register are eligible to receive free Clean Sweep T-shirts.—Lisa Harris



**New Summer Camp for the Visual Arts:** The Elisabet Ney Museum is introducing a new one-week summer camp designed to teach children ages 11 – 13 innovative approaches to understanding and utilizing visual literacy. Activities will promote storytelling, conceptual practices and object-centered learning. Participants will also be able to develop pictorial narratives, build sculptural installations and visit other museums and landmarks. Session 1 is the week of 7/7; Session 2, the week of 7/21. Registration is now open; space is limited. For fees and details, call the museum at 512-458-2255.



**Lifetime Learning Activities:** The Osher Lifetime Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Texas has five programs with three six-week terms of lectures, seminars, tours, and social activities during the academic year. These five programs (LAMP, Sage, Quest, Nova, and Forum) have reasonable yearly fees of about \$200 - \$300, and are a good resource for older adults to stay intellectually stimulated and link up with other interesting and talented individuals. Registration for 2014-5 starts on April 7, when those on prospective member list will be sent an email informing them of how to register. Be aware that places can fill up very quickly. To find out more information, compare the five programs, and add your name to prospective member list, visit <[www.utolli.org](http://www.utolli.org)>. In the interests of full disclosure, the editor of this publication will be serving as the chair next year of LAMP, which is the oldest and largest (500 members) of the five programs.



**April Fun:** Plan to participate in the Second Annual Hyde Park Egg Scramble at Shipe Park on Saturday April 19, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. This HPNA event is open and free to everyone in the neighborhood! There will be popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy as well as fun activities like egg hunts, a bounce house, and an obstacle course.

“What exactly is an ‘egg scramble’ anyway?” It’s basically a traditional Easter egg hunt; the only difference is that you provide the eggs yourself for your child’s age group. The egg hunt will be divided into the following three age groups: under 3 years old, 3 & 4 year olds, and 5 years old & up. If your child is going to participate in the egg hunt festivities, please drop off one dozen plastic eggs filled with age-appropriate treats any time between Saturday, April 12 and Friday April 18 in the bins marked by age group on the front porches of the following houses: Rossomando/Williams House at 4307 Avenue F – or – Luyet/Cabada House at 4809 Eilers.

Questions, comments, or interest in volunteering, please text Michelle at 512-350-1095.



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# Project Connect...

...cont'd from page 1

the Highland Mall alignment routes since buses already run along most of them. Moreover, Capital Metro just introduced higher-capacity buses onto an existing bus route elsewhere in the city without any sort of public process or vote and could add more without the involvement of other agencies.

Our neighborhood is generally well served by transit, but has experienced transit mistakes. Many of us remember that problems with the Red Line's 51st St. crossing caused a chain of events that at one point resulted in traffic on 51st Street being backed up from Duval to Airport at certain times of day. This was very unpleasant both for those stuck in the traffic jams and for nearby residents who experienced noticeable exhaust fumes in their homes. The controversial temporary closure of Bruning was another event in that chain. The Capital Metro Number 10 bus used to run on Red River, 49th St., and Caswell. After lengthy efforts by northeast Hyde Park neighbors to get the bus routed off of those narrow streets where it picked up and dropped off almost no riders, it was finally rerouted to Duval, Bruning and Airport instead. The Red River/Clarkson route would add transit back to a part of Red River where it did not work well in the past.

In order that new transit benefit rather than detract from our neighborhood, it is essential that we take a close look at and evaluate the alternatives. If some alternatives are net negatives, we should make sure they are not chosen. According to the Project Connect website, the final decision regarding the "locally preferred alternative" (route and type of transit) will be made in mid-2014.

The Central Corridor Advisory Group (CCAG), chaired by the mayor, is managing the public process for Project Connect in Central Austin. The other members of the group are Councilmember Spelman, John Langmore (Capital Metro Board) Sid Covington (Lone Star Rail Board), Pat Clubb, (University of Texas), Martha Smiley (Austin Chamber of Commerce), Tom Stacy (Downtown Austin Alliance), Natalie Madeira Coffield (Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce), Greg Hartman (Seton Medical Center), Aundre Dukes (Texas Facilities Commission), Ali Khataw, (Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce), Julia Montgomery (Austinites for Urban Rail Action), Dave Sullivan (formerly on Planning Commission), Tim Taylor (attorney) and Boone Blocker (Urban Transportation Commission).

Their next meeting will be held in Council Chambers on Friday March 21, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. At press time, no information regarding whether that meeting will include public participation was available. Neighbors should watch the Project Connect website <[www.projectconnect.com](http://www.projectconnect.com)> for online and in-person opportunities to participate.

— Lisa Harris

Hyde Park Christian Church Presents

## Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.



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## HPNA Meeting Minutes: February 3, 2014

Co-President Lorre Weidich called the general meeting to order on February 3 at 7:01 p.m. The Griffin School co-founder and director, Adam Wilson, welcomed members for the first HPNA meeting north of 45th Street. Mr. Wilson applauded efforts by HPNA to increase inclusivity by holding general meetings in different places around the neighborhood.

Mr. Wilson presented the first announcement: an upcoming public screening of the documentary film "American Promise" at the Griffin School on Friday February 7 at 5:15 p.m. The 2013 documentary chronicles 12 years in the lives of two African-American families as they send their boys to elite, predominantly white schools.

Doris Coward provided an update on Project Connect, the working group formed to identify and recommend the next major investment in mass transit. The focus is on the Highland corridor initiative where there two possible routes are proposed: Duval and Red River. Preliminary maps have raised concern about increased transit through narrow neighborhood streets. Concerned neighbors may attend the Project Connect open house on Saturday February 8 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. There is more info at the Project Connect website: <www.project-connect.com>.

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## Your Neighborhood Specialist

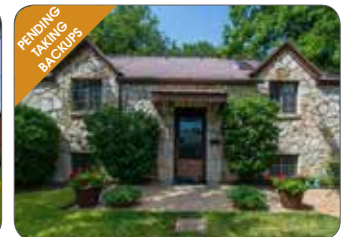
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Vintage 1920s charm ready for updating. High ceilings. Wood floors. Home sits on .18 acre lot.



**830 HARRIS AVENUE**  
LISTED FOR \$589,000  
3 BEDS 2 BATHS +/- 1826 SQFT  
Meticulous attention to detail in this high-style 2010 renovation combining quaint old world with modern elegance. Cook's kitchen with marble counters and 6-burner dual fuel range.



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## Monthly Calendar

### March

- 3 — **HPNA General Meeting**  
(at the Griffin School)
- 7 — **Recycling Collection**
- 10 — **HPNA Steering Committee Meeting**
- 21 — **Recycling Collection**

Mark Fishman announced that the annual citywide It's My Park! Day is scheduled for Saturday March 1. The Austin Parks Foundation is seeking volunteers to help improve parks and greenbelts throughout the city. Please visit the Austin Parks website or contact Mark Fishman or Adam Wilson for details and volunteer opportunities.

Kathy Lawrence spoke about the occupancy limits measure to be brought before City Council on February 13. The measure seeks to reduce the allowable number of unrelated adults living in a single family property from 6 to 4. Public input will be heard and voices on both sides of the issue are encouraged to participate.

Adrian Skinner introduced the Communication sub-committee plan. HPNA is looking for areas to improve communication and transparency. Please take two minutes to help improve communication by completing a short survey at <[www.surveymonkey.com/s/W29BLMZ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W29BLMZ)>.

Kevin Heyburn introduced the main speaker, Hyde Park resident and Travis County Democratic Party politico David Butts. His clients have included the late Ann Richards, Kirk Watson, and Lloyd Doggett. He provided insights on the upcoming 10-1 redistricting election, a run-down of the candidates, thoughts about how they might work together on Council, and some reflections on the impact redistricting will have on Hyde Park, which is part of District 9, the central city district.

David's quick facts on District 9 from the 2010 census: 79% Democrat, 42% aged 18-24, 67% Anglo, 17% Latino, 10% Asian, 4% African American, 28% owner-occupied housing and large population of students. Current Council Members Tovo and Riley are eligible to run in District 9. David believes that a successful candidate will be able to form coalitions to support our interests and that the #1 responsibility is to protect the value of our homes. More of his thinking on redistricting is available online at <[www.texasobserver.org/whats-left](http://www.texasobserver.org/whats-left)>.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

— Submitted by Artie Gold  
& Adrian Skinner  
HPNA Co-Secretaries

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## Contact Team Elections... ...cont'd from page 1

graduated from college in 2009. They love Austin and can't imagine a better neighborhood to live in than Hyde Park. They have a daughter, Sydney, who is 19 months old. He is grateful for the opportunity to chair the Contact Team. He hopes to encourage more people to get involved, stimulate a welcoming and inclusive environment, and foster transparency in Contact Team processes.

Lianna was born in Houston and graduated from Ball High School in Galveston. She moved to several different cities and states before she settled in Austin in 1988. She married her husband, Eric, a 3rd generation Austinite, in 1994. She looks forward to celebrating their 20th anniversary this year! They moved to Hyde Park in 1997 and haven't lived anywhere else. They have three children: Lianna, Jr, age 18 (a senior at McCallum); Madison Dudley, age 12 (in the 6th grade at Lee); and Oliver, age 10 (in the 4th grade at Lee).

Mity is originally from Franklin, TN. A graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson, MS, she moved to Austin in 1991 and attended graduate school at UT. She is an Associate Professor of History at St. Edward's University. After marrying Larry Clay, she moved to Avenue B in 2000. She loves living in a neighborhood with sidewalks, a park, friendly neighbors, historic character and a great local school for her son Andrew. She serves on the Contact Team because she wants to help preserve Hyde Park not only for those who live here now, but also for the next generation.

The new officers expressed the honor they felt in being able to serve the neighborhood in this way. Congratulations to Pete, Lianna and Mity!

— Mike Pikulski



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**Austin's Hyde Park... the first 50 years 1891-1941**  
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Lenten Services, Wednesdays, 9:30 am and 6:00 pm  
Palm Sunday, April 13, 8:15 am and 10:40 am  
Maundy Thursday, April 17, 9:30 am and 7:00 pm  
Good Friday, April 18, 9:30 am and 7:00 pm  
Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19, 8:00 pm  
Easter Divine Service, April 20, 8:15 am and 10:40 am

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## Historic Preservation...

...cont'd from page 3

countered by the developers, it would probably have been just as cost-effective to return the structure to contributing status and take advantage of the tax benefits available for that purpose.

In comparison, during the past three years, the area of Greater Hyde Park outside the LHD has seen nine demolitions. A few were or will be replaced by single family homes; the remainder were or will be replaced by duplexes (4602 and 4605 Avenue C, 4527 Speedway, 4904 Duval, 4532 and 5011 Avenue F, 4705 Rowena, 804 45th Street, and 703-705 49th Street, where three superduplexes are being constructed).

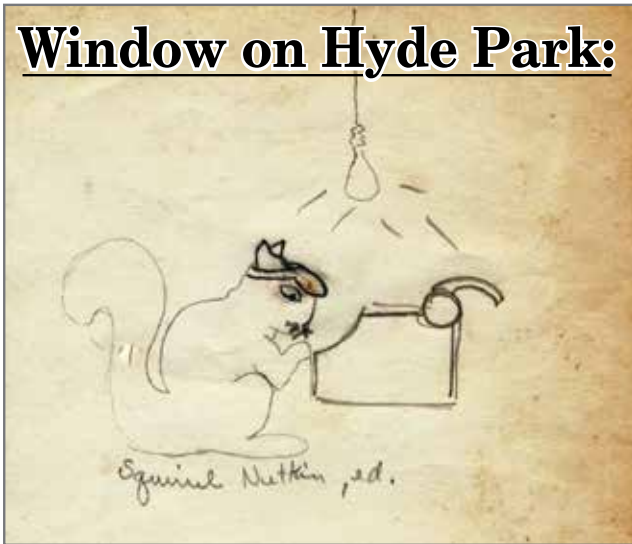
There has been much discussion about superduplexes on the Hyde Park listserv recently, but I have yet to see someone say that he or she would be happy to live next door to one. In the words of Adrian Skinner, HPNA co-secretary and Greater Hyde Park dweller, "I would ask you to consider taking a tour of Hyde Park north of 45th Street to see the stark difference in our development concerns. Where putting people before property is a concern, I would direct you to the developer "people" who scrap an old home and build a 3400 square foot duplex (read "stealth dorm") in its place. How would these views on preservation be informed if superduplexes were being built next door to you?"

At issue in the article is the idea that historic preservation cares more about infrastructure than about people. While there are philosophical, economic, and sustainability reasons to preserve historical structures, there are also quality-of-life issues.

*A Preservation Handbook for Historic Residential Properties & Districts in Salt Lake City* states, "When groups of older buildings occur as a historic district, they can create a local environmental character which is so much greater than the sum of its parts. The district is defined on a human scale, which encourages walking and neighborly interaction.... This physical sense of neighborhood cohesion can enhance community stability, reinforce desirable social patterns and networks, and contribute to a sense of reassurance and security. Many residents of historic districts, for example, note how easily they get to know their neighbors, and enjoy the fact that they are recognized by others who live in the vicinity." (See <[www.slcdocs.com/historicpreservation/GuideRes/ResidentialGuidelines.pdf](http://www.slcdocs.com/historicpreservation/GuideRes/ResidentialGuidelines.pdf)>.)

Community stability, social networks, reassurance, and security are people-centric, not infrastructure-centric, values. However, the infrastructure helps to create and nurture these people-centric values. Historic neighborhoods tend to be walkable and human-scaled, which encourages socializing among neighbors. Many Hyde Parkers cite these features among the reasons they live here. Contemporary, car-centric neighborhoods lack the amenities that encourage social interaction among neighbors. "Renewed interest in traditional design techniques stems in part from the failure of modern city planning to reproduce the livability of many older neighborhoods." (Bothwell, Stephanie E., Gindroz, Raymond, and Lang, Robert E. (1998), "Restoring Community through

## Window on Hyde Park:



John Kerr was one of the earliest editors of this publication in the 1970's, using the nom de plume Squirrel Nutkin. While editor, he changed the name of the publication from HPNA Newsletter to the *Pecan Press*. Susan Kerr, his wife of beloved memory, drew this illustration of the editor hard at work at his typewriter.

Traditional Neighborhood Design: A Case Study of Diggs Town Public Housing," *Housing Policy Debate* 9(i):89-114.)

The study cited immediately above describes the improvement in neighborliness among the residents of a public housing development when traditional neighborhood design principles were applied to their development. "In this study, we find that traditional structure...promotes social interactions that lead to the formation of social capital." (Bothwell) "Social capital refers to the norms and networks of civic society that lubricate cooperative action among both citizens and their institutions." (Putnam, Robert. (1998), Forward to *Housing Policy Debate* 9(i): v-viii.)

By way of anecdotal evidence, I look at my own block. One of my neighbors mows the grass for his older neighbor whenever he mows his own. Neighbors up the street organized Hyde Park's first Egg Scramble. At least three neighbors on my block helped me out with food and animal care when I was recovering from surgery.

Mr. Gilg criticizes the neighborhood association for "suing the city for not prohibiting neighbors from exercising property rights that exist elsewhere in Austin," referring to the demolition of the Bradford-Nohra house. But the freedom to demolish at will and to replace without restrictions in present-day Central Austin is not likely to produce houses that promote community. Every superduplex or McMansion that replaces a traditional house diminishes the livability of a neighborhood. Neighborhoods consisting of superduplexes and McMansions don't have Fire Station Festivals, Egg Scrambles, It's My Park! Days, potlucks, game nights, and ice cream socials.

Continued on page 15

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## HYDE PARK AREA: 2013 PROPERTY SALES IN REVIEW

	Jan 1 - Dec 31 2012	Jan 1 - Dec 31 2013
NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD	168	178
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$334,954	\$395,135
AVERAGE SQUARE FOOTAGE	1,442 SF	1,538 SF
AVERAGE SOLD \$/SQ FT	\$238.43	\$267.73
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	44 DAYS	37 DAYS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for Single Family Residence taken 12/30/2013 from the Austin MLS. For detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker.



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## Why?

When I was a college youth, rebellious,  
Supported by my parents,  
My friends and I would “spare change” straight people  
To buy a nickel cup of coffee,  
A doughnut, or a 25-cent burger,  
In the student union,  
Some of our brethren, fellow rebels,  
Who traveled to the exotic, hip places,  
Who were just passing through,  
“Spared-changed” us, for the same,  
It wasn’t freeloading,  
It was sharing.

Yesterday, a sad, somewhat disheveled kid,  
Skinny, with large haunting eyes,  
Looked at me, as I came out of Subway, carrying my lunch,  
Pleading, he asked, “Do you have any change?  
I only need seventeen more dollars to get a motel room.”  
Random, I thought, as I lied, “I gave it up to them,”  
And, for the next half-block, crossing the Drag,  
And another half-a-block on campus,  
I hated myself for lying,  
For being annoyed,  
For ignoring him,

Then, right before I arrived at the building,  
Where I work, I forgot about that kid,  
Until now. Why?

— *Herzele*  
09/05/13

HYDE PARK

## Historic Preservation... ...cont’d from page 13

Put simply, historic preservation “makes people matter.” By preserving the infrastructure, it provides the tools that increase neighborliness and community.

— *Lorre Weidlich, former LHD Chair*

(With thanks to Adrian Skinner, David Conner, Karen McGraw, Kevin Heyburn, and John Williams for their assistance. However, the final article is my own and represents my viewpoint only, not any other individual or organization.)



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## 4314 AVENUE G

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Listed at \$325,000



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## 703 CAROLYN AVENUE

Fabulous custom renovation of 1938 brick Craftsman home on quiet street near Lee Elementary. 4BR, 3BA, 2LIV. Gourmet kitchen. Detached garage with alley access.

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## 5413 AVENUE F

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## 4006-1/2 AVENUE B

1923 Hyde Park bungalow with many updates and new paint. 2BR, 1BA, 1LIV, 1DIN. Large detached garage with workshop. Fenced yard. Alley access.

List Price \$325,000



SOLD

## 3711 GREENWAY

Charming 1950s split level home on huge corner lot near Hancock Golf Course and Lee Elementary. 3BR, 3BA, 2LIV, screened porch. Beautiful hardwood floors.

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SOLD

## 4901 RED RIVER ST.

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## 4316 AVENUE C

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