December Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 6, 2010

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 December 6th

- Guadalupe St. plans and visionAlan Marburger
- Update on tire slasher case & crime in our area - Heather Freeman
- Update on Local Historic District
 Lorre Weidlich
- More on the proposed pocket park/ green at 38th & Duval - Lisa Harris.

Letters Dept.—

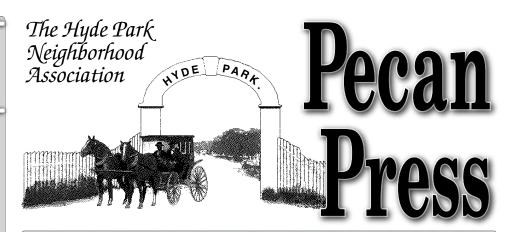
Excitement about the Ney Museum Restoration Project

Dear Editor,

The Elisabet Ney Museum is open to all who enter with an open mind. It welcomes those with a curiosity about artists and the inspiration for their work, the creative process as influenced by nature, and the life of the provocative, independent and unconventional sculptress Elisabet Ney.

Between1 1892 and 1906, Elisabet Ney purchased close to six acres of land in Hyde Park for the land's rural quality and remote location "away from the noise and congestion of city life" (Cutrer, Art of the Woman, 127). On this land, that Ney purposely kept in its natural state, Ney created the classically styled studio building that you see today, servant's quarters and a barn for her horse. She added a cedar-lined carriage drive, a terrace and lake from Waller Creek, and fenced 2.5acres of the property with a post and wire fence, presumably for her beloved horse. Ney's life and work and her philosophy of living close to nature were based on a respect for the "unspoiled beauties of nature" (Taylor, Elisabet Ney: Sculptor, 57) which were given full expression in Ney's design and use of Formosa, as the Ney studio and grounds are called, here in Hyde Park.

Continued on page 5



December, 2010 · National Register District Neighborhood · Vol. 36, No. 12

December 11th: 2010 Hyde Park Holiday Party!

Linda and Nick van Bavel are opening their lovely home at 213 W. 41st Street for our Holiday Party this year! This is a special gift to our neighborhood and we are all grateful for their generosity. The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) invites you to celebrate the holidays together on Saturday, December 11th, at 6:00 p.m. Children are welcome until 7:30 p.m.

We are also welcoming a new caterer this year, Hyde Park's own Chef Andrew Brooks with the Spirited Food Company. The HPNA will provide hors doeuvres and drinks. If you would like to share your bounty from the fall crops, please bring a dish to share or a liquid refreshment. I. Jay Aarons will be tending the bar (thank you, I. Jay). There will be tags at the tables to label your dish. Be sure to include your name on the identifying labels. So often another neighbor is delighted by the dish and wants to compliment the giver. And if you haven't yet joined your neighborhood association, bring \$5 and as you pick up your name tag at the front door, let them know you want to join.

You may have noticed some

new faces at the Fire Station Festival this year. Residents of the Helping Hand Home joined us for the parade and festival and had a great time! Last year's gifts from the neighborhood allowed the home to expand programs for the children significantly. This year at the neighborhood holiday celebration, please join in with your neighbors again to contribute a gift or a cash donation to help the home continue to do its important work which was highlighted in the October 2010 issue of the Pecan Press. Linda Pennington obtained their wish list for us, printed below. Please gift-wrap your donated item and write on the outside of the package what is hidden inside to help the staff at the Home sort the gifts.

Continued on page 22

Fire Station Festival in Retrospect (see article, page 20)

From the President's Desk:

HPNA Committees: Where the Work Gets Done

Volunteers are essential to Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, as active committees have a significant effect on our focus and accomplishments as an association. Our bylaws set up seven standing committees: Development Review, Finance, Historic Preservation, Homes Tour, Membership, Nominations and Zoning.

We also have many ad hoc committees, currently including the following: Crime/Safety, Social, Shipe Park, Website, Pecan Press Distribution, and Local Historic District committees. In the past there have been other active ad hoc committees in a number of areas, including beautification, children's programs, graffiti and sidewalks.

by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas. Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15th of month preceding publication.

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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, Mark Burkhardt, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Nicole Caspers, Kitty Clark, Betsy Clubine, Elsy Cogswell, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Rob D'Amico, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Don Davis, Pam Dozler, Cathy Echols, Mark Fishman, Fred Florence, Merle Franke, Gregory Free, Nadia Freeman, Larry Freilich, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Barbara Gibson, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Lisa Harris, Anne Hebert, Rachel Hector, Ben Heimsath, Kevin Heyburn, Albert Huffstickler, Cynthia Janis, Liz Jones, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Bo Kersey, Susan Kirk, Dennis Lensing, Jeff Lewis, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Jason Mann, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Brook Meggs, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Patty Mora, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wren Nokes Willeford, Doron Pedahzur, Wanda Penn, Cecil Pennington, Linda Pennington, Peter Pfeiffer, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Kristen De La Rosa, Steve Sadowsky, Mark Sainsbury, Jessica Salinas, Mary Lou Serafine, Jaime Shimkus, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Clay Smith, Niyianta Spelman, Jenna Stephens, Julie Strong, Kathleen Strong, Debbie Trammell, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Emily Visher, Lorre Weidlich, Adam Wilson, Hanna Wiseman Jacobs, Joe Wiseman, Hermelinda Zamarripa.

The Membership Committee is an important standing committee. Eileen and Jim Genevro have ably co-chaired it for the past couple of years, but they have indicated that they would like to step down from that role and have someone new take over sometime soon. The membership committee is responsible for recruiting and enrolling new members of HPNA, maintaining the official membership records of HPNA, and certifying membership status for the purpose of determining eligibility to vote. In order to make this last duty simpler, the current bylaws standardized the membership year for everyone; the membership year begins in October 1st for everyone, and everyone's dues (currently \$5 a vear) are due in October. Prior to that standardization, the membership committee had to keep track of all the different dates when individual memberships were paid through, which obviously meant a much larger workload for the volunteers on that committee. In any event, if you are interested in chairing or co-chairing the membership committee or in serving on it, please let me know.

Some of the currently active ad hoc committees could use additional volunteers. Mark Fishman has agreed to continue to chair the Shipe Park Committee. That committee has had annual



pool-opening celebrations, has been organizing better and better "It's My Park! Day" celebrations every year, and has raised money for park improvements such as the sprinkler system that was installed not long ago. It has done all these things even though it is a pretty small committee, and with additional volunteers it could do even more. If you are interested in serving on the Shipe Park committee please let Mark or me know.

Continued on following page

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association P. O Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

http://www.austinhydepark.org — HPNA Officers/Steering Committee —

Lisa Harris • Ljharrisus@yahoo.com

Co-Vice Presidents

Cynthia Majors Lyon • majorslyon@homesinaustin.net

• John Williams • jawilli@grandecom.net

Paula Rhodes psrhodes@austin.rr.com

Co-Secretaries • Sam Waring • Rich MacKinnon

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Carol Jackson • caroljackson@austin.rr.com

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Additional Steering Committee Members: • Wanda Penn • Mark

Fishman • Stan Kozinsky • Dorothy Richter • Eric Stumberg • John Moore • David Conner

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs) AISD • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H.....

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, cjwelder@msn.com.....

· Heather Freeman, hdozierfreeman@yahoo.com

Development Review Catherine Moore, chmoore@austin.rr.com569-1047

Finance • Nick Van Bavel, nvb123@yahoo.com Graffiti PatrolVOLUNTEER NEEDED Homes Tour • Barbara Gibson, bg@ghrdlaw.com.....

Membership • Jim & Eileen Genevro, jgenevro@earthlink.net...401-3803 Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C459-2261 Local Historic District • Lorre Weidlich, lweidlich@mail2sevenseas.com Shipe Park • Mark Fishman, mlfishman@gmail.com656-5505

Sidewalks • Michelle Lee, michelle_lee7@hotmail.com....... Social • Deaton Bednar, deatonbednar@grandecom.net

Tree Preservation • JP Moore, johnpaulmoore@austin.rr.com ... 789-7025 Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C206-0729 Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G......452-5117



Carol Welder and Heather Freeman have agreed to co-chair the Crime and Safety Committee this year. There are many blocks in the neighborhood that have one or two block captains, but there are other blocks that are not yet covered. Clearly, if our neighborhood watch program has more block captains, that would improve our ability to catch and/ or deter the tire slasher and other criminals. If you are interested in being a block captain or co-captain, please let me, Carol or Heather know.

Robin Silberling has agreed to continue to serve as our **Website** chair. She has set up our website so that we could have neighbors blog on subjects of general interest- she would love to set up some more neighbors as regular contributors so they could post blogs on the website. Please let her or me know if you would like to blog on the website.

The **distribution** of the *Pecan Press* is uneven across our neighborhood because we have volunteers to do it on some blocks

and not others. If you would be willing to deliver the *Pecan Press* on your block, please let me or Rimas Rimeza, our distribution coordinator, know. If you have been delivering the *Pecan Press* on your block for some years but would like someone else to take over for you, please let us know that too.

If you would be interested in chairing or serving on a revived committee for beautification, children's activities, graffiti or sidewalks, or if you have an idea for a new committee that you would like to start, please let me know.

Finally, there are a couple of non-committee positions that currently are open or could be open. Ann Graham has been our liaison to AISD for some time. Since her high school senior will graduate soon and then she will no longer have a child going to AISD, she thinks it would be good for someone whose children are younger to take over. We could also have an education/AISD committee rather than an AISD

liaison if neighbors would like to form a committee. I served as Austin Neighborhoods Council representative but am currently on the ANC executive committee, so it would be best if someone else served as HPNA's ANC representative.

Thanks to all our current and former committee chairs and members for everything they've done for the neighborhood, and thanks in advance to the new committee chairs and committee members for their help in keeping Hyde Park a great neighborhood!

Lisa HarrisHPNA PresidentLjharrisus@yahoo.com>



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2010-11 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
Name Phone		All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
☐ I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events. Email	Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:	Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or
Dues (per person) ☐ Standard - \$5/year ☐ Senior Citizen- \$1/year	HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427	within 300 feet of the designated boundaries.
☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member	Austin, Texas 78765	New members, and members who lapse in dues for over six months, are eligible to
Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Cash Date All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.	Make checks payable to HPNA.	vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.

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Austin, TX 78751
<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>

*Send your poems to:

Charlotte Herzele <herzele@gmail.com>

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



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Letters Dept.



Baby Squirrel Makes a Day

Dear Editor,

I'm not sure what kind of stories you are generally looking for, but today was a "day-maker" for me. I recently moved to the neighborhood and have loved getting your newsletters and thought that our tale today might be fun.



While enjoying my peacful morning coffee and watching the many people that travel through our neighborhood I was abruptly interrupted by a group of dogs barking and fighting over something in the bushes. I was alarmed when I heard squealing and crying of a certain furry critter. I ran to the scene and beat the dogs back to find a tiny baby squirrel hidden in the depths of the bushes. The dogs were threatening its life with certain peril, so I snatched it up and carried it inside. I wrapped it in a wash cloth and examined its precious body to find it was unharmed. I put some drops of milk on my fingertip and let them drip into its mouth while looking through Google to find out what to do with the little guy. I found a wildlife reserve on East MLK and decided to call. They told me to bring it to them right away. Its little eyes have not even opened and it's already escaped death; what a day! It was wrapped up like a little pita pocket, so my roommate and I named him Pita and took him to his new home at the reserve. What little differences we make each day really lift our spirits. It reminds me that one small act of kindness can bring so many others joy. Everyone's spirits have been so high today knowing that little Pita will live a full life of nuts, scrambling, and teasing dogs from high up in the trees where he is sure to stay safe.

Have a great weekend, I hope this brightens your day as well.

Summer Mitchell
 Aveda Insitute of Austin

HYDE PARK

Letters Dept. contd-en

Ney and her husband Edmund Montgomery originally emigrated to America in 1871 in search of a new life, ultimately settling, by way of Thomasville, Georgia, at the historic Liendo Ranch in Hempstead, Texas. During Ney's 20 years running the 1100-acre ranch, she suffered the death of one son and the estrangement of the other. It was only after leaving behind her grief at Liendo that Ney resumed her career in the natural setting of Formosa that inspired and sustained her during the remaining years of her life. It was during Ney's years at Formosa that she created the life-size portraits of state heroes Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin, which grace the Rotunda of the Texas State Capitol and the U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall and where she also finished her masterpiece, Lady Macbeth, that stands in the Smithsonian Museum of American Art.

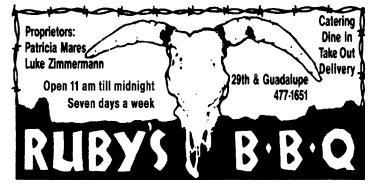
Beyond an appreciation of Ney's life and work, I am writing in response to the November 2010 <u>Pecan Press</u> Letter to the Editor written by John Paul Moore, a neighbor and friend. Though Mr. Moore referenced "a number of neighbors" and "many of us" who disagreed with aspects of the landscape restoration component of the Elisabet Ney Museum Comprehensive Restoration Master Plan, I want to clarify that this negative viewpoint does not represent all neighbors. In fact, there are many residents in Hyde Park, myself among them, who are excited by the prospect of the return of Elisabet Ney's Formosa. Similarly, it's important to note that "[a]number of neighbors with formidable preservation expertise and experience" are also included in the list of individuals who support the Ney Comprehensive Restoration Master Plan.

While there are numerous ways to celebrate and acknowledge the 1930s changes to Elisabet Ney's studio landscape and those who made them, as advocated by neighbors opposed to the Ney landscape restoration, preserving features of a contemporary landscape design introduced onto the property in the 1930s at the expense of the historical authenticity of Ney's former studio is to disrespect Elisabet Ney. To supersede the current restoration of Ney's native Texas landscape with the retention of elements of the 1930s ornamental garden redesign of the Ney, that was antithetical to Ney's natural landscape in both style and substance, undermines both the quality and intent of the restoration which is to restore the historical integrity of the Elisabet Ney Museum as the former studio of Elisabet Ney.

Regarding Mr. Moore's comments about the "heedless implementation of this plan," I note the following:

- The removal of "52 other trees on the southern half of the Ney grounds" was crucial to the partial restoration of the landscape completed earlier this year. By far the largest percentage of the trees removed were ligustrums that are on the Austin Parks and Recreation's (PARD) list of invasive species the City aims to eradicate. No heritage trees were removed and the City obtained all requisite tree removal permits. (Also, 20 trees were planted) As a result, the Museum's landscape now has an open character with the wonderful facade of Formosa visible from the street consistent with Ney's photographs of her studio.
- The reference to the "very real historic significance" of the so-called "Ramsey Crepe Myrtles" suggests that these trees are of greater importance than Ney's retention of the landscape in its natural state.

Continued on page 6



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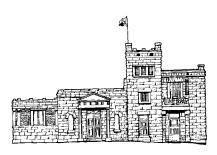


Letters Dept. contd

Frank T. Ramsey's nurseryman's heritage is a rich one to honor and celebrate, but why not make efforts to preserve his home or develop a scavenger hunt in Rosedale and Hyde Park for other trees that came from his nursery? Instead, to insist that the crepe myrtles allegedly planted by Ramsey at the Ney or that came from his nursery have greater significance than the personally designed studio of an internationally renowned artist from the 19th-century, and a woman at that, is difficult to understand. Moreover, the handful of crepe myrtles remaining at the Ney are preventing the restoration of Ney's vegetable garden. This vegetable garden is an interesting key to Ney's quixotic lifestyle - "I've been for many years a vegetarian, and now even to sit at a table where human beings are devouring the flesh of dead animals is for me most nauseating." (Loggins, Two Romantics and Their Ideal Life, 269). Reestablishing the vegetable garden supports PARD's current community gardens initiative that has garnered the interest of sustainable food organizations across the city. The Ney vegetable garden also provides important nature-based educational programming opportunities the museum is interested in offering children and families in collaboration with Hyde Park neighbors and others in the community.

Denigrating the "waist-high-phony native prairie" at the Ney shows an absence of understanding of what conservationists advise is involved in re-establishing a prairie. The landscape restoration at the Ney was planned by highly experienced preservation landscape architects who consulted locally with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on reestablishing the prairie at the Ney. The Native Prairie Association of Texas recently surveyed the prairie, 6 months into its 3- to 5- year establishment period, and found it to be on track. Programming on the prairie has already begun - 310 people from across Austin attended the Ney's Prairie Hunt offered for Austin Museum Day in September. The Museum is partnering with the Native Prairie Association of Texas to offer environmental programming based on the Ney prairie and prairiebased curriculum materials are in development with the Austin Nature and Science Center for the approximately 2000 third graders from across Austin who visit the Ney each year.

Implicit in the criticisms of "the heedless implementation of this plan" is the unfair denigration of the Ney curator, Mary Collins Blackmon, which must not go unchallenged. I, for one, am well aware of the years and years



of public process that went into the Ney's Restoration Master Plan, which belies the characterization of the Plan as having been implemented in a "heedless" manner. Also, during her 21-year tenure at the Ney, Ms. Blackmon has demonstrated the utmost dedication to the museum and to providing the community and. in particular, the Hyde Park neighborhood maximum use of its resources. For Hyde Park neighbors, she has organized campouts for neighborhood children at the Ney, coordinated a photographic exhibit celebrating the centennial of Hyde Park that was shown in the museum for the 1992 Hyde Park Centennial Homes Tour and

Continued on following page

later placed in the Capitol Rotunda, and served on numerous Homes Tour planning committees. Moreover, Ms. Blackmon has helped elevate the Museum's standing that was already nationally known on her arrival in 1989. Under her watch, the Elisabet Ney Museum was selected for the National Trust's Historic Artists' Homes & Studios program as one of only five 19th-century sculptors' studios in the country open to the public. The U.S. Ambassador to Germany sponsored a major retrospective on Ney in Germany in 2008 that was promoted across Europe including coverage (and photos) of the Elisabet Ney Museum in Hyde Park, to which Ms. Blackmon was an invited guest.

Attendance has risen steadily during her tenure. This summer the Ney was the #3 attraction recommended by travelers to Austin on tripadvisors.com. Ms. Blackmon has partnered with curriculum specialists in developing academic materials for the Austin schoolchildren who visit the Museum annually. She has collaborated with dozens of community organizations and area colleges and universities that recognize the significance of the Ney. As part of these continuing efforts, Ms. Blackmon oversaw the development of the aforementioned Elisabet Ney Museum Comprehensive Restoration Plan to restore the historical integrity of the museum as the former studio of Elisabet Ney. The Master Plan was developed in accordance with national and state standards for historic preservation, as well as all City of Austin requirements for public participation and community engagement. Ms. Blackmon has worked tirelessly to bring Formosa to life for all of us and to providing the community use and enjoyment of its resources.

Between October 1st, 2008 and September 30, 2009, over 5,000 people from around the world visited the Elisabet Ney Museum, not counting the thousands of school children who visited from across Austin and the state. Once Elisabet Ney's Formosa is restored, it will provide an even fuller, more enriching understanding of this enlightened woman, so far ahead of her time, the natural world that so sustained and inspired her and others, and her life in early Hyde Park.

The Elisabet Ney Museum is open to the public every Wednesday through Sunday, noon – 5pm at no charge. I encourage you to stop in, read the panels on Ney's life, admire Ney's artworks, speak with curator Blackmon, and learn just how remarkable Elisabet Ney truly was!

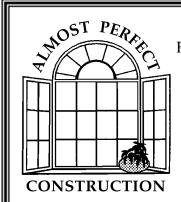
Sincerely,

— Ann S. Graham Avenue H









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Letters Dept.



Letter from the Editor

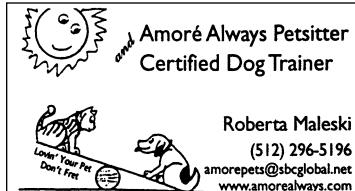
Dear Neighbors,

In the wake of some recently expanded board service responsibilities at a local nonprofit (namely, YouthLaunch) with which I've been involved for some time, I have found it increasingly difficult of late to provide editorship of the Pecan Press with the degree of time and attention that it deserves. Thus I am delighted and grateful to report that long-time associate editor Sarah Sitton has kindly agreed to assume PP editorial responsibilities for the next couple of months. Our heartfelt thanks to Sarah, whom PP contributors can reach at <sarahs@stedwards.edu>, 459-4530.

Many thanks, back soon (I think!),

— Grant Thomas







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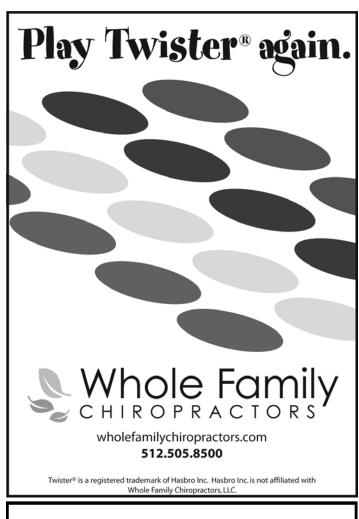
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Minutes: November 2010 HPNA General Meeting

Neighborhood history and re-visiting of past conflicts marked the November meeting.

President Lisa Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Trinity United Methodist Church administrator Amy Duncan welcomed the neighbors to the church's new home at 40th and Speedway (former home of Hyde Park United Methodist Church), and expressed their pleasure at now being in the center of the neighborhood after being on its periphery for so long. She gave an overview of the church and its programs.

Then Niyanta Spelman and Bob Liverman, liaisons between the neighborhood and **Hyde Park Baptist Church**, gave a more extensive version of the presentation from last month, detailing the **church's strategic plan** for the future. The presentation was extensive, but major points included:

- The church is divesting itself of a number of residential properties it has held against possible future expansion, and is making efforts to ensure that the properties are sold to owner-occupiers rather than to absentee landlords. The church's residential properties on Avenue F have almost all been sold at this time, and residences on Avenue D are being offered for sale.
- The church's plan envisions concentrating the campus between 38th and 40th Streets, and between Avenue D and Avenue F.
- At some point the church intends to tear down the Jacksonian Apartments on Speedway, and replace it with an educational building.
- The church still has permitting in place to build a second parking garage as high as fifty-four feet on Avenue D, but their plan envisions building a structure no higher than thirty feet. Ideally, the church would like the city to vacate the alley between 38th and 39th, and the church would then build a second parking garage immediately adjacent to the current garage on Speedway, on the site that is now a surface parking lot.

Karen McGraw noted that the new garage, if built, would still go through a design review process, but would be worked on to reconcile the church's plan, zoning, and the local historic district. Niyanta concluded by saying she believed it would be good if the civic NCCD and neighborhood NCCD could be combined into a single entity, to establish a single set of working rules for the area.

Continued on following page

Local Historic District chair Lorre Weidlich took the floor for a review of changes to the LHD plan requested by the city's preservation officer and law department before the plan went to City Council for approval. The discussion drew a number of complaints from neighbors who felt the plan had been changed in ways that those who initially supported the plan would not support if they had been aware of those changes; those who believed the plan was hostile to installation of alternative energy solutions; those who insisted on inclusion of metal as an acceptable roofing material; and those who were unhappy with the idea of having a historic district at all. The discussion was very confused and at times acrimonious.

Dorothy Richter moved that the neighborhood go back to city preservation officer Steve Sadowsky with a refusal to accept his recommended change disallowing metal roofs. The motion was seconded by Mary Catherine Moore. Discussion followed, and the question was called by Deaton Bednar, seconded by Sam Waring, passing on a show of hands.

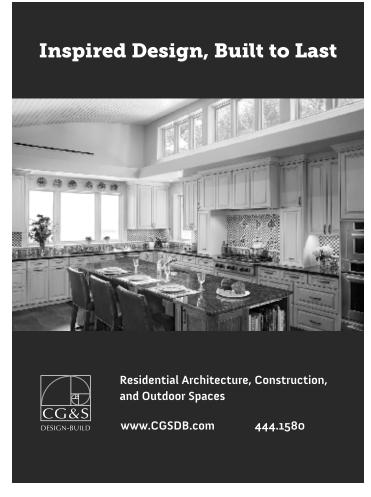
Regarding use of salvaged materials when making changes to existing garages, Kevin Heyburn moved to change the language to use salvaged materials "if possible." Doris Coward seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was offered to cross-reference this change back to the de sign standards section of the plan, which was accepted. The amended motion passed on a show of hands.

John Paul Moore moved to accept the City's changes to the ordinance with the changes previously voted, and David Conner seconded. Further discussion and acrimony ensued; Kevin Heyburn attempted to offer a motion to abandon the current LHD plan altogether and begin all over. The chair rejected this motion as out of order, as it had not been previously posted for a vote. Doris Coward called for the question, and Sam Waring seconded. The motion passed on a show of hands.

The chair announced that the City had extended an invitation to HPNA to apply to develop a **pocket park at 38th and Duval**, and that the Association had filed an intent to apply jointly with Hancock Neighborhood Association. The city wants to designate the area as a "green" rather than a park; doing so would leave responsibility for maintenance with HPNA rather than with the City. Maintenance costs for the green would be divided between HPNA and HNA.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM. Respectfully submitted,

Sam Waring,
 HPNA Co-secretary





Check out soles4souls.org to see how you can get involved!

SEASON'S GREETINGS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

Judith S Girard

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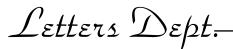


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Griffin School Finds a New Home

Dear Neighbors,

I am very excited to announce that last month, The Griffin School purchased the property formerly owned and occupied by the Trinity United Methodist Church in North Hyde Park. We are eager to accept the stewardship of this space and continue the legacy of community development that TMC has established there! We are thrilled to own our own property and establish our permanence as an educational resource for the community! We are delighted that we can remain in this neighborhood where we have grown up over the past 13 years!

The property, which is at the corner of Evans Ave and East 50th Street (one block east of Duval and one block south of 51st Street), is an ideal new home for The Griffin School. Our plan is to use the church sanctuary as a performing arts space, redesign the existing classroom spaces (used most recently by AHB Community School), and re-purpose the "pastor's cottage" into art studio classrooms. This work will take place over the winter and spring to enable us to move-in at the end of the current school year in June 2011.

Owning and developing this new space is a huge step forward for our school community, and I am excited for what this will allow us to do in continuing to build our school program as a center for education, fine arts, and community in Austin!

Developing our school from its humble beginnings 15 years ago to this triumphant moment has been a massive effort. But regardless of all the work done over that time, it is clear to me that we are only able to make this transition because of the enthusiastic and active support of our neighbors. I am deeply grateful to all of you who stood up in support of our school's plans to operate in this new space and to the leaders in the neighborhood who guided and encouraged us in this lengthy and multifaceted process over the past year. Thank you!

In this transition, we see many possibilities for new relationships and new partnerships with our neighbors and the other organizations in this area. In particular, I am excited for the chance to work with the businesses on Duval and 51st Street, Ridgetop Elementary, and our neighbors in North Hyde Park to energize and strengthen this community. We see The Griffin School as a valuable resource for the neighborhood, and I invite all of you to engage with us so we can help meet the needs of our community best.

I am deeply honored to be in partnership with you in this community, and I look forward to the work ahead!

Warmest Regards,

Adam Wilson
 Co-Founder and School
 Director
 Griffin School
 <www.griffinschool.org>
 <adam@griffinschool.org>

The Local Historic District Corner

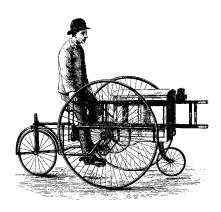
Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local historic districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: lweidlich@mail2sevenseas.com or 300-2228.

City Council First Reading: Yes!

On November 18, City Council voted yes on the first reading of our Local Historic District, in the face of strong opposition. We will reappear at City Council on December 16 for second and third reading.

The primary argument of those opposed to the LHD is the change between the original version of the Preservation Plan and the final version, after city staff made changes in it. Because of that, the city will be sponsoring a meeting on December 9, 6 to 8 pm, to work out differences. Jerry Rusthoven, of the Zoning and Planning Department, will conduct the meeting. The meeting will be held at One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road, in the third floor meeting room. Every property owner in the proposed district is invited.

Lorre Weidlich
 Chair, Hyde Park Local Historic
 District



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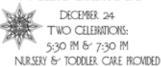
www.nobelity.org

Trinity United Methodist Church is joining The Nobelity Project in supporting the 1000 Books Project. We are asking people to donate ONE book that has had great meaning in your life. Inside the cover, write your name, hometown, and a short note about why you love the book, or what it has meant to you. This note will be an introduction to the book and will provide a lasting connection to you.

Please bring your book to one of Trinity's Christmas Eve services and we will deliver the books to Turk and Christy Pipkin of the Nobelity Project. If you can, please include a small donation to help the Nobelity Project with shipping overseas. If you are unable to attend a service, please feel free to drop off your book at Trinity's office during the week of December 20 - 24 between 9:30 am and 5 pm.

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The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (HPCTNP) is charged with addressing implementation and changes to the City-adopted Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan (posted on HPNA and City websites). This group is open to all Hyde Park residents, property owners and business owners.

Meetings are the 4th Monday quarterly. Next meeting January 24, 2011 at Trinity United Methodist Church at 4001 Speedway at 7 PM. Karen McGraw, Chairman, <mcgrawka@earthlink.net>, Ashley Schweickart, Secretary, <AMSchweickart@gmail.com>

There has been much discussion regarding the relationship of neighborhood plans and the comprehensive plan. Since neighborhood residents, business owners and property owners invested a great deal of time and work developing neighborhood plans in the neighborhoods, like Hyde Park, which have an adopted neighborhood plan, questions have been raised regarding how the neighborhood plans and the comprehensive plan will be reconciled if they conflict. The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team recently passed a resolution regarding what the relationship of the two kinds of plans should be.

Hyde Park Contact Team Resolution Re: Imagine Austin Nov. 15, 2010

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan was adopted by the City 10 years ago on April 13, 2000. The plan represents the culmination of 15 years of planning work by neighbors and two years of work by City staff. It embodies the ideas, insights and thousands of hours of work by the residents of Hyde Park. The plan was adopted by ordinance as a modification of the Austin Tomorrow Plan. Its description of the neighborhood and its outline of action items has guided neighborhood efforts to craft two conservation districts and to prepare three local historic districts. It has also guided public improvements and maintenance of public features when monitored by neighbors. It will take many years to fulfill the goals and objectives of this (or any other) adopted Neighborhood Plan and thus should be seen as nothing short of a long-term plan.

Continued on following page

Austin's adopted Neighborhood Plans should guide development of the Comprehensive Plan. The goals and action items of these plans represent valuable community work and insight and provide an informed base of work for the Comprehensive Plan. Today the goals and action items of these plans are not as effective as they could be owing to the difficulty in creating historic districts, conservation districts and clear direction to public works staff. Many neighborhood residents become angered when housing is removed, historic buildings are demolished, new zoning is approved that conflicts with desired land uses, or when City maintenance and capital improvements are carried out in ways that conflict with vision of those residents. The City should strive to better align its actions with the wishes of the majority of residents.

The Comprehensive Plan should strengthen and enhance the Neighborhood Planning Program. The Neighborhood Planning Program must be empowered via the Comprehensive Plan to identify and craft historic and conservation districts as well as to continue to offer infill options, CIP recommendations and maintenance standards for Austin's neighborhoods. When a new plan is initiated or an existing plan is under review, an assessment should be undertaken to identify areas eligible for preservation, conservation and appropriate redevelopment and mixed use. For an example of a good step forward, see http://www.imagineaustin.net/susceptible-to-change.htm The City should seek and provide additional resources to implement these needs in a timely way.

The Comprehensive Plan must be reconciled with the adopted Neighborhood Plans. In the event that "over-arching" recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan result in conflicts with Neighborhood Plans, the City's planners will bring those to neighborhood plan contact teams for reconciliation. These plans were to be reviewed within 2-5 years and that has not happened. The current Comprehensive Plan update is an opportunity to do these reviews and to introduce any suggested changes. In the event that staff/consultant recommendations conflict with those in an adopted Neighborhood Plan, efforts will be made to reconcile the Comprehensive Plan and Neighborhood Plan in consultation with the Contact Team and/or Neighborhood Association. However, if resolution is not achieved, then both perspectives will be presented to approving authorities.

Lisa Harris
 HPNA President
 Ljharrisus@yahoo.com>



VOTED "BEST TAKE OUT" BY THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE

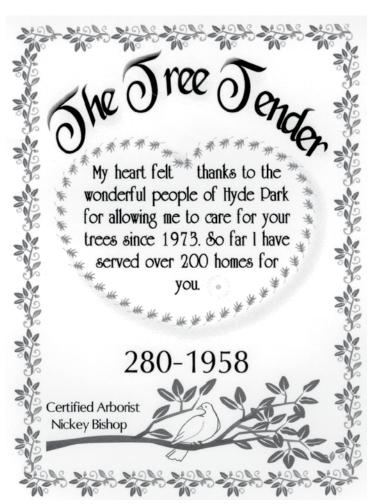
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Letters Dept.——

The Montessori Center: A Hyde Park Institution

Hello neighbors!

We've been in the neighborhood for quite a while now, so I wanted to say hello to everyone. We are The Montessori Center at 4108 Avenue H, a preschool for children ages 2–6. My mother Marquita Dubach is the owner, and I'm the director.

Our building has been historically used as a childcare facility since before 1975 — we don't know how much longer before that time! TMC has been here since 1983, and from 1975 to 1983 the building belonged to another Montessori school in town, Austin Montessori School. I've met folks strolling by who either went to our building when it belonged to AMS, or their children did — including our own Pecan Press' editor Grant Thomas! Before that, it was a childcare center, but any other information is unknown to me.

Some history on the building: Apparently its original owner was Ike D. White, who served as mayor of Austin in 1902, and was later a judge. I was told once that the man who built our house also built the one next door, and that this one was given to his niece — but I don't know whether that's true.

In our time here, we've seen a shift in the demographics of Hyde Park, and have also seen property values rise and fall, and rise again. When we began, this was not really a family neighborhood, and most children who attended lived elsewhere but had parents working either at UT or downtown. Now more than half our children walk to school from their Hyde Park homes. Our first students are starting to get married, and we have children of former staff attending now as well. Our staff's "personal children" spent their preschool years at TMC, my two sons among them.

My brother-in-law married a woman who was completing her Montessori internship with me, having met her at a school potluck! She went on to teach at the elementary level at another Montessori in town, and had my second son as her student.

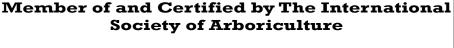
Zoning-wise, our property is able to be the commercial zone that it is due to "grandfathering." But I would like to see educational/childcare entities zoned differently from other commercial enterprises, because as a city, we should be thinking about where we want children to be. I credit our quiet street for a good share of the quality of peace and problem-solving our wonderful staff are able to foster among the children. We can hear their emotions changing, because the noise of the playground isn't drowned by the sound of traffic. It's also healthier for children to play outside in an area filled with trees instead of car fumes.

I believe our school is an asset to Hyde Park, and I know Hyde Park is an important part of why TMC has thrived. Thank you for this beautiful neighborhood!

Jessica Salinas
 Director, The Montessori Center
 <themontessoricenter@gmail.com>

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Hyde Park Poets-

Walking Music

Plugged in, the rhythm carrying me along, challenging my feet to keep the beat to follow, as if in formal class, the steps, just move, keep moving, that walking music, clouds singing, sighing their cheeks pink from night passions, and now the crows, over any other voice, calling, and leaves slithering out of their trees onto the sidewalk, crunching, rolling, and mockingbirds and house sparrows all reminding the world they survived the dark and my feet, plugged in to this morning, carrying me through the waking day, behind me a small plane crawls toward the west, high-octane joy, a crunch on loose gravel, a pfttt, pfttt, the greenest yard getting greener, all plugged in to my heartbeats

Nancy Taylor DayOctober 10, 2010



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Astra Poyser Laughlin, Amy Holton, Christine Terrell, Lisa Linbrugger, Kathryn Babboni, Hillary Blumanthal, Rachel Salome, & Maggie Goen.

December 11th: "Handmade Holiday Sale 2pm-9pm - One day only, Free to Attend! Looking for the perfect gift under \$100? Local Austin Artists & Vendors including Danny Phillips, The Plant Press, Shannon Ture, Fleegal Farms All Natural Soaps, Brian David Johnson, Steven Mattern, Jewelry by Kate Winternitz, Elena Rojo & Amy Friend, Chad Schaefer, Jessica Sherwood-Mathis, Flat Flower Cards, Katie Reeve, Pixxxie Pie & Posie, & Tiffany Nappier will all have their work on display and for sale.

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Looking Back, Feeling Good: 2010 Fire Station Festival

When magic happens, people start to ask "Why?" "What made it magical?" which evolves into "How?" After our latest Fire Station Festival in October, we kept hearing "That was the best Festival ever!" "Can you believe it? 450 people in the parade!" Then came the request that we build on that success and do it again in 2011. So we start ask ourselves, "How?" The answer isn't too complex, however — as long as you know who "We" is.

It takes a village, a community, a neighborhood to create momentum towards an event. Often, the village, community, or neighborhood, rallies behind one person who creates that first spark. Well, we all know that Dorothy Richter created that first spark for us Hyde Parkers. And who carries the torch to keep that spark afire? Let's start with the basic "We."

"We" is the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) and the core volunteer committee members in order of tenure: Joan Yamini, children's activities, 4 years; Carol Jackson, refreshments, 4 years; Jeff Baker, parade, 3 years; Linda van Bavel, co-chair, 3 years; and Lynne Hohlfeld, set-up/break-up, 2 years. Frank Wilde, Lucy Frost, and Sarah Brooks joined us this year. It all starts here and then spreads out into the village, community, and neighborhood with your participation in the Festival.

We are joined by the supporters and sponsors who help us make magic with and for you. I'll speak first about our major contributors and then we'll hear from the committee members. HPNA provides major funding for this event each year. Grande Communications provides funding for the music and for a significant portion of the children's activities. We are fortunate to have HPNA and Grande Communications funding this event each year. And now, a few words from some of our key players....

...Hey Neighbors, Jeff here! — Frank Wilde joined me this year to organize the parade. We both want to call out the street corner volunteers and the paraders - kids, dogs, adults in costume and on motorcycles, bikes, and other wheeled objects led by the Keven Hahn Band and Cub Scout Pack 28. And a regular parader is Carol and Amon Burton's truck; a favorite on Avenue G during Halloween Night insanity as well.

Continued on following page

...Greetings from Lynne and Sarah! — Set up at the Fire Station involves equipment, furniture and heavy lifting. A special thank you to Trinity United Methodist Church and the Montessori Center for the loan of chairs and tables and the wonderful signs designed by Matt Ott.

...Greetings, Linda here! — I have to say a big THANK YOU to Matt Ott, who graciously designed our awesome posters for the event; we have never looked so good! And then he also turned the cool design into a great thank you banner acknowledging Grande's generosity. Thank you, Matt, for your talented eye for design and your kind professionalism.

...Hello, Carol and Lucy here! — The food committee thanks Fresh Plus, Quacks, Wheatsville Coop, Bluebell Creameries Distributor, Hyde Park Bar & Grill, and the Austin Lyric Opera for their generous assistance with the food, snacks, and parade this year. Fresh Plus provides several items at cost, the popular spice cookies came from Quack's, Bluebell gave us ice cream at cost, Wheatsville donated those delicious organic apples and the Cheddar Bunnies, and Hyde Park Bar & Grill provided a helper for the food and another who played the giant fork in the parade. The Austin Lyric Opera loaned the fork costume!

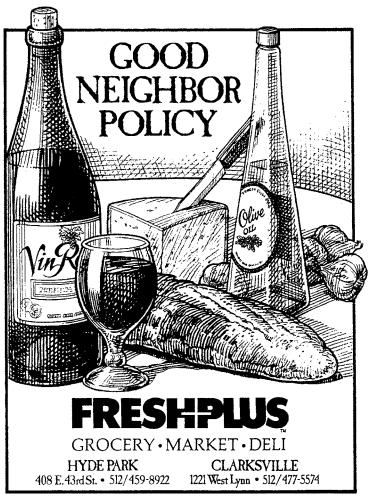
...**Hi, Joan here!** — In addition to Grande Communications, which has enhanced the children's activities so beautifully, Walgreens has become a great partner in the event. They contribute fun stuff, green stuff

and sweat equity. The managers volunteer and make all the activities go better, AND they fully support the Trick or Treat Bag activity that nearly 200 kids enjoy! A number of neighborhood vendors have made the costume judging more fun with their prize contributions: Hyde Park Bar and Grill, Amy's Ice Cream, Wanderland and Petco. Wanderland donated prizes for the fishing booth as well-made of sustainable and/ or recycled products, no less. What a great bunch of folks. And Matt Ott graciously came through with a last minute request for our new t-shirt stamps designs. This year the children's area was the recipient of two special contributions. Two different Hyde Park neighbors generously donated time, materials and talent to upgrading our fishing booth. This is a beloved activity every year by all ages, and draws repeat costumers throughout the festival. Tammy Schaeffer Bracha, our own Hyde Park carpenter (and mother), built a new and better version of the booth itself. She even installed handles for easier transporting. Nancy Mims, Hyde Park designer (and mother), designed and painted brilliant underwater scenes on the new booth. A huge thanks to them both! And a special mention to the young Hyde Park artists of the fish design project: Nadia Freeman, Clara Gibbs, Atticus Gibbs and Lisa Moomaw. We love your fish!

And as always, heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who make it all happen on the spot, handling what-

Continued on page 22







♥ Psychic Open House ♥

December 11, 2010 ♥ noon - 5 pm 4300 Avenue C

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Kate Turner-Mays Animal Communication

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Hyde Park Poets-



Emily and Me

I am a recluse in my own way
Hiding in the comfort, somewhat cold,
Of my own room
In the corner of a place
Where I can see everything
More clearly,
Where I can be everything,
Without the clutter
Of Your care,
Oh, dear...

I know how much you care
You and you and you
Echoes of the words I spoke
To my own mother
I told her she felt lonely,
Like a hermit,
Isolated by her unique adventures;
Be careful what you say;
I have become like her
Like Emily, too,
Isolated,
It is easier to be me
When I am alone.

Charlotte Herzele2/19/07

2010 Fire Station Festival...

...cont'd from page 21

ever chaos, crises or crowds that come their way, and who deserve the biggest thanks of all: prominent among them, Betsy Clubine, Lynda Baker, Kristen Walsh Pfeiffer, Cindy Beall, Paul Smith , Janet Smith, Jenni Berry, Heidi Bojes, Remi Ratliff, Denise Gilman, Sara Brooks, Scott Meyers, Gary Freeman, Nadia Freeman, Doron Pedahzur, Gabriella Walker, Clara Gibbs, Emily Baker, Rachel Horowitz, Lena Horowitz, and other volunteer kids who helped but I don't know about. THANK YOU!

Your Fire Station Festival Committee is already thinking about 2011 as the year of the Best Fire Station Festival ever. Be sure to join us on the day and let me know if you want to help us prepare for the event. See you next year!

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

Dec 11: 2010 Holiday Party...

...cont'd from page 1

Now, to the list:

CHEAP MP3 PLAYERS – All the kids have been wanting one and they are incredibly helpful in allowing them to refocus by putting on headphones and relaxing. The best ones are just the cheapest kind, with radios in them, nothing fancy!

STEREO CD PLAYERS – Again, just the cheapest, simplest ones. The kids like to use these in their rooms or take them outside to use.

For the children's home to share:

•Wii system •Games for Playstation and Wii
•Wii Fit •digital cameras •Any kid-appropriate CDs and DVDs (especially new movies and Christmas movies) •art supplies: origami paper, paint, art kits, projects/supplies for groups of 5-10 kids to do at once, canvases (for our spring art show) •helmets and padding (elbow, knee, etc) for biking/skateboarding •rollerskates and blades in various sizes •any kid-friendly outdoor yard games/equipment (bean bag toss, horseshoes, badminton, etc), nothing too heavy or metal though! •educational, PC-compatible computer games

Gifts oriented toward pre-teen boys and girls

Legos, Kinex, Transformers, Rip Stix, Bakkugan, Bey Blades, Naruto, Nintendo DS and games and cases for DS systems, Kid-friendly CDs and DVDs

Girls:

Legos, Educational (laptops), Tamagotchi, Fur Real friends, Moxie dolls, Baby Alive, Bendaroos, Kid-friendly CDs and DVDs, Moon Sand and accessories, Pillow Pets Nintendo DS and girl-oriented games and cases for DS systems.

Please let me know if you need additional information. We very much hope to see you at the party!!

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

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Good News for an Old House!



4308 Avenue F has new owners! This house, which has stood vacant for some years, causing worry that it might become another tear-down, has been bought by an intrepid couple who plan to restore and enlarge the house and make it their home. Karen Saadeh and David Matthis had been searching for some time for an old house to rescue and when I emailed them about it they called immediately and ran over to see it. They decided that it had such "good bones" that it would work well for them and they made an offer the next day.

Karen and David said this project will "fulfill a life-long dream of living in Hyde Park... We are looking forward to living in this wonderful neighborhood, which is an important part of Austin's history, and meeting our new neighbors. In the meantime, please excuse the dust."

The new owners have visited with Seller Fae Conner about the history of the house and want to learn as much about it as possible. So if you have lived here a long time and can add memories, they welcome them.

I love this story, as it illustrates the interest people have in old houses, even when they are in serious disrepair. Hyde Park is full of houses that were once thought beyond saving but are now lovely homes.

We will all enjoy watching this one come to life again and welcoming Karen and David to the neighborhood. I am pleased to have a hand in this happy transition.

Lin Team Old Austin REALTOR®

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HYDE PARK HOMES GALLERY



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