

December Meeting



The Meeting is a Party and the Party is the Meeting!

When:

Friday, December 19
6:00 PM (children 'till 7:30)

Where:

MacKinnon/Rebok Home
at 4201 Speedway

See you there!

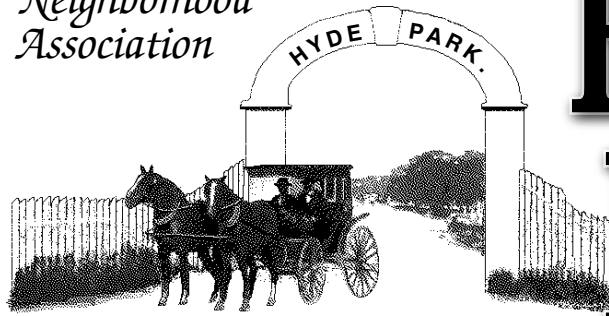
A Modest Proposal: Phasing Out Leaf Blowers in Hyde Park?

Much work has gone into making Hyde Park a protected historic neighborhood. Among the proposed design standards are front porches. "Porches are an integral part of the character of Hyde Park. Front porches are encouraged for single family residences and duplexes."

But enjoying a front porch is impossible if your neighbor is operating a leaf blower. Many times I've been conversing with a friend or reading on my front porch when the leaf blowers next door fired up. Further conversation, as well as any enjoyment of birdsong, wind in the trees, wind chimes and so forth are then obliterated for the next half hour or more by the roar of these unnecessary pollutants. If I'm inside working in my home office, all creative work comes to a halt. Even with the windows closed it is too noisy to use the telephone. I put in earplugs and do chores.

Continued on page 3

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

December, 2008 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 34, No. 12

2008 Hyde Park Holiday Party Finds New Home on Speedway

Maybe you celebrate Christmas for the birth of Jesus or Hanukkah for the rededication of the Temple or Kwanzaa for family, community and culture, or perhaps you just enjoy gathering with friends and neighbors on winter nights to anticipate longer days and shorter nights as the ancients did at solar festivals. No matter the reason, come to HPNA's annual Hyde Park Holidays Party, Friday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. Children are welcome until 7:30.

This year's gathering is at 4201 Speedway, the lovely home of Rich MacKinnon and John Rebok.. Rich and John as well as the HPNA officers and homeowners are looking forward to celebrating the holiday and spending time with our neighbors. HPNA is providing food and drink catered by our neighbor and friend, Greg Bontempo of NeWorldDeli. Bring your favorite dessert to provide that extra sweetness to the evening.

Gifts are also an important part the winter celebrations. Linda Pennington is leading an effort to support the boys and girls at the Helping Hand Home in Hyde Park, at Avenue B and 38th St. Founded in 1893, the Home offers residential services and therapeutic foster care for abandoned, abused, and neglected children. Please bring a gift-wrapped item for the children.



Yule Benefit
the Helping
Hand Home!

Write on the outside of the package what is hidden inside to help the staff at the Home sort the gifts. Let's ensure the children receive every thing that is on their wish list. The list includes the following: KIDZ Bop Cd's, Personal compact disc players, Radios (boomboxes), Headphones, Nintendo DS, Game Boy, Video games for (Nintendo Ds, Game Boy and Play Station), Action figures, Matchbox cars, Headphones, Current children's movies (DVD preferably)

The staff also appreciates cards to stores similar to Target or Wal-Mart to purchase items the children need. Linda will ensure the gifts are delivered to the Home in time for their celebration.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

— Deaton Bednar, HPNA Social Chair
<deatonbednar@grandecom.net>

From the President's Desk:

Happy Holidays, Lessons from New Orleans

Hello, I want to thank everyone for the successful Fire Station Festival! I am looking forward in meeting many of you in the upcoming HPNA general meetings. If you are not a member of the HPNA, please attend and sign up at the next meeting!

In our November HPNA general meeting, we had a journalism student from the University of Texas observe the meeting's activities. She was preparing a thesis on neighborhood association participation and voting. One of the primary discussion topics of the meeting was the Local Historic District project and the neighborhood voted on a budget for a preservation consultant.

The student followed up later with a phone call and asked me why is a local historic district so important to the neighborhood since it is already a National Register District (NRD). Prior to her phone call, I read in a newsletter that 18 historic district blocks in New Orleans may be razed so that a university medical center can expand. This university (my Alma Mater!) has desired to expand as long as I can remember; however, it was an uphill battle with the homeowners and city officials due to the area being historic. Before and even after Katrina, this residential area of bungalows and large Victorians was thought to be protected because of its historic housing stock and being in a NRD.

At present, the university is moving forward with plans for a new medical complex alongside a new facility with the city's blessing. The plans for new construction call for the demolition of some 200 historic homes and buildings in 25 blocks of an adjacent NRD. In addition to providing homes for hundreds of people, the Mid-City neighborhood is also the location of several significant, historically important buildings dating back to 1879.

So, getting back to the student's question, what is a benefit of a local historic district? Since there are many answers to the question, I simply answered by comparing a local historic district zoning ordinance to an insurance policy that

will protect the neighborhood from outside, well-funded forces who think there are "better" uses for the property. I hope you agree with this analogy and the answer I gave her.

I hope everyone has a nice Thanksgiving and look forward for the HPNA Holiday Party. And, as a reminder, please do not drink and drive!

— David Conner
HPNA President
<daypaycon@yahoo.com>



Pecan Press

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Editor

Grant Thomas 450-0464 <hghthomas@youthlaunch.org>

Associate Editor

Sarah Sitton 459-4530 207 E. 39th St.

Poetry Editor

Nancy Taylor Day 892-0127 <nancy@creativitymoms.com>
4001 Duval (Salon) 78751

Crime & Safety Chairman

Carol Welder <cjwelder@msn.com>

Production Manager/Advertising Director

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

Mail Ad Payments to:

Carol Jackson, 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
<uimas.remeza@yahoo.com>

Area Coordinators

North of 45th/West of Duval • Pam Dozler 458-8927
North of 45th/East of Duval • Jay Gerard & Carrie Laughlin 371-1546
South of 45th/West of Speedway • Robert Morris & Kathryn Kotrla...
..... 371-7246
South of 45th/East of Speedway • Martha Campbell 452-2815

Contributors

Glen Alyn, Candy Gray Becker, Cynthia Beeman, Laurence Becker, Deaton Bednar, Mary Collins Blackmon, George Bristol, Chris Brown, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Kathryn Bryn, Mark Burkhardt, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Nicole Caspers, Kitty Clark, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Rob D'Amico, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Don Davis, Pam Dozler, Russell Duke, Cathy Echols, Carla Feldpausch Siegle, Merle Franke, Gregory Free, Larry Freilich, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Rachel Hector, Ben Heimsath, Albert Huffstickler, Liz Jones, Barbara Kelly, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Bo Kersey, Susan Kirk, Mike Kintner, Dennis Lensing, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Jason Mann, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Brook Meggs, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wren Nokes Willeford, Wanda Penn, Cecil Pennington, Peter Pfeiffer, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Kristen De La Rosa, Steve Sadowsky, Mary Lou Serafine, Sheree Scarborough, Jaime Shimkus, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Clay Smith, Niyanta Spelman, Jenna Stephens, Julie Strong, Kathleen Strong, Debbie Trammell, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Lorre Weidlich, Hanna Wiseman Jacobs, Joe Wiseman.



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

— HPNA Officers/Steering Committee —

President
• David Conner • daypaycon@yahoo.com 627-0813
Vice President
• Michelle Paris-White • michelle.pariswhite@gmail.com
Co-Secretaries • John Williams • jawilli@grandecom.net
..... VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Co-Treasurers • Carol Jackson • caroljackson@austin.rr.com
I Jay Aarons • ijaarons@aol.com • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765
Additional Steering Committee Members: • Dorothy Richter •
Stan Kozinsky • John Moore • Cynthia Lyons • Wanda Penn • Elaine
Meenehan • Mark Fishman

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, ljharrisus@yahoo.com
Beautification VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Children's Programs VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F. 459-8349
Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, robin@wcook.org 452-1783
Crime & Safety • Carol Welder, 4101 Ave F, cjwelder@msn.com 459-6205
Development Review
Catherine Moore • chmoore@austin.rr.com 569-1047
Finance • Nick Van Bavel, nvb123@yahoo.com
Graffiti Patrol VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Homes Tour • Barbara Gibson • bg@ghrdlaw.com
Membership • Jim & Eileen Geneviro, jgeneviro@earthlink.net 401-3803
Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C 459-2261
Local Historic District • Lorre Weidlich, lweidlich@mail2sevensesas.com
Shipe Park • Mark Fishman, m.fishman@yahoo.com 656-5505
Sidewalks • Andrew Shea, shea.andrew@gmail.com
Social • Deaton Bednar, deatonbednar@grandecom.net
Tree Preservation • JP Moore, johnpaulmoore@austin.rr.com ... 789-7025
Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C 206-0729
Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G 452-5117

A Modest Proposal Concerning Leaf Blowers...

...cont'd from page 1

Why, when my neighbors are so environmentally conscious, would they assault the environment and the people who live close to them in this singularly offensive way? Partly it is lack of awareness. As Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote, "How can you expect a man who is warm to understand a man who is cold?" How can you expect someone tucked away in a quiet office somewhere to understand the discomfort of someone assaulted by the leaf blowers back home? Of the 11 houses on our block, 6 have at least one person at home during the day. There's really no time that's a good time for leaf blowers.

The Washington Post noted, "When you think about it, the leaf blower forms an uncanny reflection of the fault lines in modern American society: It's a machine reviled by leftward-thinking intellectuals and beloved by red-blooded, horsepower junkies. It is an essential work mate of the laboring immigrant classes." In fact, it's reviled by many conservatives as well, especially those who are committed to conservation.

Although we think of Austin and Hyde Park as enlightened citizens, we are far behind California. More than 20 beautiful California cities have banned gas-powered leaf blowers entirely for over a decade. Among them: Santa Barbara, Palo Alto, Malibu, Santa Monica, Laguna Beach, Beverly Hills, Menlo Park and Berkeley. And the bans are being enforced. Even huge Los Angeles bans gas-powered leaf blowers within

500 feet of a residence. Think how nice that would be in Austin.

And it's not just California. Other cities include Aspen, Colorado and Vancouver, British Columbia, and a slew of cities in New York and Massachusetts.

Why can't we do that here? Only a few years ago in Austin to visit restaurants, bars and clubs meant emerging smelling like a smoked ham. We were told that the music scene would disappear if smoking were prohibited. But now smoking is banned and the music scene flourishes. We've even starting picking up after our pooches. We can take control over pollutants.

Why couldn't Hyde Park take the lead among Austin neighborhoods, simply agreeing among ourselves to use only yard care contractors who don't use leaf blowers? I'm compiling a list of such contractors. If you know of one, please let me know (JFKerr@yahoo.com, or 451-3931). So many of us have worked long and hard to restore Hyde Park's charm, why let a few "horsepower junkies" ruin it for all of us?

— John F. Kerr

(John is a long-time resident on Avenue F, and a former HPNA President.)



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2008-09 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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Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry*) by the 15th of each month to:

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*Send your poems to:

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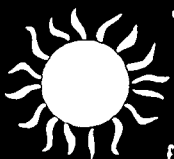
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Minutes of the November 2008 HPNA General Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by newly-elected HPNA President David Conner. First on the agenda was an update on the status of the **Local Historic District (LHD)** committee progress, given by Lorre Weidlich. Lorre said that the design standards document was almost complete, and that the next step was to hire a consultant. Currently the LHD is gathering bids from consultants. A motion was made by Lorre Weidlich to have an HPNA budget amendment to allocate \$20,000 for the LHD, towards the cost of hiring a consultant. Mark Fishman seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 21 for and none against. Wanda Penn made another motion to have the HPNA agree to allocate \$20,000 towards the cost of hiring a consultant for the formation of the LHD in the Hyde Park neighborhood, south of 45th St, regardless of whether the moneys are actually spent in the 2008 or 2009 budget years. This motion was made to clear up any confusion on which budget year (2008 or 2009) the \$20,000 would be used towards the consultant fee, since we are close to the end of the year. Carolyn Grimes seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 21 for and none against.

Next, Mary Carolyn George presented with storyboards some examples of homes here in Hyde Park that at one time were scheduled for demolition, but were now **great examples of beautiful, historic homes** in the neighborhood. Some examples included the Woodburn House, the Adams House, and the Oliphant House, as well as several others.

Finally, Karen McGraw discussed the land for sale at the south end of **the Triangle development** on 45th St. A group of potential buyers approached Karen to discuss their plans. Karen will schedule a meeting soon. She encourages other HPNA members to get involved to help follow this more closely. Those interested will meet with the future buyers and developers, so that the HPNA would have a voice in the discussions. Anyone interested can contact Karen McGraw.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

— John A. Williams, Co-Secretary
<jawilli@grandecom.net>

(Editor's Note: Due to job-related scheduling conflicts, Kristen Remeza has had to retract her kind offer to serve as HPNA Co-secretary. Consequently, John is looking for a volunteer to alternate with him in attending and keeping minutes of monthly HPNA meetings. If you have the desire and ability to serve as John's Co-Secretary, please contact him at jawilli@grandecom.net. Thanks!)

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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

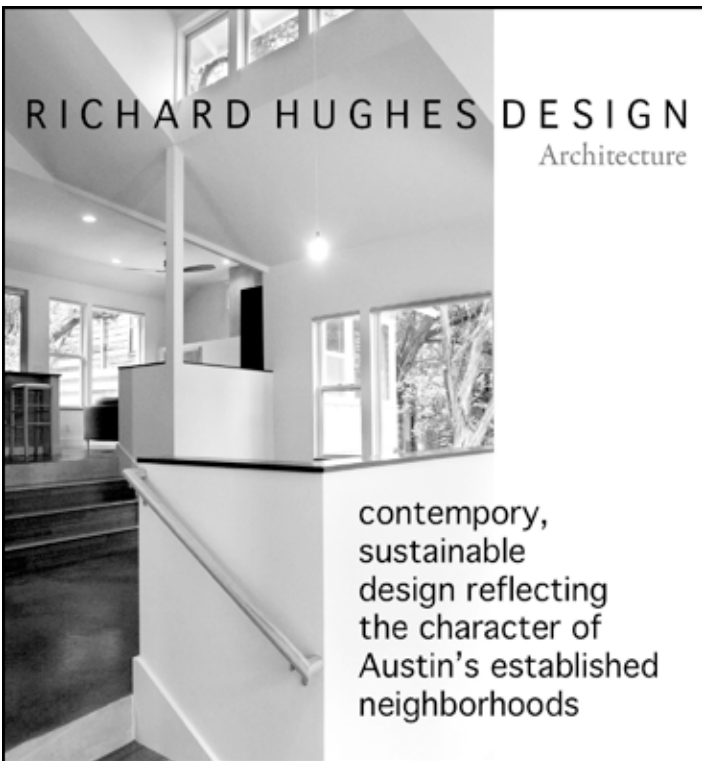
I want to wish you all a very Happy Holiday season and remind you that criminals are looking for opportunities, especially during this time. Please be mindful of keeping your belongings out of sight in your cars and keep your doors and windows locked.

There have been several reports of bicycles stolen lately out of yards, garages and even from a balcony. No place appears to be out of reach of someone who is determined to steal. Remember to report all crime, no matter how insignificant it might seem. Call 311 if the crime has already happened and 911 if the crime is in progress. Tire slashings and punctures have also been occurring again lately. If any neighbors are night owls or early birds, please keep a watch out for someone who might be doing this. It's been going on for many years and seems to come in waves throughout the neighborhood. Officer Kelly LaHood reports that a new police policy involving sirens has now started. In the past, sirens were turned on only in emergency situations, but are now being used anytime the police are going to an incident. So, please be alert.

In October, neighbors gathered at Shipe Park to celebrate National Night Out. We enjoyed pizza and sandwiches and heard a presentation from Cothron's Security. If you missed that event and are interested in knowing more about safety door locks or child security measures, please contact Chris Smith at 472-7844.

Neighborhood Watch programs are only successful if we all do our part. Get to know your neighbors and follow your instinct if something appears suspicious. On another note, I do believe that our new recycling bins will help hide containers which may send a signal of a new purchase. Break down your boxes and put them in the bin and not on the curb, especially those gift boxes from Christmas. Unfortunately, the new containers are not keeping people from going through them. As I was walking home from the gym today I saw a man going through a recycle bin pulling out the cans. I told him that it was illegal for him to be doing that. He just looked at me and went on down the alley. If the recycling program is not profitable for the city, they may discontinue it someday. Please wait until your pickup day to put your garbage and recycling containers on the curb or in the alley. We do not want to encourage people going through our trash by giving them the opportunity to do so. Stay safe.

— Carol Welder, Chair, HPNA Crime & Safety Committee, <cjwelder@msn.com> 459-6205



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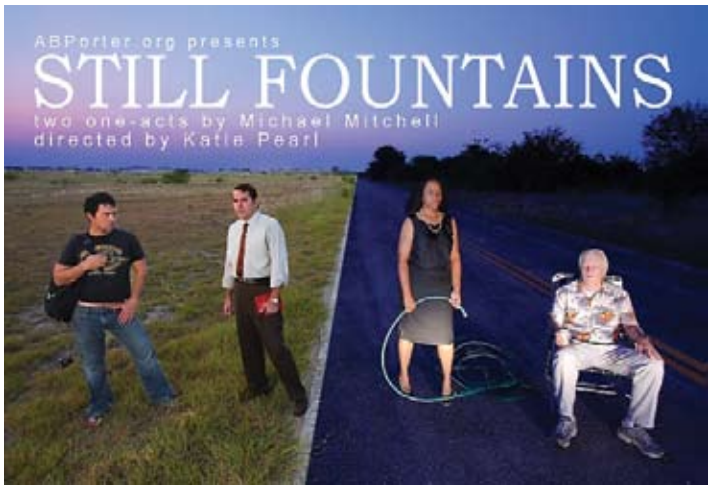
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Hyde Park Playwright Debuts New Work

Michael Mitchell, an Austin playwright who lives in Hyde Park, has a new play running through December 14 at Salvage Vanguard Theatre at 2803 Manor Road. *Still Fountains* is a diptych of two one-acts, *Highway Home* and *Them*. It is directed by Obie Award winner, Katie Pearl. The cast includes Douglas Taylor, a long time resident of Hyde Park, Jude Hickey, who has been featured in numerous plays at Hyde Park Theatre, Gina Houston, and Garry Peters.

Michael Mitchell has lived on Avenue G for a little more than 2 years as he finished courses in UT's playwriting program. He continues to live in Hyde Park and write. This is his first full production of his work. *Still Fountains* is two short plays about people trapped in the circular logic of that place between family and self. What happens when desire, love, homophobia, religion, racism and politics intertwine with a deep longing for home?

All ticket sales benefit The Lance Armstrong Foundation and Austin's Fusebox Festival. Tickets are available at frontgatetickets.com or 888.512.SHOW. (A note to parents: It includes mature subject matter and language.)

– Michael Mitchell
 <mmitchell6@austin.rr.com>

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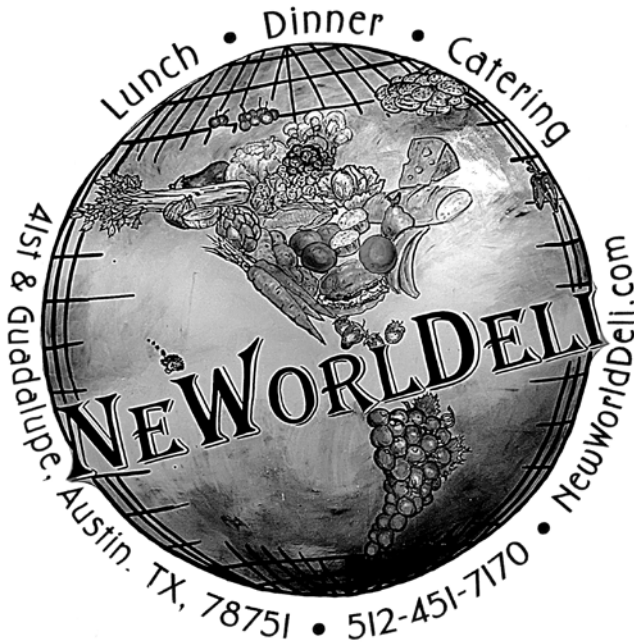
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December Update: Local Historic District Corner

(Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local historic districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: lweidlich@mail2sevensseas.com or 300-2228.)

As the end of the year approaches, the Steering Committee and the Local Historic District team are gearing up for the major effort that awaits us during 2009. From this point forward, the neighborhood won't be working alone. The City of Austin ordinance that provides for local historic districts specifies that the determination of which structures are contributing and which are not must be made by a "person who meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional standards for expertise in history or architectural history as described in Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, Chapter I, Part 61 (Procedures for State, Tribal, and Local Government Historic Preservation Programs)." In other words, we need to hire a historic preservation professional.

Three companies — Preservation Central, Inc.; Prewitt & Associates, Inc.; and HHM, Inc. (the company that did the professional work for our National Register District) — have submitted proposals. Making a choice is not going to be an easy task; each of the three possible consultants is highly qualified. So far, I have reviewed each proposal, exchanged follow up phone calls or emails with each of the professionals, and discussed the possibilities with HPNA President David Conner and the Development Review Committee. The final decision will be made by the Steering Committee, but it's doubtful that will happen before you read this column.

LHD Block Captains needed. . .

While our historic preservation professional, when finally chosen, surveys the neighborhood and inventories houses, an equally important task remains for the Local Historic District team — education. We are looking for block captains to talk to neighbors and hold block meetings. You'll be trained and provided with all the tools you need to answer questions and present information. If you're willing to help with our education effort, please get in touch with me. Become part of Hyde Park's most important movement since the saving of our fire station.

— Lorre Weidlich, Chair, LHD Committee,
 300-2228, <lweidlich@mail2sevensseas.com>

Holiday Palindrome

Oh, Oh, Oh : Ho, Ho, Ho!



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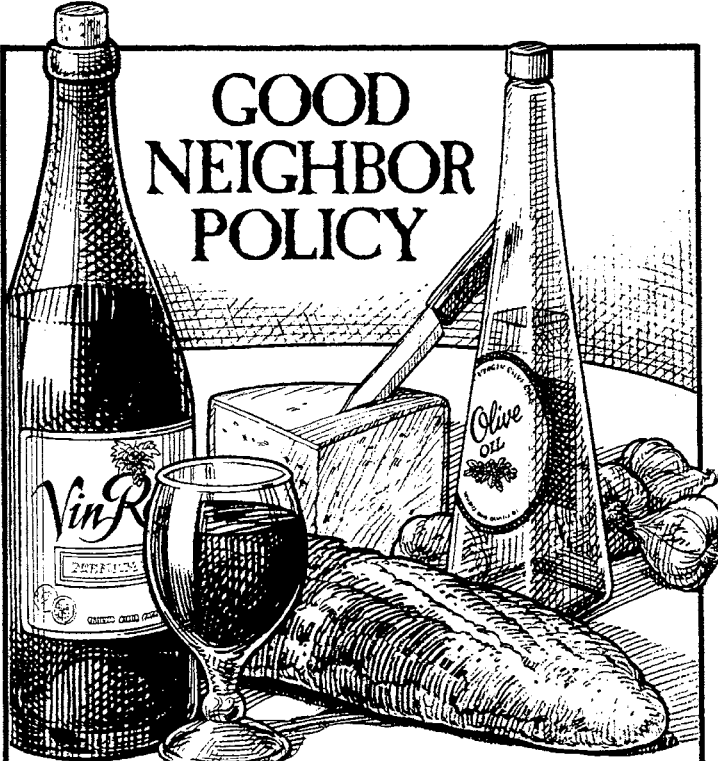
Youth Groups
 1-12 Grades, meet on Sunday evenings.
 We will meet from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Hyde Park Poets —

Walk

Struggling through snow
my feet, each step a conquest
over weight, a crossing, step
on step amounting to a feat
of grace, amazing me and
taking place in quietude,
a waking over dormancy,
a thriving over blows of cold.

— *Genève Gil*



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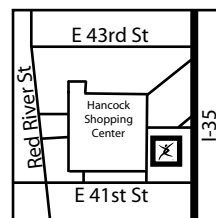
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Hyde Park Poets — 

The Parade

Editor's Note: This poem is not by a Hyde Parker, but it was brought to our attention by a Hyde Parker (Jack Nokes), and it could certainly be considered relevant to Hyde Parkers -- including, and especially, all those who were "streaming along" in our recent Fire Station Festival parade...

How exhilarating it was to march along the great boulevards
in the sunflash of trumpets and under all the waving flags:
the flag of ambition, the flag of love.

So many of us streaming along, all of humanity, really,
moving in perfect step,
yet each lost in the room of a private dream.

How stimulating the scenery of the world,
the rows of roadside trees, the huge curtain of the sky.
How endless it seemed until we veered off the broad turnpike
into a pasture of high grass,
headed toward the dizzying cliffs of mortality.

Generation after generation, we keep shouldering forward
until we step off the lip into space.

And I should not have to remind you that little time is given here to
rest on a wayside bench, to stop and bend to the wildflowers, or to
study a bird on a branch:

not when the young are always shoving from behind,
not when the old keep tugging us forward,
pulling on our arms with all their feeble strength.

— Billy Collins

(Mr. Collins is a former Poet Laureate of the United States.)




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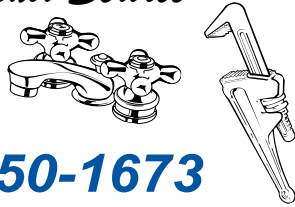
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American Cockroaches a.k.a. Waterbugs

American cockroaches, also called waterbugs or palmetto bugs, are about 1 ½" long, reddish-brown with tan markings on the pronotum (the shield that covers the head). Nymphs look similar to the adults, but do not have fully developed wings. Like all cockroaches, females lay their eggs in a purse-like sac called an ootheca.



American cockroaches are not a common pest that breeds indoors in Texas. Typically these cockroaches move in from outdoors in search of food and water or to escape cold temperatures. They can enter structures around pipe penetrations, vents in the attic, through weepholes or cracks around doors and windows.

Exclusion is great method to keep the cockroaches outside. Check weather stripping around doors and windows to make sure there is a good seal. Use caulk to seal around pipe penetrations or any cracks and crevices that may lead into the home. If your home has a brick or stone façade, use steel wool or copper mesh to block the weep holes (steel wool should not be used on light color façade since it rusts when it gets wet).

Commonly used formulations for cockroach management include baits, sprays and dusts. Residual sprays and dusts should not be used in the same location as baits to avoid contamination of the baits. Sprays and dusts should be targeted to crack and crevice areas or wall voids. When using baits, old bait should be scraped away before new bait is placed out. Target baits to areas where cockroaches will be able to locate it easily.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Also check out <www.urban_ipm.blogspot.com>



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NeWorlDeli Cops Kudos



Congratulations to NeWorlDeli proprietors Greg and Sarah Bontempo, whose institution was the subject of a highly complimentary feature article in the November '08 issue of the *Community Impact* newsletter.

The article notes that New Jerseyite Greg decided to open the restaurant in honor of his late dad, "the quintessential deli man." Consistent with that family theme, the article continues, "Greg and Sarah opened NeWorlDeli because they wanted to be close to their children."...

"It was really important to us to have a business that would allow us to be the ones raising our children," Sarah said. "Being a family business, all three of our kids play a role. The oldest will be at the counter taking orders, the youngster will be using it as a playground. I think that meeting people from all cultures is wonderful for their cultural upbringing."

Other interesting facts disclosed in the article: that the name was inspired by Huxley's *Brave New World* - one of Greg's favorites; that notwithstanding its relative proximity to a certain Baptist institution, NWD now has a full bar; that Greg and Sarah are both UT grads; and that his nickname is the "Deli Lama," and hers (natch!) is the "Deli Mama." Oh, and it also serves great food!

Congrats to the Bontempo clan!!



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And Still the Dream

Traveling When Young

All the lighted
windows at dusk,
all the lives passed,
figures moving
behind windows
silhouetted by light.
A mystery:
how could all these
people be
and I not know them?

I still don't know
how people can do
the things they do.
I still don't know
how I could do
the things I did.
Somewhere still
there's a child in me
who stands looking
down at
something broken
beyond repair.

I sit here
in the void
she left me
contemplating eternity.

Sunlight on
a woman's breast.
Morning silence.

How we're
born of woman
and return to her
at the last.
I think of
dying men
on battlefields
calling for
their mothers.

Poem continued on page 20

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- Christmas Eve, 7 p.m.
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Poem continued from page 18

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I know I'd be
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I could just
get to this place
over coffee
in the morning
writing what came.

After I rename everything
I'll invent
a language to
describe it.

Sometimes
all you remember
of love is
the tearing away

The wind
keeps nipping at
the sun's heels
wanting to get
this morning over with.

Only when I'm
writing do I
understand my mother:
that kind of
caring that
wants more for
something to be
than for itself
to continue.

And still the dream,
the dream continues.
And still the dreamer,
the dreamer continuing
dreaming the dream
that contains him.

— Albert Huffstickler
May 20, 1999

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Hyde Park Poets — 

Betrayal
or
The St. Nick Enigma

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that while you're convincing them that Santa is real,
you are also busy persuading them
that all the other beings that they perceive
from deep inside themselves are non-existent.
Then, having persuaded them to relinquish
this inner world that they know is true
and utterly real,
you proceed to demolish
the one thing they have left
which you gave them.
This is why so many children
wake in the night screaming
and this is why when you kiss them
they submit passively,
their eyes signaling all the while,
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on demand,
thirty pieces of silver."

— *Albert Huffstickler*
December 19, 1984





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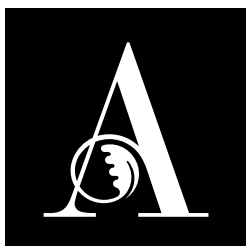


4113 Avenue F

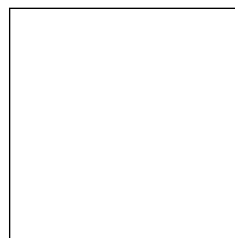
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