

November Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 4, 2013

Where: Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for November 4

- Announcements
- Update on Austin City Council redistricting presented by Lisa Harris
- Presentation on the Hyde Park Market (a.k.a. Flag Store) proposed zoning change to add a beer garden
- Presentation and discussion from the City of Austin about alley maintenance in Hyde Park

See You There!

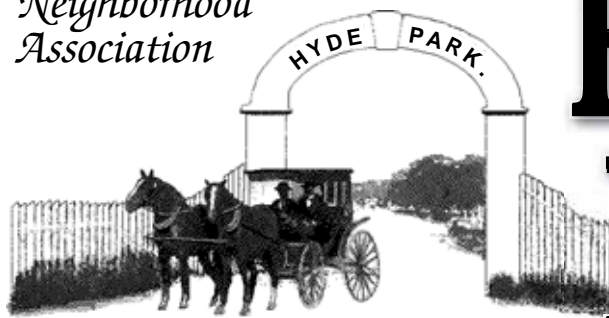
Contact Team Role Reversal?

A city ordinance passed in March of 2008 to define a process for amending Austin's neighborhood plans included the formation of neighborhood plan contact teams. The ordinance included the creation of such teams in part because neighborhood plans can overlap several identifiable neighborhoods in the city. Hyde Park's plan is the exception in that its boundaries coincide directly with those of HPNA. The role of a contact team as specified in the ordinance is very broad, and is best summarized by the description on the City of Austin website:

A neighborhood plan contact team (NPCT) is a group of individuals designated to be the stewards or advocates of their adopted neighborhood plan. They work with city staff towards the implementation of the plan recommendations, review and initiate plan amendments, serve as community points of contact, and work on behalf of other neighborhood stakeholders.

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The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association



Pecan Press

November 2013 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 39, No. 11

Hyde Park: Inside and Out

A confederate soldier. A farmer. A suffragette. A Driskill Hotel chef. An insurance agent. A stenographer. Carpenters. A Ph.D. A telephone operator. WWII soldiers. State agency employees. UT professors. A cashier. Students. A photographer. A "mercantile" president. A musician. A financial manager. A teacher. A college instructor. Lawyers.

These are only a few of the many people who lived in six featured homes of the 37th Historic Hyde Park Homes Tour on Sunday, November 10. The homes not only chronicle different periods of architectural styles, but their histories show the varied lives and stories of Hyde Park neighbors over the past 119 years.

During that time, one of the homes was saved from demolition, while another was almost entirely rebuilt. All of the tour homes have been updated to accommodate modern tastes and conveniences, yet they maintain much of their architectural detail and charm of the past. One home is a city landmark, and another received a 5-star LEED energy rating. Two homes have newly designed gardens, while another has chickens.

While always designed as a walking tour, a bus is available to allow tour guests the opportunity to ride in comfort and learn about Hyde Park's landmarks and historic characters on the tour route.

A special, free program of period folk music and storytelling is available from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. by our community partner and neighbor Trinity United Methodist Church.

The tour is the annual fundraising event for the Hyde Park Neighborhood

Association. It is managed and operated by scores of neighbors who love the unique history, architecture, and character of our neighborhood.

When our Planning Committee selected "Hyde Park: Inside and Out" as our theme this year, it was focused on the obvious—historic architecture, period detailing, new upgrades, and beautiful gardens. In undertaking historical research, however, another important feature emerged—the many people who transformed those houses into homes. We know you will enjoy learning about these homes inside and out, and look forward to seeing you on the tour.

Basics: Hyde Park Homes Tour, Sunday, November 10, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 online or on the day of the tour at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway. For more information: See <HydePark-HomesTour.org>.

— Carolyn Grimes
Chair, 2013 Hyde Park
Homes Tour



For photos and locations of houses on the Hyde Park Homes Tour, see page 3.

From the Desk of the Co-Presidents

We want to express our appreciation to the membership of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association for entrusting us with the presidency of the association for the upcoming year. We are following in the footsteps of John Williams and Ashley Schweickart, and those are significant footsteps. We entirely agree with the article in the October issue of the *Pecan Press* that recognizes John and Ashley for their significant achievements.

First, for those of you who may not be familiar with the two of us, each of us would like to provide an introduction:

From Kevin: I have lived in my house on Avenue H since 2004. Before that, I lived in different apartments, mostly in Hyde Park, since moving to Austin from Houston in 1991. After attending law school at the University of Houston, I went to work in the Texas Legislature and then later at the Texas Attorney General's Office. I currently am an associ-

ate counsel at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, where I work with other lawyers to fight fraud in the Medicaid system.

Before I became a lawyer, I served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya, where I taught school and worked on development projects. I have been on the Hyde Park Steering Committee for two years, and I am serving as a house captain during the upcoming Hyde Park Homes Tour for my second year.

From Lorre: I came to Austin for graduate school, planning on a Ph.D. and a life in academia. Things change. After getting that Ph.D. in Anthropology and Folklore, I found myself sidetracked into the high tech world by my now ex-husband, who had founded a software company. I remain in that world.

I have owned my Hyde Park house for 31 years. I existed on the periphery of HPNA activity for most of those years; but when I returned from 21 months in India, I was happy to be home and immersed myself in the neighborhood. I began with the Homes Tour and progressed through the Local Historic District effort. In my copious free time, I pursue the needle arts and create and restore dollhouses and miniatures.

The Upcoming Year: We foresee several issues that are likely to arise during the next year. Development, as usual, is at the top of the list, particularly the development of North Hyde Park. As the economy improves, developers are looking for small houses to

demolish and replace with super duplexes. North Hyde Park is a prime target. Is there a way to stop the demolitions and protect the stock of vintage houses? We need to explore this.

Another issue that has arisen recently is the relationship between HPNA and the Hyde Park Contact Team. The purpose of that team is to promote the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan, but that is a broad mandate. Which particular issues fall to the Contact Team and

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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Editor

Michael Nill <editorpecanpress@gmail.com>

Poetry Editor

Charlotte Herzele <herzele@gmail.com>

Photo Editor

Lizzie Chen

Advisory Board

Lisa Harris

Kevin Heyburn

John Kerr

Grant Thomas (Editor Emeritus)

Production Manager/Advertising Director

Robert M. Farr 731-0617 <bobfarr@austin.rr.com>

Mail Ad Payments to:

Steve Baker P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

Mail Ad Artwork to:

Robert M. Farr <bobfarr@austin.rr.com>

7500 Chelmsford Dr. Austin, TX 78736

Distribution Coordinator

Rimas Remeza • 4105 Ave. F • 371-3158

<rimasx@yahoo.com>

Area Coordinators

N of 45th/W of Duval • Syema Muzaffar

N of 45th/E of Duval • Jay Gerard & Carrie Laughlin 371-1546

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S of 45th/E of Speedway • Martha Campbell..... 452-2815

Contributors Past and Present

Glen Alyn, Laurence Becker, Deaton Bednar, Steve Bratteng, George Bristol, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Kitty Clark, Betsy Clubine, Elsy Cogswell, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Pam Dozler, Cathy Echols, Mark Fishman, Merle Franke, Larry Freilich, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Barbara Gibson, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Lisa Harris, Anne Hebert, Ben Heimsath, Albert Huffstickler, Cynthia Janis, Paul Kamprath, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Susan Kirk, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wanda Penn, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Kristen De La Rosa, Steve Sadowsky, Mark Sainsbury, Jessica Salinas, Mary Lou Serafine, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Clay Smith, Niyanta Spelman, Julie Strong, Grant Thomas, Debbie Trammell, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Lorre Weidlich, Adam Wilson, Hanna Wiseman Jacobs, Hermelinda Zamarripa..

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association
P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765
<http://www.austinhdepark.org>

— HPNA Officers/Steering Committee —

Co-Presidents

• Kevin Heyburn <kmheyburn@gmail.com>
• Lorre Weidlich <lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com>

Co-Vice Presidents

• Mark Fishman <mlfishman@gmail.com>
• Kathy Lawrence

Co-Secretaries • Artie Gold • Adrian Skinner

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

• I.J. Aarons <ijaarons@aol.com>
• Steve Baker

Additional Steering Committee Members:

• Heidi Bojes • Jessica Charbeneau • Betsy Clubine
• Ellie Hanlon • Dorothy Richter • Eric Stumberg
• Pam Whittington • John Williams

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AISD • Annette Lucksinger

Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, <sky2wash@austin.rr.com>

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Claire deYoung,
<anc_rep@yahoo.com>

Beautification • Robin Burch <robinburch@gmail.com>
(903) 780-5275

Children's Programs • Elise Krentzel

Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F.
459-8349

Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, <rsilberling@gmail.com>
452-1783

Crime & Safety • Carol Welder

Development Review • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Finance • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Graffiti Patrol • Lisa Harris <ljharrisus@yahoo.com>
420-0652

Homes Tour • Carolyn Grimes <cgrimes@cbunited.com>

Membership • Sharon Brown <donsharon4213@sbcglobal.net>
• Karen Saadeh <kdmattis@gmail.com>

Neighborhood Outreach • Larry Gilg <lgilg@grandecom.net>

Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C 459-2261

Local Historic District • inactive

Parks & Public Space • Mark Fishman, <mlfishman@gmail.com>
656-5505

Social • Deaton Bednar, <deatonbednar@grandecom.net>

Transportation •VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Tree Preservation •VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C 206-0729

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





Preview of the Homes Tour

which to HPNA? And how can the Contact Team and HPNA work best together to serve the neighborhood?

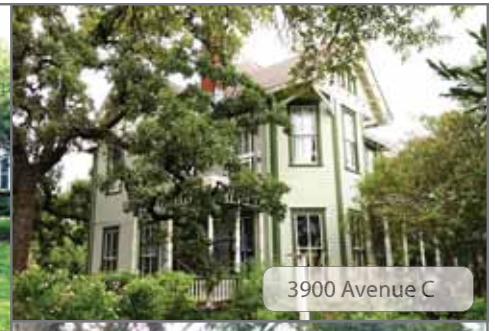
We are committed to increasing neighborhood participation. We are also committed to continuing a tradition of civil, balanced meetings. Issues that arouse extensive discussion will be handled by alternating one speaker in favor with one speaker in opposition, and speakers on both sides will have a three minute time limit. Finally, we are committed to transparency. We want our neighbors to know what their association is doing.

But we know these aren't the only issues, and we need to discover the issues that concern the rest of Hyde Park. For that reason, we plan to hold a brainstorming session with the rest of the Steering Committee sometime during November. The leadership of Hyde Park is a challenge; but with the support of the HPNA membership and neighborhood residents, we plan to meet that challenge.

— Lorre Weidlich
<lweidlich@mail2sevens.com>
& Kevin Heyburn
<kmheyburn@gmail.com>
HPNA Co-Presidents



3808 Avenue H



3900 Avenue C



4004 Avenue H



4010 Avenue G



4311 Avenue F



4105 Avenue D

Photos by Carol Burton and Elizabeth V. Williams

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment		2013-14 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
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Address _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.		Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 Make checks payable to HPNA.	All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
Email _____			✦
Dues (per person)			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.
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*Send your poems to:

Charlotte Herzele
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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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Contact Team...

...cont'd from page 1

In previous articles I have pointed out the problems of having an autonomous self-appointed group of individuals whose area of responsibility totally overlaps that of HPNA (see, e.g., April 2013, <www.austinhypark.org/wpcontent/uploads/pp_APR_13_final.pdf>). Many residents who have participated in recent Hyde Park Contact Team meetings are struck by how little actual time is spent on the above designated planning activities. It seems to have become a platform for individuals who see themselves as fierce advocates for a certain type of neighborhood to implement controversial aspects of the plan over objections of residents.

As an example, a recent discussion of plan implementation focused on prioritizing the creation of a Local Historic District (LHD) for eligible areas of Hyde Park north of 45th street. Despite testimony that many residents who live north of 45th are not in favor of pursuing a LHD designation and despite a request to table the vote to allow more community input, the leadership of the contact team insisted in bringing the issue to a vote. By a vote of 6 to 4, the measure passed but did not get the needed two-thirds majority to move ahead with action.

The description of contact team responsibilities above requires the team to work to understand the issues that give neighbors pause in regard to LHDs or any other aspect of the Hyde Park Plan. This plan is now almost 15 years old; we have had the experience of implementing pieces of the plan; there should be no surprise that some of the planning tenets are better in theory than in reality—it's in everyone's best interest to make an effort to understand the concerns of neighbors.

I would like to offer some ideas for helping the Contact Team to focus on its charter rather than overlapping the functions already being carried out by HPNA:

1. Change the name. Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team is a meaningless and confusing term. Let's all agree to call it the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee. That avoids any confusion about what its role should be. We may have to lobby city staff and planning commission to achieve a formal name change, but the committee itself and HPNA in general could certainly refer to it that way.
2. We need to make sure that the Hyde Park Plan and its contents are easily available and easily digested by all stakeholders. We need to put a searchable, downloadable version on the HPNA website.
3. The Advisory Committee should take their direction from Part 1(F) of the plan as stated by the Hyde Park Planning Team (the group which developed the plan in the 1990s): "The Hyde Park Planning Team will

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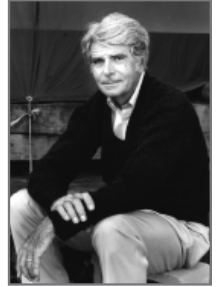
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In Memoriam: W. Eugene George, FAIA, 1922-2013

The following is excerpted from a tribute by Stephen Sharpe in Texas Architect, May-June 2013, with additions by Mary Carolyn George. Gene and Mary Carolyn George moved to Hyde Park in 1982.

To provide the experience of real-world building construction, Gene commenced work on Naranjal on what had long been a vacant lot at the corner of 44th and Avenue G. His students were hired as crew. Excavations provided an opportunity for archeological investigation. The artifacts found are deposited in the Elisabet Ney Museum. The family of Mary Carolyn's mother lived at 4313 Avenue F in 1906 when there were fields of corn between the university and Hyde Park.



A dedicated teacher of architecture who influenced several generations of future practitioners, Gene George considered himself a lifelong student of architecture. George's impassioned pursuit of knowledge about his profession led him to become one of the leading architects in the historic preservation movement in Texas....His long life unfolded as a series of adventures, beginning with his boyhood in Wichita Falls, where he learned to ride horses and rope cattle on his family's ranch. Survival skills learned on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout would soon prove crucial to his longevity.

During World War II, he survived a harrowing parachute jump from a burning B-24 bomber shot down in an aerial battle behind German enemy lines. Eluding capture for seven days before finally surrendering, he spent most of the following year in a German stalag. While incarcerated with other American and British officers, the young lieutenant taught an introductory course on architecture. Russian troops liberated George and his fellow POWs at the close of the war.

After receiving his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin in 1949, he studied under Walter Gropius at Harvard University where he earned his Master of Architecture degree. When Gene George established his professional practice, his logo incorporated the compound leaf of the mesquite.

He joined the Architecture faculty at UT Austin in 1956. In 1960, he was one of eight recipients university-wide who merited a teaching excellence award from the UT Students Association. In 1961, George single-handedly reactivated the state's moribund Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) when he received a grant to prepare the first measured drawings of Mission San Antonio de Valero, the Alamo. Having saved enough of the funds for a second HABS project, he and two of his students traveled to the Rio Grande borderlands to document long forgotten late 19th-century brick structures.

He had not considered getting into administration but was encouraged to do so by several of his

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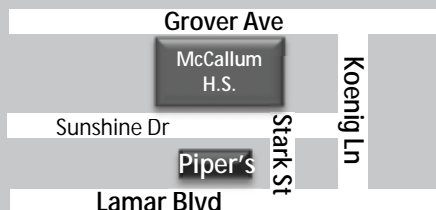
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*****Consignments Welcomed*****

Letters Dept.

Editor's Note: A slightly modified version of this letter was originally posted on the Hyde Park listserv, as a response to some of the points made in other postings casting a negative light on students and dorm-style housing (specifically in this case the three duplexes approved near Lee Elementary). The larger question this letter raises is how to incorporate student voices and participation into the neighborhood association.

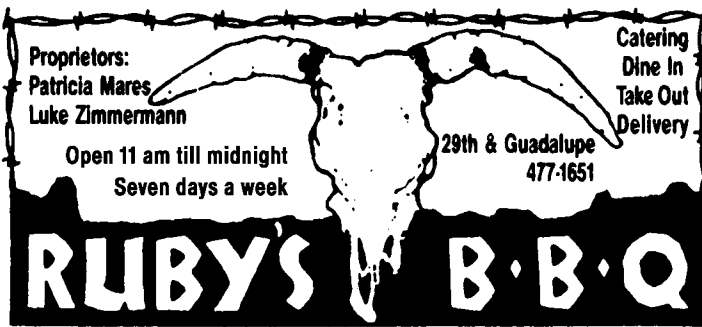
As an engineering student who has lived in Hyde Park for a little over 2 years now, please allow me to offer some contrasting views of dorm-style housing.

In regard to traffic concerns occasioned by such housing, if you want to reduce traffic around Lee Elementary during the morning and afternoon when kids are walking to and from school, you would actually be better off leasing to college students than professionals. With the expense and difficulty of parking on campus, people who live that close to campus will not be driving in on a regular basis. They will be walking, biking, or busing in to campus in the mornings, whereas professionals will be driving to work every morning. While having the college students there might increase traffic in the evenings and on weekends, during the times when elementary students are going to be around the school it will probably be less. Also, keep in mind that many college students living in situations like that will not have their own cars. Out of the many groups of people I know living together, none of them has one car per resident. I would honestly be surprised if there are more than 10-12 cars at those three duplexes.

Also, some people say that students are likely to be splitting a bedroom to afford Hyde Park rental prices, increasing the number of people who live in those houses. On the basis of pricing I've seen in my search for housing reasonably close to campus, rental prices in Hyde Park are currently comparable to those in the West Campus area. The first place I rented in Hyde Park was a 3500 sq ft 4/2 house. I rented it for 200/month less than a friend was paying for a 4/2 apartment in West Campus (\$2995/months for the house, \$3200/month for the apartment). I've also heard that the cost of that apartment has gone up another \$200/month this year as well. Renting in Hyde Park is now comparable in cost to renting in West Campus, which is why students are coming here. What you may be best doing is trying to make sure that the right students choose to live in Hyde Park.

Honestly, if you want to make sure the people who live here are not disruptive to the neighborhood, you should try to involve them in the neighborhood. A lot of UT students who choose to live in Hyde Park choose it because it is not West Campus. We don't want to be around the constant drunken partying and noise. That is why there tends to be a higher proportion of engineering and graduate students here. I'm sure there are a substantial number (like me) who enjoy living in the neighborhood, and would be happy to be involved in the neighborhood if they are made aware of what is going on. I only realized that there was a listserv and so many neighborhood activities after living in Hyde Park for almost 2 years. It might be beneficial to leave a copy of the *Pecan Press* or other neighborhood newsletters in their mailboxes when they move in to make them aware that the neighborhood would welcome their involvement.

— Glendon Plumton



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Around & About the Avenues

Coming to the Ney—The First Annual Polkapocalypse: On Saturday, November 23, the Elisabet Ney Museum, in collaboration with Texas Folklife and the Texas Commission on the Arts, will present the Pan-Ethnic Polkapocalypse, a celebration of polka music in its many Texas traditions! Bands that are expected include Polkasonic, Los Morales Boyz, Brian Marshall, Los Pinkys, The Ennis Czech Boys, and The Flying Balalaika Brothers. The event will be kid-friendly and will run from noon to 5:30 p.m. The stage and dance floor will be on the “great lawn” on the north bank of Waller Creek. Admission will be free. All are invited. Opa! For more information, call 512-458-2255.



Austin Redistricting: The Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) has issued a preliminary Council district map. Maps, meeting times, and other information about this process are available on its website: <<http://www.austinredistricting.org>>. The preliminary map has raised concerns; a revised one, based on citizen input, will likely be issued in early November. Criteria used by the commission to draw districts, in order of priority, are as follows: equal population, compliance with Voting Rights Act and other federal and state laws, contiguity, minimal division of local neighborhoods or local communities of interest, compactness, district boundaries in line with boundaries of existing election precincts, and geographically identifiable boundaries.

This is an important process, with definite and long-term political implications. It is important for Hyde Park residents to study the issues, review maps, and provide input at a scheduled open meeting or by contacting Craig Tounget via email at <icrc-craig.tounget@austintexas.gov> or via letter to Craig Tounget, Executive Director of the Commission, 811 Barton Springs Rd #425, Austin, 78704.—Lisa Harris



Landscape Update: This fall, the Ney Museum received approval from Watershed Protection for the phased-in replacement of five or so remaining invasive ligustrum stands with more native erosion control measures on the easternmost portion of the property, between the shed and the creek bank. The last handful of ligustrum in that area will be phased out as native species take hold. Also, a “grow zone,” or no-mow plan much like what Shippe Park has in place on the creek bank now, is being developed in partnership with Watershed for the banks of Waller Creek to strengthen the creek’s functionality as a sustainable ecosystem, better filter runoff and lessen soil erosion. This will allow a band of approximately 10 feet of land along the creek to grow and be planted with lower growing native plant species. Explanatory signage will be installed.—Oliver Franklin

Continued on following page



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Fire Station Festival: We have every confidence that the festival on October 20 was a great success, but the event happened too late for a report in this issue. Coverage including photos, announcements of winners and honorees, and expressions of thanks to volunteers and sponsors will appear in the December issue.



Local Historic District Sign Toppers: The following individuals are graciously acknowledged for their generous contributions that have made it possible to put in place additional Local Historic District sign toppers: Jason Earle, Liz Lock and Eric Hughes, Paul J. Michaels, John Paul Moore, Dorothy Richter, and Thad and Sarah Sitton. About 25 signs have so far been installed. Contact Mark Fishman, <mlfishman@gmail.com> for more information about this initiative.



Mark Your Calendars: The HPNA Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 15, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Elisabet Ney Museum. There will be light food, drinks, music and holiday activities for the children. Details to follow.



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W. Eugene George... ...cont'd from page 6

Harvard classmates. In 1962, he was hired by the University of Kansas at Lawrence as chairman of Architecture and Architectural Engineering. There were problems to solve and he met the challenge. He then weathered a tumultuous stint as architecture dean at the University of Houston before resigning in 1969. He was then hired as resident architect for Colonial Williamsburg from 1971 to 1973. From 1975 to 1997, he held faculty position at UT Austin, both in the Historic Preservation program in the School of Architecture and in the architectural engineering program within the Department of Civil Engineering.

During the same period, he led significant restoration projects including many in Texas such as six vernacular structures at Round Top for the Pioneer Arts Foundation, the Magoffin House in El Paso for Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Willis-Moody House in Galveston and the Sixth Floor Museum for Dallas County. In 1997, Gene George became the inaugural holder of the San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professorship at UT San Antonio, a post he held until 2003. He was charged with establishing a graduate program in Historic Preservation.

In mid-October 2012, at the annual convention of the Texas Society of Architects, Gene was presented with a presidential proclamation recognizing his extraordinary career dedicated to the art, craft and practice of architecture.

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Crime and Safety Report

Some blocks hosted a National Night Out event. The one on Ave F, for example, was well attended and had visits from Code Compliance, APD and AFD. Big and little kids had a blast climbing onto the firetruck.

The APD Commander's Forum held at McCallum High School on October 2nd was an opportunity for neighbors to meet with APD officers and their district representative, Officer Josh Metteauer. If you have any questions or comments for our DR, his direct number is 512-974-8124.

Commander Mahoney welcomed everyone and introduced guest speakers Commander Darryl Jamail and Lieutenant Joe Chacon from the Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC). The former heads up the Intelligence Division; the latter is the director of the Fusion Center, a collaborative effort within Travis, Williamson and Hayes counties to share information regarding serial crime and terrorism. Fusion Centers were established in every state and territory in the U.S. after 9/11 to share information, offer training and provide a central housing unit for suspicious activity reporting. ARIC works with Homeland Security, overseeing new programs that include Liaison Officer Programs, Hospitality Programs and the Community "See Something, Say Something" Campaign. They also provide a threat assessment for events held in the area. For more information about ARIC, visit its website at <www.arictexas.org> or call 512-974-ARIC (2742).

Commander Mahoney then addressed crime statistics in our region. While Austin had a drop in violent crime, property crime continues to be a challenge. Compared with other U.S. cities with a population of 500,000 or more, Austin has the second-fewest violent crime offenses per 100,000 residents but ranks 26th in property crime. The Baker area (Hyde Park) in the past year showed a decrease of 50% in violent crimes from 12 to 6 and a 28% decrease in property crimes from 269 to 194. It really helps to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Among recent efforts to combat crime, cameras are now installed downtown and in the Rundberg area.

The last item discussed was the City Council's decision to keep the hike and bike trails open and monitored by the APD 24 hours a day. Because of budget constraints, the APD no longer allows overtime for this type of work. In order to meet City Council's request, some neighborhood district representatives are being reassigned. Those in attendance were not happy with losing their DRs to patrol the trails that are used by very few citizens between 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. They planned to contact City Council members to express their concerns.

Remember: if you "See Something, Say Something." Most crimes are crimes of opportunity, so please keep your doors and windows locked and your valuables out of sight in your homes and cars. One of the best ways to deter crime is to get to know your neighbors and watch out for each other. Happy Holidays.

— Carol Welder
Chair, Crime and Safety

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Touchdown! to earth is a moment in
Heaven
It's a time for dancing and singing
It's eternal glory on measured grass

They are the gods of the pigskin!
— Rachel Harger

Contact Team...

...cont'd from page 4

review the Plan every six months to update the status of the action items and consider additions or amendments. The Neighborhood Planning Team includes representatives of homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-resident property owners. Five years after the effective date of this ordinance, the Neighborhood Planning Team will recommend a formal process for a community-wide review, update and re-adoption of the neighborhood plan."

The plan was adopted in 2000, and there have been no efforts to review or amend the plan to reflect evolving neighborhood interests. By adopting the language of the plan as a blueprint for action, the advisory committee can meet the expectations of city planners, while providing a valuable forum for neighbors and insuring their inputs are forwarded to the decision-makers throughout the hierarchy. The value of a neighborhood plan is in the planning process. The Contact Team can provide the leadership needed by learning to listen.

— Larry Gilg

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The roller-coaster ride
First you're up....
And then you're down
My stomach left town
Leaving my heart to take the fall
When do I get to the coasting part?
And why,
For goodness sake,
Am I in line again?

— Rachel Harger

Suitcase Life

This year folded upon last year's baggage
Nomads wander around a gypsy rock,
Third from the sun
Atomic coincidence (or not) makes it possible
to ride the ray of light
The art of destination is looking as if you
meant to arrive, Here!
For whom does the creator bring forth
Worlds we can imagine escaping?
Exits are unique
But the tickets are all the same
Ending with the same punch

-- Rachel Harger

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HPNA Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2013

The October meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) was called to order at 7:04 pm by John Williams, president. He announced that docents are needed for the annual HPNA Homes Tour on November 10, 2013. For this invaluable service, each volunteer receives a free ticket to the tour and an invitation to the after-party. Next, time was given to Richard Jung to introduce himself as a candidate for Precinct 2 County Commissioner.

As the first order of business, Adam Wilson brought forward the HPNA nominee slate of 2014 officers. A motion was made and seconded to elect a conjoint slate. There being no further nominations or discussion, the voting proceeded, resulting in the election of the slate. [See HPNA masthead on p. 2 for updated list of officers and Steering Committee members.] Power will be handed over to the new officers at the Fire Station Festival October 20, 2013, and the November general meeting of HPNA will mark the beginning of their terms of office.

The evening program topic was city transportation plans. A power point presentation was made by Scott Gross from the City of Austin, and Willy Cecil from Capital Metro. High Capacity Transit Corridors are being studied to devise a Central Texas system of transportation for 13 cities, at a cost of \$4 billion over 30 years. The Austin subsystem would form nine arms of a funnel directing mass transit and passengers into downtown. The following were noted as considerations and criteria for corridors of travel: community goals, social equity, environmental benefits and economic development. In the Hyde Park area, north-south corridors that are in discussions include Guadalupe and Red River streets. Public involvement is very important at this time. There will be a meeting next month, November 2013, to evaluate the proposed routes. The bond election is set for November 2014. Website addresses for more information were shared: projectconnect.com, austinurbanrail.com, and austintexas.gov/departments/project-connect-central-corridor-advisory-group.

After a brief question and answer period between HPNA members and program guests, Kevin Heyburn, co-president-elect, asked the assembled to recognize the outgoing president, John Williams, for his years of service to HPNA. Neighbors responded with a round of applause and thanks.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

— Submitted by Mike Pikulski
and Claire deYoung
HPNA Co-Secretaries

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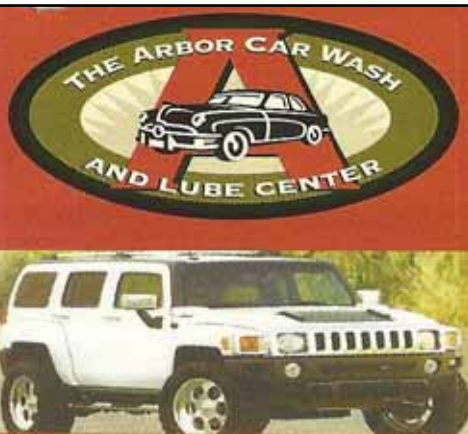
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