

April Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 7, 2008

Where: Hyde Park United
Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Who: YOU and your neighbors

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for April 7th

- ❖ Vertical Mixed Use Update
- ❖ Voting for City Council Members
- ❖ floodlines Reminder
- ❖ The View on Shipe Park Update
- ❖ Roger Temme - from the Care Communities

See you there!

Calling All Volunteers: It's My Park! Day, Saturday, April 12, 1-5 p.m.

As part of Austin Parks Foundation's It's My Park! Day, Hyde Park neighbors, friends, and volunteers from around the city will participate in a clean-up and landscaping day at Shipe Park located at 44th and Avenue F. Last year, over 80 volunteers from ages 3 to 73 joined in the fun to improve our park. Since then 15 trees have been planted at Shipe, and a new irrigation system has been added.

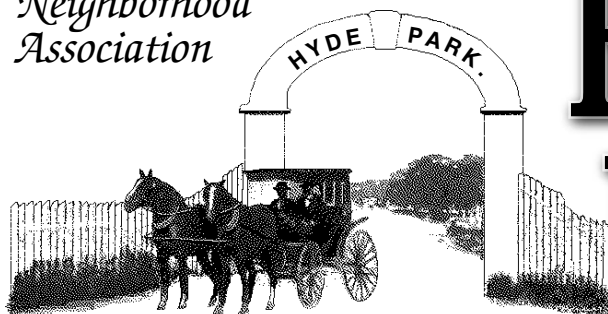
On Saturday, April 12th, from 1-5 p.m. the Hyde Park corps of volunteers will continue to improve the park by spreading mulch, cleaning out weeds and trash from the creek, spiffing up the playscape, and generally making Shipe Park a better place.

Continued on page 5

Emrobri Homes

responds to neighborhood
concerns (see letter, page 4)

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

April, 2008 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 34, No. 4

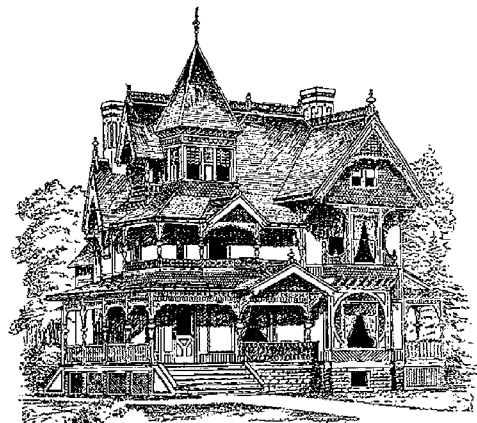
Resting in Peace: The Gaigneux House at 4201 Avenue F

(Special thanks to Audrey Bunting and her staff at the Austin History Center, without whose help this article would not have been possible.)

It is not against the law in Texas to bury people on your property. This fact came to light recently during the processing of an application for a construction permit on the vacant lot between 4205 and 4209 Avenue F.

During a routine check with the Historical Commission, it turned out that a number of historical personages are interred at this site. It also came to light that a minor Victorian masterpiece used to stand where the two houses at 4201 and 4205 Avenue F now stand. The house belonged to Pierre Gaigneux, a native of Clermont-Ferrand, France, who emigrated to Austin in the mid-1880's with his sister Belle. Although not formally trained as an architect, polymath Gaigneux designed the house himself.

Pierre was seen as a young man of great promise when he arrived here. His friends and admirers spoke of his great intelligence, erudition, musical talent and charm. There was talk in political circles that he was destined for high office, perhaps even the governor's mansion. As it turned out, he advanced no higher than assistant postmaster. This was widely attributed to his devotion to his sister, who ran



a "house" on W. 10th street. According to a handbill in the city archives, the establishment featured "the prettiest girls between the Sabine and the Rio Grande." Between the years of 1889 and 1903, when Belle died of tuberculosis, her house was mentioned over a dozen times in the *Austin American*, almost always concerning incidents tinged with scandal.

In 1890, Josephine Baxter, one of the entertainers at Belle's establishment, was found dead in her room from an overdose of laudanum. A group of leading citizens demanded an inquiry, with the aim of shutting down the house. Belle's comment, quoted in the *Austin American*, was "Stuff happens." According to staff at the Austin History Center, this is the first documented use of that phrase.

see Resting in Peace on page 3

From the President's Desk: _____

Stepping Up: Volunteer Spirit Alive and Well in Hyde Park

There have been a few changes in our committee chairs during the last month that I wanted to let everyone know about.

After over a year working on the local historic district for Hyde Park, **Sharon Majors** has decided to resign as the committee head for the LHD. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to Sharon for getting this neighborhood on the right track towards achieving local historic district status. Sharon's hard work, time and effort leading this committee has created a great foundation for the neighborhood to succeed in this endeavor. Sharon has passed the torch to

Lorre Weidlich, who is currently co-treasurer of the HPNA and a two-time past chair of the Hyde Park Homes Tour. Lorre will be a great person to fill Sharon's shoes. As many of us can attest, Lorre brings a great deal of organizational skills, a deep desire to protect our historic neighborhood and an interest in community involvement. **Michelle Paris-White** continues to lead the Design Standards Committee for the LHD. Michelle and her team of dedicated neighbors have been working diligently for several months and hope to have a first draft of the guidelines completed in the next three months. Thank you, Lorre, for once again stepping up to a new challenge. With your leadership, I know that the local historic district effort is in great hands.

Larry Freilich and his family are moving to California, so that Larry can pursue a great environmental job opportunity on the west coast. For the past few years Larry has been the chairman of the Beautification Committee. While we hope that this change in address will be temporary, Larry will be unable to continue to lead this group from across the nation. So if you're interested in creating beauty in Hyde Park and its public spaces, let me know. We have just the opportunity for you! Larry, thanks for all of the hard work and time you have invested in this neighborhood. We hope that you, Sharon and Zoe come back soon.

Speaking of volunteers, **Andrew Shea** has recently agreed to head the Sidewalks Committee to work towards making the neighborhood more walkable. Also, if any of you have been to Shipe Park recently, you may have noticed a few more trees around the property. Thank you to **Jill Nokes** for helping the park to be so inviting and to **Jack Nokes** for spearheading the It's My Park! Day on April 12th.

This neighborhood would be nothing without the volunteers that make it great. So I thank you all for your hard work and dedication to making Hyde Park a better place to live.

— *Elaine Meenehan*
HPNA President
<elaine.meenehan@gmail.com>

Pecan Press

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhypark.org>

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Additional Steering Committee Members: • Wanda Penn • Rob

Clinchard • Dorothy Richter • Alan Marburger • William Cook • Stan

Kozinsky

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AISD • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H.....458-8096

Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, skywash@austin.rr.com.....

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Lisa Harris, ljharris@yahoo.com

Beautification • Larry Freilich, lmf@earthlink.net.....

Children's Programs • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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

Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, robin@wcook.org.... 452-1783

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

Resting in Peace: The Gaigneux House...

...cont'd from page 1

Baxter was refused burial in the city's Oakwood Cemetery because of her past, and Pierre stepped forward to offer the vacant lot adjacent to his house for her interment. The following year, House Speaker Tyler Adkins, the legendary "Bullmoose of the Brazos," shot and killed a man on the front porch of Belle's establishment. Adkins said it was a duel and called it "an affair of honor." Skeptics pointed out that the dead man was unarmed and was shot in the back.

According to Audrey Bunting, the only thing that kept Adkins off the scaffold was the intervention of Supreme Court justice DeWitt Pugh, one of Adkins' card-playing buddies and a regular at Belle's, who ruled that Adkins was immune from prosecution, owing to his position as head of the Texas House of Representatives. No one claimed the body of the dead man, a South Texas rancher named Houlihan. Feeling responsible for the mishap, Belle paid for the simple funeral and prevailed upon Pierre to bury him next to Josephine.

The most poignant story is that of Belle's illegitimate son, Jean-Baptiste. By all accounts the child, said to be the offspring of Victor Trovatore, the Italian tenor who spent a week in Austin during his only American tour, was a singing prodigy. From an 1898 *Austin American* review of a performance at the Hyde Park Pavillion: "...but the highlight of the afternoon was Jean-Baptiste Gaigneux's crystal-line rendition of 'in the Stilly Night.' Many a crusty Hill Country goat rancher's cheek glistened, and many a lady's handkerchief was brandished, as

the child's seraphic voice swept over the crowd."

Plans were being made for Jean-Baptiste to tour Europe when tragedy struck. Danton Giraud, a notorious mesmerist, had a falling out with Belle over an unpaid bill. He retaliated by hypnotizing Jean-Baptiste and telling him that when he awoke he would no longer understand the English language. And so instead of heading for glory before the crowned heads of Europe, Jean-Baptiste headed to the Texas State Lunatic Asylum on Guadalupe Street.

Often in the years that followed, Hyde Park residents would hear Jean-Baptiste singing as he strolled the asylum grounds at night. Pierre always doted on the boy and visited him almost daily. When Jean-Baptiste died of unknown causes in 1907, Pierre insisted that he be buried on Avenue F. Ironically, Pierre was the only member of the family not buried on his property. His uninsured house burned to the ground in 1910, and he began drinking heavily. His property was seized by the county for unpaid taxes in 1912 and he was found dead on the floor next to his bed at a cheap East Austin rooming house a few months later. He was buried in a pauper's grave on 51st Street.

The story might end there, except that in recent years neighbors have reported that on cold, moonless nights a child's voice can sometimes be heard singing in the 4200 block of Avenue F. Curiously, although none have been able to identify the song, all described the child's voice as "seraphic."

--Rollo Treadway

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2007-08 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Dues (per person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member</p> <p>Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____</p> <p><i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i></p>	<p>Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:</p> <p>HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765</p> <p>Make checks payable to HPNA.</p>	<p>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</p> <p>✦</p> <p>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.</p> <p>✦</p> <p>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.</p>



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Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your materials.

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Letters Dept.

Emrobrai Homes Responds to Neighborhood Concerns

Editor's note: At its February meeting, the HPNA voted to send a letter to Emrobrai Homes to explain the neighborhood concerns about the houses that will be built on Avenue F across from Shipe Park (see "Hyde Park Under Siege" in our February issue). We received a very encouraging response, which is reprinted below:

March 4, 2008

Elaine Meenehan
President, Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

Ms. Meenehan:

We received your letter postmarked February 15, 2008 which voices the concerns of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) in regards to our pending projects at the corner of Avenue F and 44th Street. We understand your concerns and are in agreement that this location in particular deserves a new construction that is "honest, appropriate and of high quality."

As you may be aware, PFA Design Group, Inc. was hired to perform the architectural work on these homes. In addition, we had PFA Design Group, Inc. perform elevation redesigns that took into consideration recommendations by the Landmark Commission. However, even in light of these changes, we are no longer satisfied that these designs fit into the spirit of Shipe Park.

Despite the considerable expense and time we have already expended on this project, we have gone forward and enlisted the architectural services of (Hyde Park residents and noted architects) William Barbee and Eugene George of Barbee Architects, Inc. to undertake a complete redesign of the three homes comprising our project at Avenue F and 44th Street. We are confident that Barbee Architects, Inc. will successfully design homes that both meet our economic constraints and properly relate to the neighborhood. In the near future, we hope to have preliminary designs that we would be happy to present to HPNA.

Sincerely,
Ray Lee
Partner, Emrobrai Homes, LLC
835-4932, ray@emrobrai.com

CC: William Barbee, Barbee Architects, Inc.

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It's My Park! Day...

...cont'd from page 1

HOW TO VOLUNTEER. You can help build upon last year's successful efforts by registering to volunteer. You may do it online on the Austin Parks Foundation Web site at: <<http://tinyurl.com/39gkxf>> or contact this year's It's My Park! Day chair, Jack Nokes at: <jacknokes@gmail.com> or 680-5458. He will be happy to sign you up.

FREE T-SHIRTS. All volunteers who are pre-registered will get a free T-shirt, so be sure to register early and indicate your size.

CREW LEADERS NEEDED. In addition to general worker bees, organizers are looking for people willing to serve as crew leaders for activities including: sign-in & refreshments table, creek clean-up, plant maintenance/removal, spreading mulch, etc. Send Jack an e-mail if you are interested in serving as the leader of one of these activities on the day of the event.



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HPNA Meeting Minutes for March

The March 3, 2008 HPNA Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Elaine Meenehan.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation on "floodlines," a performance event that will move from Eastwoods Park to 43rd Street on April 20. There will be 25 vignettes as the actors move through the area. The presentation was made by Jaclyn Pryor and Sean Jenkins. Persons interested in participating or desiring more information about the performance may contact Ann Graham (see related piece on page 8 of this issue).

Next on the agenda, Cindy Reed spoke about the **Austin Independent Business Alliance (AIBA)**, an association of locally owned businesses in Austin. She pointed out that locally owned businesses help to keep money in Austin's economy. Cindy distributed packets about AIBA and encouraged the group to shop locally. More information is available at <www.ibuyaustin.com> or (512) 441-2123.

Pauline VanMeurs made a presentation on the importance of people learning CPR, and the goal of having at least one person in every home in Hyde Park trained in CPR. She pointed out that the current training uses new techniques and is a shorter program than those used in the past. Pauline will work with the neighborhood to encourage people to get **CPR training** and will help people sign up for the necessary training. Be sure to watch for more information from Pauline in the *Pecan Press* and on the ListServe.

Alison Young presented information about **door to door solicitations** in Austin. Currently there is not a solicitation ordinance in Austin. The courts have ruled that it is not lawful to ban solicitation. However, it is possible that the City could pass an ordinance which would provide guidelines and require people to have permits and valid identification in order to solicit door to door. People should report any aggressive or argumentative behavior by door to door solicitors to the police immediately.

Karen McGraw discussed the **Vertical Mixed Use Ordinance (VMU)** and its use along transit corridors such as Guadalupe Street. She presented a letter to the Mayor and Council Members clarifying Hyde Park's reasons for opting out of the VMU. These include that it is redundant for much of the corridor, and it risks undoing Hyde Park's adopted Neighborhood Plan. Those present agreed to send the letter to Mayor and Council.

David Conner spoke briefly about the possibility of historic zoning for the **Baker School building** at

Continued on following page

40th and Ave. B. AISD has indicated that the property may be sold in the near future. The discussion included comments on the school's age and importance to the neighborhood as well as the possibility of its potential for use as a school in the future. Dorothy Richter suggested speaking to the AISD school board to get support for historic zoning.

Mark Fisher encouraged Hyde Park residents to participate in **It's My Park! Day on April 12**. Those wanting more information or wishing to sign up to participate may go to <www.austinparks.org>.

Elaine Meenehan informed the group that there would be **no Homes Tour this year**. There was a discussion of things that the committee had tried to implement as well as suggestions from the group about what might be done. However, due to the time needed to organize the Homes Tour, the suggestions were not feasible at this point. It was also determined that not holding the Tour this year would free up time and energy for the Association to focus on the issue of Local Historic District status for Hyde Park (see related article). The Finance Committee will be revising the budget for this year to reflect this change in anticipated revenue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

— Celeste Cromack, HPNA Co-Secretary
<ccro@io.com>

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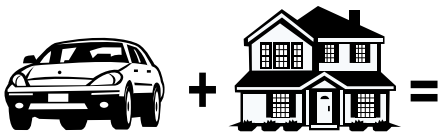




floodlines 2008

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photo by Larry Freilich



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Friends and neighbors - this is a friendly reminder that art can change your perception of your very own neighborhood.

Once a year for the past four years, there has been a fleeting opportunity to experience something out of the ordinary here in Hyde Park. This year (and three more to follow) is no exception. On Sunday, April 20th, between 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., look out your window or pull up a chair (or buy one of the 24 tickets at <www.texasperforms.com>) to experience *floodlines 2008*, the site-specific performance-installation conceived of and directed by Austin artist Jaclyn Pryor. This year's performance will also be followed by a Community Dialogue to be held at Eastwoods Park, 3001 Harris Park Avenue, from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. The Community Dialogue will provide a venue for a dialogue between Pryor, participating performers, audience members and any members of the community that the performance ignites.

It's also not too late to take a direct role in the performance. If you'd like to take on a role as an actor/performer, contact *floodlines 2008* stage manager Sean Jenkins at <seanjenkins@gmail.com>.

Hope to see you on April 20th! Questions? Contact Ann S. Graham at 914-8096 or email her at the following address. <annsgraham@gmail.com>.

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2008 Homes Tour Is Not To Be

In 2008, the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association will be taking a one-year hiatus from our annual Homes Tour.

Our Homes Tour has been one of the numerous steps taken to achieve the larger goal of preserving, presenting, and promoting the Hyde Park neighborhood. As a result of our tour, the efforts of Hyde Park neighbors to restore and preserve Hyde Park have steadily increased and the larger Austin community has become aware of the historical and architectural value of Hyde Park. Ultimately, our tours have led to our two Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts and our National Register Historic District.

We have one additional – and crucial – step to take in our preservation efforts: the establishment of a local historic district. Only in the past few years has the Austin City Council made this status available to Austin neighborhoods. Many of the Hyde Park neighbors who in the past helped to organize our Homes Tours have thrown their efforts into this project. As a result, the Neighborhood Association Steering Committee has made the decision to focus our resources on that single goal rather than diffusing them between two complementary but competing goals. We plan a wonderful Homes Tour on Fathers' Day weekend, 2009, by which time we hope either to be celebrating our local historic district status or to be well advanced in the process of achieving that status.

The HPNA Steering Committee encourages you, in lieu of this year's Homes Tour and in furtherance of the goal of historic preservation, to attend the Historic Landmark dedication of the Schenken-Oatman house, 311 West 41st Street. The Schenken-Oatman house was featured on the 2007 Homes Tour. The dedication ceremony will be sponsored by the Restore Hyde Park LLC, the owners and restorers of the house. Watch the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association website and the Pecan Press for the date and details of that event.

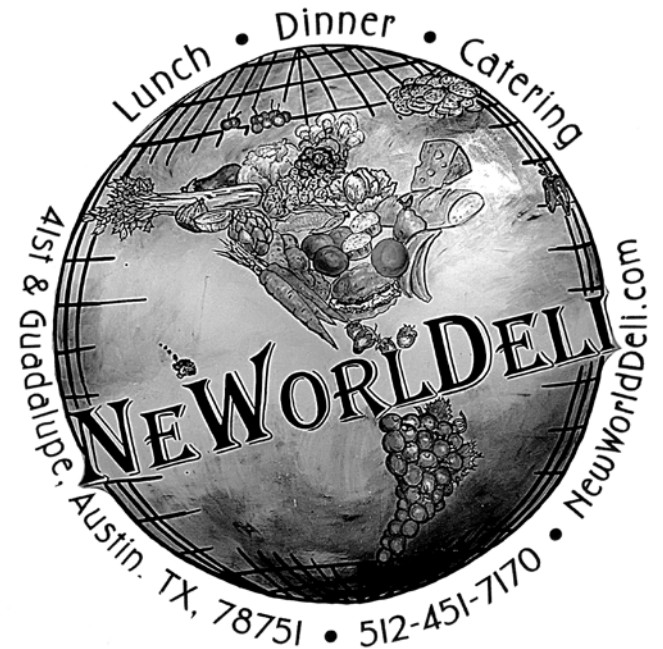
Thank you for volunteering for and attending the tour all these years. When planning begins for the 2009 tour, please consider becoming part of the committee. In the meantime, please continue to enjoy Hyde Park:

- Enjoy Hyde Park's beautiful streetscapes and homes. w• Visit our neighborhood park, Shipe Park, for picnicking and swimming.
- Patronize the many restaurants and businesses in Hyde Park.
- Visit the Elisabet Ney Museum and share our excitement about the funding for its restoration from Save America's Treasures.

– Lorre Weidlich
Chair, 2006 and 2007 Hyde Park Homes Tour

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In Memoriam: Agnes Joseph Owens

Agnes Joseph Owens graced the 3800 block of Avenue H for more than 47 years with her gentle, kind and loving spirit. She passed away at home on January 10, 2008. Aggie or Miz Owens, as she was known to us fortunate enough to have called her friend and neighbor, moved to Avenue H in 1961 with her son Lee and her father Alex Joseph. Her sisters Julia, Nellie and Victoria and their husbands all lived on the same block of Avenue H and all four sisters brought their families up together, celebrating birthdays and everyday events with a closeness rarely seen in today's urban world.

Her parents Alex and Manoon Joseph, both born in Lebanon, raised Agnes in the area of downtown Austin which now contains the Austin Convention Center. The house in which she grew up was relocated and has been preserved. Her father operated a grocery on Congress Avenue in the early days of Austin and Agnes regularly played as a child beside what is now Lady Bird Lake, meeting many of early Austin's most prominent citizens.

Agnes was widowed at an early age and was devoted to her son Lee Owens and to her granddaughter Lisa Owens, who survive her. She is also survived by her daughter-in-law Vicky Owens and Vicky's daughters Cindy, Lillian and Mary, as well as by their children. Her cousin, Elizabeth Joseph, also of Hyde Park, survives her. She was predeceased by her sisters and their husbands, including by Hyde Park's R.C. Foster in 2005, as well as by her cousin, Linda Joseph, who also lived in the neighborhood.

Agnes also took great interest in the children and families of her neighbors, providing friendly waves and chats, as well as Halloween treats. She delighted in recounting the tales of the Austin of an earlier time. She also followed current events avidly up to the last days of her life. From the chair on her front porch, Agnes Joseph Owens wove much of the fabric of our block and she will be missed.

— Catherine Moore



*"The essential meaning of the notion of structure is to build, to grow, to evolve."
-David Bohm*



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HYDE PARK

HPNA Local Resources Network Meets in April

The HPNA Local Resources Network will meet at 7:00pm at the Hyde Park Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, April 16 to discuss applications of Solar Photo-voltaic (PV) systems in Hyde Park.

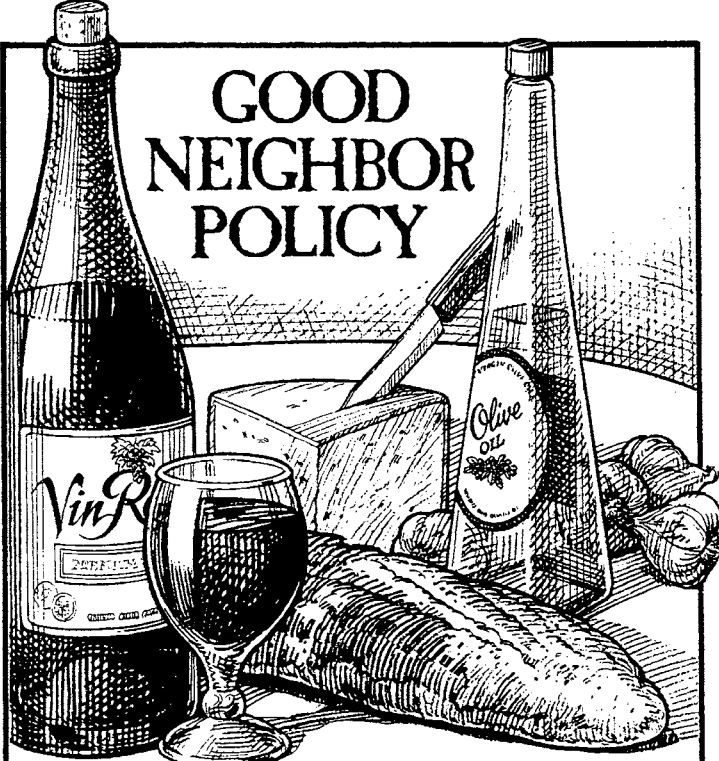
Austin Energy has been providing rebates to homeowners for installing solar PV systems on their property. Installations meeting the size and siting requirements are eligible for generous rebates.

The solar array is mounted on the homeowner's appropriately-facing roof, and provides a percentage of the electrical power used during daylight hours. The systems are a "grid-tie" design so if the electricity demand at any particular time is less than is being generated.

The system becomes a supplier of power to the grid, with the amount of electricity supplied to the grid subtracted from the homeowner's meter, effectively lowering the monthly bill for the homeowner. At the meeting on the 16th, we will have a representative of Austin Energy on hand to give an overview of the rebate program and answer questions about the program.

We will also have a PV system installer and neighbors who have gotten systems (and rebates) installed to discuss their experiences. Please mark your calendar to take advantage of this opportunity of learn how to lower your carbon footprint while also lowering your energy bills.

— Larry Gilg
<gilg@dieproducts.org>




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Ecuador: All of South America in One Place

(...continued from last month)

As I write this we are in Cuenca, away from our Austin home away from home at 3802 Ave. F. For nearly six weeks, we have had an apartment in Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Located over 9,000 feet above sea level, it is about the size of Austin in population. It sprawls north to south bounded by mountains to the west and a sheer drop to a valley on the east.

Several friends at home in Austin ask what our daily lives are like. Our small, furnished apartment is very central. It is close to our Spanish language school, to the daycare that Ronan goes to in the afternoon, and to a great market. Mornings start with four-hour Spanish classes at Instituto Superior, right after our four year-old gets picked up to go to Titarú, a preschool down in the valley below Quito. He gets back at about 12:40, right after we return from our classes, and we eat the main meal of the day, la almuerzo. Then it is back to his afternoon school for Ronan, meetings and work for me, and a wireless coffee place for Bill, who does most of his writing in wireless coffee shops in Austin, as well. Many evenings I don't get back until after 7 pm, as many of my meetings start and run late, a very normal thing in Quito.

What is surprising to me is how similar everything is. Ecuadorians work 40-hour weeks, but take long lunches to eat the main meal of the day. When I drop in for a day to a conflict resolution workshop given by a potential partner to Rainforest Partnership, my new organization, it is very similar to one in Austin, except that it is in Spanish. When I present to a room full of rose farm representatives, I feel like I could be talking to folks in Austin. We use the same technology, sometimes even the same words and ideas. Only the setting and the language are different.

But there are many differences. Central Market cannot hold a candle to El Mercado Santa Clara, where you can find fruits and vegetables unimaginable in Austin, at prices that are nearly miraculous. (It is great fun to cook with such fresh produce and drink fresh juices from so many different fruits on a daily basis!) The national currency of Ecuador is the U.S. dollar, and it is strange to see so many \$1 coins in circulation. I can buy lunch for less than \$2, six passion fruits for \$1, get around town on the trolley for a quarter, or pay the same as we do for electronics, cell phones and such. The minimum wage by law

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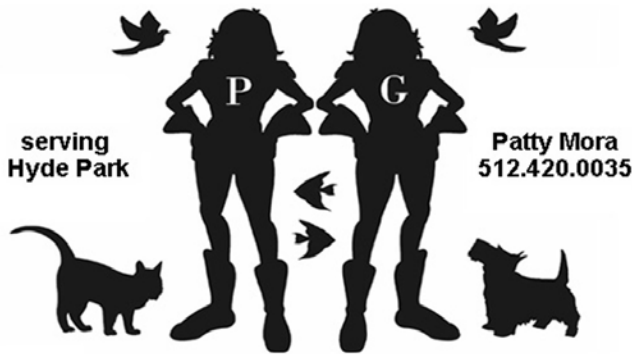


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is \$170 per month, but many don't make this much. My friends at local (not international) nonprofits all make less than \$1,000 per month, most much lower.



Niyanta Spelman, son Ronan, and Jordan Erdos

Jordan Erdos, former HPNA secretary when I was HPNA co-president in 2000-01, and current board member and secretary to Rainforest Partnership, came to Ecuador for nine days for a working visit. Besides a very busy week with back to back meetings in Quito, we visited communities in Amazonia. It was amazing to see how much our whims and consumption patterns (US and Europe) control the lives of people in these remote areas, whether it be oil, cocoa, or coffee. (See Jordan's writeup at <www.rainforestpartnership.org/blog> for his impressions).

This small country, about the size of Colorado, is over forty percent Amazonia. It has some incredibly biodiverse regions and has half the bird species of all of South America and twice as many as all of North America. It has many microclimates from its coastal, Andean, and Amazon basin regions. Ecuador has over 130 species of hummingbirds alone, and in our visits to the Mindo area, north of Quito in the Chocó biogeographical region, we saw about 20 species. At Las Gralarias, a bio-reserve created by former Austinite Jane Lyons from profits off her birding tour company (Mindo Bird Tours), I took pictures of more

Continued on page 14

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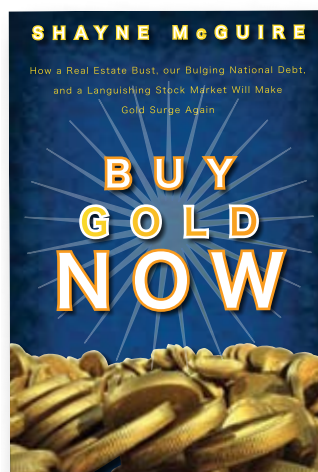
Ecuador: All of South America... ...cont'd from page 13

kinds of moths than I had ever seen. Like the hummingbirds, they change colors in varying light, too!

Ecuador truly is all of South America in one little place: From Mitad del Mundo (the equator, where you really can watch the Coriolis Effect — water drains straight down at the equator, but clockwise and counterclockwise on either side of the equator, just a few feet away), to the very bio-diverse Chocó region, to the Amazon, to the many snow-capped (and active) volcanoes in the Andes, to the coast, to the Galápagos. It has a great mix of people, including many indigenous peoples, cultures, and languages. You can even visit a Saturday animal market in Otavalo, a town two hours north of Quito, where you can buy a very large pig for \$200, a cow for \$450 or a calf for \$45, or of course, great alpaca sweaters and shawls, as most tourists do at the most famous Saturday market in Ecuador. And Ecuador has wonderful colonial towns like Cuenca, where I write this, overlooking a whitewater river and red tile roofs with mountains behind. Having been here for these many weeks, it is difficult to understand why more Norte Americanos don't come to Ecuador. It is easy to travel to, affordable, Quiteños speak very clear Spanish, Quito has more Spanish language schools than anywhere else on the planet, and the country offers very diverse experiences that are easily accessible and close together.

Although Rainforest Partnership is very likely to work in Ecuador, and I will likely be returning, I am sad to be leaving this country for Peru. In Peru, we will visit Lima (most nonprofits are based there), a likely base in Cusco, and visits to the Peruvian Amazonía. In the meantime, if you want to know more about Ecuador, you can email me at: <niyanta@rainforestpartnership.org>.

— Niyanta Spelman



Buy Gold Now, written by Hyde Park resident Shayne McGuire, has just been published.

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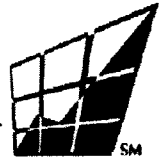
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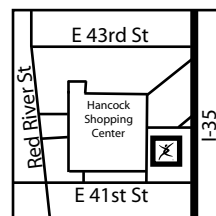
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Design Guidelines in the Broader Context

How best to accommodate new construction within the boundaries of historic districts is an issue confronting these neighborhoods nationwide. It would be expedient, therefore, to place the Hyde Park National Register Historic District in the broader context. In this regard, valuable directions were set forth at the Preservation Summit, sponsored by Preservation Texas in early February, 2008.

In a presentation on neighborhood guidelines entitled *Imitation vs. Preservation*, Russell Buchanan, AIA, of Dallas made the following observations: "The Department of the Interior [see note below], as well as numerous historic preservation organizations and architectural historians throughout the US, has set standards based on the principle that important historic properties cannot be replaced if they are destroyed. Instead, the national guidelines state that new construction must be depicted as a contemporaneous design rather than a re-creation. [contemporaneous ...i.e. contemporary/at the present time] In short, creating a caricature of a building of historic significance merely dilutes the historic significance of those around it."

In summary, he stated: "Imitation creates fiction which destroys the physical record and historical context. The essential rule is that buildings should reflect the culture and technology of the time in which they were constructed and clear temporal contrasts are desired — albeit within an overall environmental character."

The Hyde Park Design Guidelines for new construction — already in place as part of our Neighborhood Plan — are consistent with this enlightened outlook. Guideline (1.7) states that new construction need not replicate an historic style but that (1.2) the use of simple massing, scale and character elements typical to the neighborhood is encouraged.

Note: The National Register of Historic Places is administered by the National Park Service which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

— Mary Carolyn George and
W. Eugene George, FAIA

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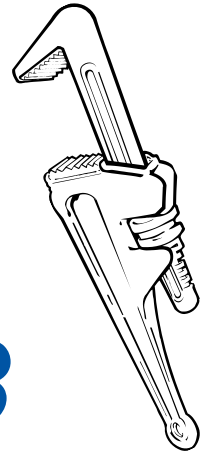
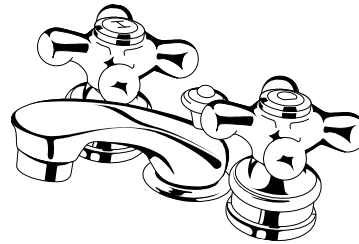
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Featured musicians include some of Austin's premiere vocal soloists: soprano Jenifer Thyssen, mezzo soprano Stephanie Prewitt, tenor James Hall, and baritone Phillip Hill. First English organist Bill Davis will be featured with the chamber orchestra.

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— *Albert Einstein (musicologist) on Missa Brevis in Bb Major*

Fire Ants are Back

With the warmer weather, ants are becoming more active and noticeable. Since temperatures can vary in early spring, you need to choose your treatment method carefully.

Fire ant bait may not be the best to use during cooler weather. During cooler weather, fire ants usually do not actively forage for food. To check if fire ants are foraging, place a hotdog slice, a potato chip or some peanut butter near a mound. Leave the food item for 15-30 minutes then check. If they are picking up the food, bait can be applied for managing fire ants. If fire ants are not picking up the food, you may need to try another treatment method.

Individual mound treatments using liquid drenches, dusts or granular products can be utilized at any time of year when you see fire ant mounds. Many of these products require water to carry the pesticide down into the mound where the fire ants are located. Failure to use the proper amount of water may not completely kill the mound. Read and follow label instructions before treating mounds.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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New Worship Times At HPUMC Begin in March

Worship Services at Hyde Park United Methodist Church will begin at new times starting with the first Sunday in March.

The new Sunday Schedule at HPUMC will be as follows:

9 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service

10 a.m. - Sunday Studies Classes

11 a.m. - Relevance Worship with Praise Band

7 p.m. - Truth Park College/Young Adult Ministry

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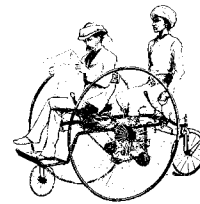
Hyde Park Poets —

“An Unwritten Poem”

A line is a year,
While a stanza is a journey.
A couplet is a goal achieved,
While a quatrain is a brother.
A rhyme is love,
While an off-rhyme is an ill-suited match.
An end-stop is the death of family,
While a refrain is day to day.
Life is a blank page just waiting,
Waiting to be written.

— *Hugo Nakashima-Brown,*
4008 Ave. H

(Hugo is a 7th grader at St. Andrew's School.)



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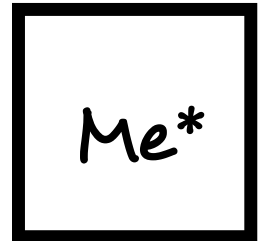
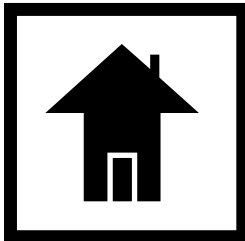
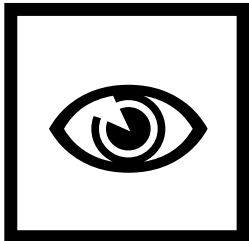
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Hyde Park Poets —

Editor's Note: The poem below is by the late Walter Richter - accomplished legislator, model citizen, beloved neighbor, and adroit wordsmith. It was sent to us by his wife and Hyde Park's honorary Mayor-for-Life Dorothy Jean Richter, with this note:

"In 1937 Walter was editor (an office elected by the students) of The College Star, the newspaper of Southwest Texas Teachers' College (now Texas State University). He called his column El Toro (The Bull) - sounds like Walter, doesn't it? I consider this REAL POETRY - It has rhyme, meter, and makes sense." - DJR

El Toro

When the flowers start their blooming: and the trees begin assuming
that veil of greenish color on their limbs;

When the sun's warm rays start falling and you hear again that calling
of the creek where you so loved last year to swim;

When the weather gets more mellow and the sun becomes more yellow,
and you vision flouncing catfish on the string;

It is then you feel quite certain that for winter it's the curtain,
and you're absolutely sure that it is spring;

But you're apt to be mistaken, and your faith may soon be shaken in
the fact that you have seen the spring begin;

For in all my years together, I have found this Texas weather,
not the best of things to be a-trusting in.

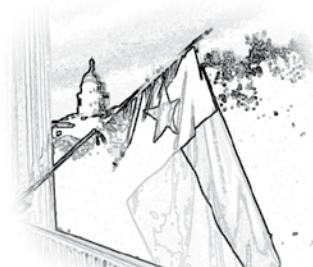
For as soon as you've decided that the winter has subsided,
you are greeted with a blast of wind and rain,

As the mercury goes lower than it ever was before, and you dig those
flannel undies out again.

But a very short time later comes the Cold Eradicator, and the icy chill
again seems quite remote,

So you'd do your best preparing if you'd try your hand at wearing
your bathing suit beneath your overcoat.

— Walter Richter
March 17, 1937



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Address: **3713 Robinson**

PENDING

Listed For: **\$279,900**

French Place classic. Tastefully remodeled home in the heart of French Place features fully updated kitchen and bathroom, beautiful hardwoods, designers colors, versatile 3rd bedroom or 2nd living rm, standing seam metal roof, and private backyard w deck.



Address: **4833 Red River**

PENDING

Listed For: **\$259,000**

Charming Bungalow remodel in the Hyde Park area. Fully updated kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counters, Large inviting front porch, long leaf pine flooring, designer colors, updated bath with a claw-foot tub and a great fenced yard and garage.



Address: **509 East 41st Street**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$415,000**

Classic Arts and Crafts cottage with sep. studio/guest home/or rental. Convenient to everything and on a huge lot. Amazing 3/1 main house features dramatic architecture/original stained wood work throughout/large kitchen with original cab./tall ceilings/private backyard garden retreat.



Address: **912 East 37th Street**

FOR SALE

Listed For: **\$411,000**

Charming bungalow w/bright 1/1 garage apt. Just remodeled. Features custom kitchen cabs., granite counters, new appliances, hrdwd flooring, recent int. paint, lrg dining & laundry, lrg 50' X 150' lot, 2 car garage. Apt has sep. laundry room/hardwood flooring/central heat and AC. Very private.



Address: **4102 Burnet Road**

FOR SALE

Listed For: **\$295,000**

Rosedale Bargain! Quiet residential part of Burnet Rd. (1/2 Block South of Ramsey Park.) Interesting Rosedale Cottage ready or remodeling. Large 50' X 135' lot. Award winning Bryker Elementary. Priced at ± lot cost.

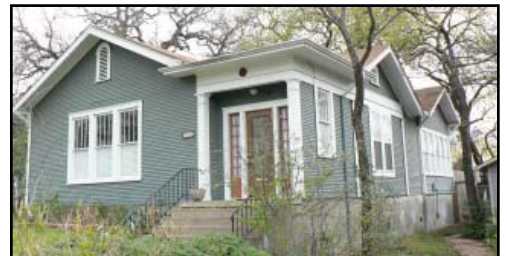


Address: **620 West 35th Street**

FOR SALE

Listed For: **\$459,000**

Sophisticated remodel 1 block west of Guadalupe. Stunning architecture, large corner lot, separate guest bedroom and garage. Totally remodeled kitchen and bathrooms with modern flairs and period detailing.



Jeff Baker 619-7421

ABOR, REALTOR®, Former State Licensed Appraiser

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HYDE PARK HOMES GALLERY



4500 Avenue H

Two houses on one lot, 3BR, 2BA & 1BR, 1BA. Great investment property.
Listed at \$375,000



204 East 50th Street

Cute Hyde Park cottage with hardwood floors & updates.
3BR, 1BA & 1Liv.
Listed at \$269,500



5509 Avenue G

New construction, spring completion. 4BR, 4BA, great room. ±2495 Sq ft per builder.
Listed at \$625,000



5312 Evans Avenue

Two rentals on one lot, both 2BR, 1BA with wood floors.
Listed at \$335,000



4602 Avenue F

New construction. 4BR, 3BA, 2Liv. Lee Elementary.
Listed at \$732,600



606 & 608 West 31½ Street

Two restored homes on two lots to be sold as package.
Listed at \$795,000

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