

February Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 4, 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 February 4th

- ❖ **The View on Shipe Park**, considering design concerns at 4400, 4402 and 4404 Ave F *possible vote*
- ❖ **Homes Tour Update**
- ❖ **Cindy Reed IBIZ District Coordinator** from Austin Independent Business Alliance.

Minutes of the January 2008 HPNA General Meeting

The January 7, 2008 HPNA Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Elaine Meenehan.

The first agenda item was a presentation by Mary Collins Blackmon, including a slide show, on the **Ney Museum restoration project**.

Ms. Blackmon explained that because a portion of the funding comes from a Department of the Interior grant, the restoration plans and work are subject to review and approval by the Department of the Interior as well as the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission, the Texas Historical Commission, and the National Register of Historic Places.

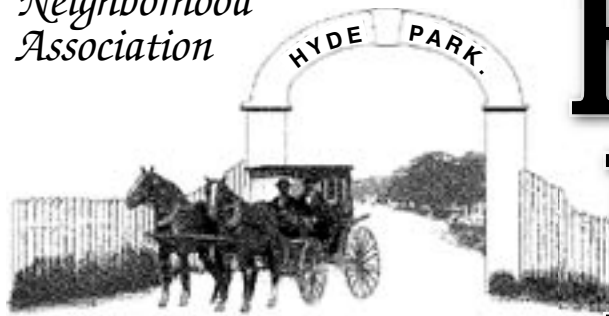
Continued on page 5

Elsewhere in this issue...

"Ban the Blowers!" see article on page 12

Crime Prevention Efforts Intensify see Crime Report on page 16

The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association



Pecan Press

February, 2008 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 34, No. 2

Hyde Park Under Siege



Proposed development "View on Shipe Park"

As the greed-driven juggernaut that has decimated Upper Hyde Park rolls south across 45th Street, our National Register Historic District is under attack. The high ground overlooking Waller Creek in the heart of our neighborhood is under threat of being cheapened and devastated by a proposed development to be known as "the View on Shipe Park." But what of Shipe Park, beloved not just by those of us who are lucky enough to live nearby, but by those who come from far and wide for enjoyment and celebrations? And what about the park view looking westward from the Elisabet Ney, our internationally known artist's studio soon to be restored to its former glory?

I am referring to EMROBRAI HOMES, a company that has already built two new homes on the 4500 block of Avenue F, and has recently demolished at least three houses on the 4400 block. These properties have been cleared and are now ready for the next step, with little concern for the qualities of our historic neighborhood in general, or of this significant site in particular. An irony, surely unintended: the sign announcing the development reads "ANOTHER GREAT HOME BY EMROBRAI." The first definition in the dictionary for the word "great" is "unusually large in size or dimension," so they are at least honest about what is proposed. The modestly-scaled cottages which were razed could have been expanded into a compound — enhancing their profitability but more in

keeping our community spirit. Hyde Park has a unique quality and cultural history which has endured for over a century.

As currently proposed, 4400 Avenue F will be a "neo-Queen Anne" style house, 4402 a "neo-vernacular Victorian," and 4404 is labeled "neo-Eastlake." At which point in the process these terms were applied to the EMROBRAI projects cannot be pinpointed, but they are *unwittingly* an apt reflection of their superficiality. Parodies and travesties all. Big boxes tarted up with decoration and built of "Cultured Stone Veneer" and hardi-plank siding.

There are abundant examples of new construction which masquerades as "historically appropriate," courtesy of a few applied stylistic references. One

Continued on page 4

Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

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Calling All Dog Owners

Austin State Hospital invites dogs and their owners to participate in an Animal Assisted Activities Program. This program will help the patients of ASH step away from their mental illness and reconnect with the community. Training provided.

Interested dog owners/neighbors can contact ASH Community Relations Director Barbara Kelly, <barbara.kelly@dshs.state.tx.us>, 797-5399.



(Away) From the President's Desk:

President Meenehan is off this month. Her column will resume in February.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment 2007-08 Membership

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Ney Restoration Plans

Part 2 of "Elisabet Ney's *Formosa*" continued from the Jan/08 issue of *Pecan Press*.

Today, with assistance from the U.S. Department of the Interior Save America's Treasures program, National Trust for Historic Preservation and Texas Historical Commission, the Museum and City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department are undertaking a comprehensive restoration of Formosa for current and future generations.

The restoration will restore the historical integrity of the building and remaining land as the former studio of Elisabet Ney. In 2000, the National Trust cited the Elisabet Ney Museum "one of the most significant historic artists' homes and studios in the country."

Plans are also to reconstruct Ney's barn and assistant's quarters to enable a full restoration of Formosa, and also provide needed services for the museum's visitors. The restoration will give Austin and Hyde Park the only studio that remains of the four homes and studios Ney created in Europe and America over her lifetime.

Elisabet Ney Museum Comprehensive Restoration Master Plan

The Elisabet Ney Museum Comprehensive Restoration Master Plan was produced by Volz & Associates of Austin and Heritage Landscapes of Charlotte, Vermont; both, highly experienced preservation architects and landscape architects, re-

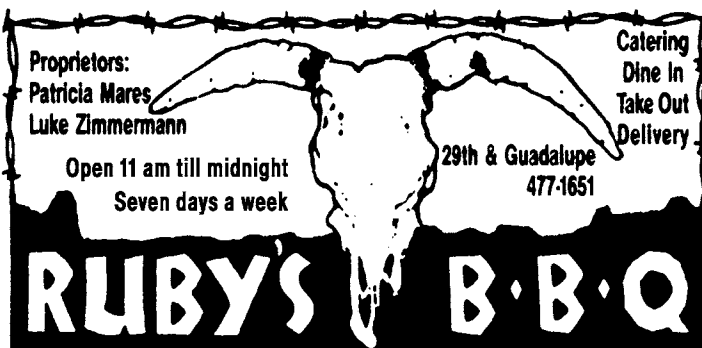
spectively. In 1997, Heritage Landscapes produced the Elisabet Ney Museum Historic Landscape Report with funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Trust cited the Report "a model project for historic landscape restoration in the Southwest" in 1998.

The City of Austin Department of Public Works is managing the project. The Elisabet Ney Museum Save America's Treasures Restoration Campaign Committee comprised of professors from the University of Texas School of Architecture and St. Edward's University and community activists reviewed the plan.

Formosa 2008-09

It is the hope of the Museum that the restoration of Formosa and the reinterpretation of Ney's life and work made possible by the historical accuracy of the restored building and grounds will yield an increased sense of Elisabet Ney's presence and deepen an appreciation of Ney's singularly personal contributions to the history of early Hyde Park, Austin and the American frontier. In particular, it is hoped that Formosa restored, will, as cultural historian Deborah Solomon writes, "coax a vanished world back to life" to be enjoyed by Hyde Park together with many schoolchildren and visitors from across the state and nation who visit the museum each year.

— Mary Collins Blackmon, Curator,
Elisabet Ney Museum



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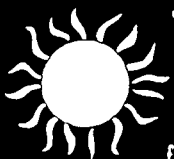
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Hyde Park Under Seige...

...cont'd from page 1

well-regarded critic of such masquerades has written of "an overall dullness of appearance so depressing that it must be overlaid with a veneer of *style* to make it acceptable. And that to anyone who is sensitive to QUALITY makes it all the worse, Now it is not just depressingly dull. It is also phony. It is the style that gets you: ugliness syruped over with romantic phyness in an effort to produce profit by people who don't know where to start because no one has ever told them there is such a thing as QUALITY in this world and it is real, not superficial style."

Early on, Ray Lee of EMROBRAI HOMES met briefly with the HPNA's Development Review Committee. To maximize his profits and generate cash flow seems to define the limits of his ambitions. He observed "that people like to live in Hyde Park" but is so indifferent that he has not taken the trouble to understand the qualities that make the neighborhood so exceptional, and enable it to serve as a model for advocates of the "new urbanism."

Concerning the 17 December 2007 meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission: Following comments by six representatives of the HPNA, the commissioners strongly recommended that the developer follow the Hyde Park Neighborhood Design Guidelines for new construction and work with the neighborhood association in order to achieve compatible solutions. "A bit of this style here and that style there is not the answer." When it was suggested that a decision be postponed for a month in order for the desired changes to be made, the developer's representative declined. One commissioner suggested that these magnificent properties "justify a professional design service, which these look like they have not had. It would be to their financial advantage to do a better job. These houses will be three dogs."

Brief research proved informative, surprising and disturbing. Plans for the proposed Avenue F houses were developed by the PFA Design Group, Architects and Planners, principals Dean Rose and Charles Sivek, Sr. Their ad in the yellow pages of the phone book cites "custom residential design" and "over 1,000 stock plans." It is apparent that stock plans were submitted for the Avenue F houses which ignore the potential of this significant site, fronting directly on Shippe Park. A visit to their web site will be an eye opener.

— Mary Carolyn George



January Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 1

The planned restoration will include restoration of both the building and the landscaping of the grounds. A replica of Elisabet Ney's barn will be constructed to be used for restroom facilities. When completed, the restored building and grounds will more closely resemble the period during which Ney was in residence (1892-1907). It will provide a richer, more authentic look at Ney and the studio and grounds which she designed. The project will take 2 to 3 years to complete. A simulation of the landscaping plan will be available in the near future.

Next on the agenda was a presentation and discussion of the development of the **Game Warden property** which is bordered by 51st Street and Rowena. Karen McGraw and others on the HPNA Development Review Committee (DRC) have worked with the developers and neighbors to minimize the impact of development on the area and address the concerns of nearby neighbors. After Karen presented the plan to the group, a motion was made by David Connor and seconded by George Wyche to approve the development subject to a number of restrictions, including the following: Development will be subject to multi-family Residential Uses permitted in the North Hyde Park NCCD Residential District. There will be a restrictive covenant which is to be negotiated requiring that the units will be offered for sale. All driveways will enter and exit W. 51st Street unless otherwise required by the City of Austin. Units that border Rowena will face west and be back-to-back with Rowena. The motion was approved 24 For, 3 Against, with 4 Abstaining.

The hours for operation of **Shipe Pool** were discussed and the group agreed by consensus to use the same schedule as was established last year.

Dorothy Richter brought the possible sale of **Baker School** on Avenue B between 39th and 40th Streets to the attention of the group. A recent newspaper item indicated that Baker was one of several locations under consideration by Austin ISD officials. Dorothy encouraged HPNA members to be alert for further information about changes at Baker.

Finally, Doris Coward announced an A.P.D.-sponsored **Commander's Forum** for Wednesday, January 16 at 6:30 at the Red River Church, 4425 Red River.

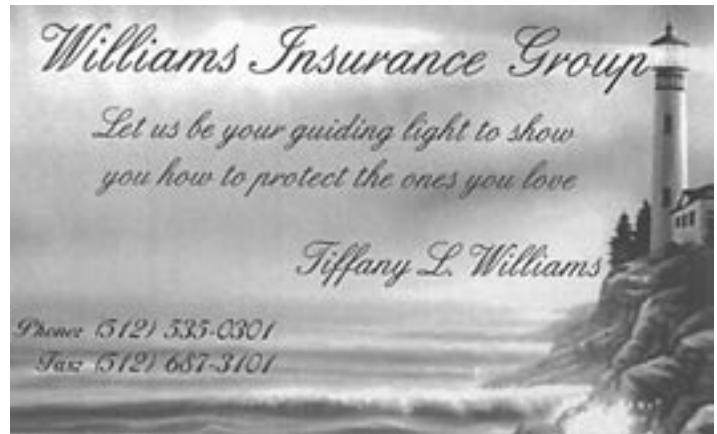
Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

— Celeste Cromack,
HPNA Co-Secretary

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HPCC Trustee*

512.585.3438 cell

<scollier3@austin.rr.com>

*or by contacting the church
administrative assistant:*

Sarah Ashley

512.452.2596 office

<office@hydeparkcc.org>

1st Quarter Lectures:

January 12, 2008 – Avis Meeks-Day, M.D.;
"When Girls Grow Up Too Fast"

February 9, 2008 – Darline Turner-Lee, ASCE,
PA-C; *"Hormone Replacements"*

March 8, 2008 – Maritza Navarro, M.D.;
"Asthma & Allergies"

April 12, 2008 – Stephanie Collier, M.S., PA-C;
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When It Rains, They Store

Turn on a faucet and out it flows, a seemingly endless supply of potable water, courtesy of the Colorado River. Yet a glance at the pamphlets enclosed with our water utility bills makes it clear that we cannot take this resource for granted. Coupled with a dry climate, Austin's booming population and economy have placed great demands on the water supply. At 51 billion gallons, annual usage in 2005 was 30% greater than in 1995, according to the utility, which is working to increase capacity. At the same time, the city's **water conservation** program has numerous initiatives to educate Austinites about prudent water usage and help them take steps to conserve.

Hyde Parkers are heeding the call. In fact, some of them are bypassing the river and instead look to the skies, at least for their gardening needs. Peek in backyards or under the eaves of homes throughout the neighborhood and you will see an assortment of devices for **harvesting rainwater**.

Starting Small

On the modest end of the scale are polypropylene rain barrels, such as those offered by the water conservation program. Each 75-gallon barrel costs \$60 and set-up is simple. The barrels are positioned to collect rain running off a roof. They are outfitted with a screen to keep out debris, an overflow tube and a drain hose to direct the water where needed. (See <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/rbfaq.htm> for more details.)

Anne-Marie Griger (Avenue A near 43rd) and Lisa Harris (Avenue F near 45th) each have two barrels from the city. Harris placed hers behind her house at opposite corners to give easy access to different parts of the yard. Overall she is happy with them. Just two hitches: The flow is rather low pressure, especially if trying to use a hose sprayer uphill from the barrels, so she often uses a soaker hose or watering can. Also, one barrel has a problematic hose connector where water sometimes leaks out. She plans to replace it

with a model that has a spigot instead of a hose (such models are sold by gardening and eco-oriented businesses). Since water runs out through force of gravity, Griger prevented the low-flow problem by building wooden stands at a height sufficient to permit good flow. Except for a few episodes of bad-smelling water and mosquitoes, she says the barrels have been trouble-free. (The city's FAQs site has recommendations for dealing with these and other issues.)

High-Volume Tanks

It would take 20 barrels to collect the amount of water that Michael Klug's 1,500-gallon tank can hold. The tank is part of a system installed during the extensive renovation of his home (Avenue G at 42nd) featured on the "This Old House" television program. The renovations earned the house a rare five-star Green Building rating from Austin Energy. The tank system is a bit more complex than rain barrels. We'll skip the engineering details, but rain flows through the gutters, which are attached to underground pipes that fill the tank. The system allows for slow leakage from the downspouts to prevent standing water (and a mosquito haven), as well as flow of excess water into the alley. The tank is hooked up to a drip irrigation system that has an electric pump, sensor systems and sprinkler controller electronics. "One good, hard rainstorm will fill the cistern, and two or three waterings will empty it," Klug says. Although the tank is 5 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter, it is fairly unobtrusive in a corner of the yard. In theory, it could sit well away from the house. Except for the need to clear out leaves and other debris, the system has been maintenance free in its first year. What does the system cost? Because it was provided by the television program, Klug doesn't even know! (A similar system on Avenue F is reported to have cost \$6,000.)

A few blocks away, behind a garage at Avenue D near 41st, sits a whopper of a tank, a 2,500 gallon system that cost about \$3,300 (less a \$400 rebate from the city). Long-time resident Merle Franke believes that his system, installed in May 2000, was one of the first in Hyde Park. He also has two rain barrels. Except for a dry spell in late summer, 2006, he has never since used city water to tend to his vegetable garden, flower beds, bushes or lawn. Franke is often asked about

Continued on following page

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HPNA Rainwater Harvesting Pioneer Merle Franke to Jaime Shimkus: "Tank You, Very Much! Photo by Mike Kintner.

amortization, i.e., how long will it take for the water bill savings to offset the expense. He doesn't know and he doesn't care. "Saving money was not our reason for collecting rainwater," he explains. "We did it because we feel it was the right thing to do. If more and more people harvest rainwater, eventually it will have an effect on the water problem." But he definitely has noticed the budget impact: His water bill for the hot and dry August of 2006 was a mere \$8.28.

The Plants Love It!

The people who shared their stories for this article all concur: The savings are nice, but a primary reason for collecting rain is environmental. Michael Klug takes a philosophical view that incorporates planning a garden that is optimal in terms of space, water and energy: a "zeroscaped" garden.

A plus: Rainwater, which lacks chlorine and other chemicals added to municipal water, is better for plants. Says Harris, "I am better at taking care of outdoor plants than houseplants (outside sometimes nature will do what I forget to!), but my small collection of houseplants has been a lot healthier since I started watering with rainwater."

– Jaime Shimkus



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Letters Dept.

Ney Wall Calls: To Keep, or Not to Keep?

Plan A: Lose the Wall! A Voice of Support for Ney Restoration Plan

Dear Editor,

I attended the January HPNA meeting during which the Elisabet Ney Museum restoration plan was presented. The plan's attention to detail and faithfulness to Ms. Ney's vision, and her realization of that vision, is truly exciting. At a time when Austin is rapidly modernizing and losing its local character, how often do we have an opportunity to step back 100 years and restore history to the present? With the fruition of this plan, Hyde Park, and the city as a whole, will be able to experience this parcel of land as it was to the artist and her neighbors. Unfortunately, some residents seem to be opposed to elements of the plan, in particular restoration of the post-and-wire fence and the landscaping.

To my mind, this opposition is short-sighted. After Ms. Ney's passing, drastic alterations were made to the property. While a stone wall and different landscaping may have seemed appropriate at the time, in retrospect those changes clearly did not reflect the artist's intent. Now we have a chance to correct those inadvertent errors. I am aware that many Hyde Parkers resist any disruption to "the way it's always been" during their residence here. But although everything has history, not all things are historically significant. It would be a shame to adopt the restoration plan piecemeal. In the bigger picture, the artist's original vision is what we should strive for.

Imagine: What if the original style of fence had never been removed, nor the trees and plants? If some well-meaning person came along today and proposed a stone wall or different landscaping, the community would be outraged. Undoubtedly, the most vocal dissent would come from local advocates for historic preservation. I am dismayed by the strident voices that are rallying the community to "use every process and forum" to stop this plan. For my part, I encourage all those who support the project in its entirety to speak up and express your approval. Not sure where you stand? I urge you to visit the museum and review the plan. If you do, I am confident you, too, will become enthusiastic about bringing Ms. Ney's vision back to life.

— Mike Kintner,
4100 Block of Ave. F



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Letters Dept. cont'd —

Plan B: Keep the Wall! "Historical," or Hysterical?

To the Editor,

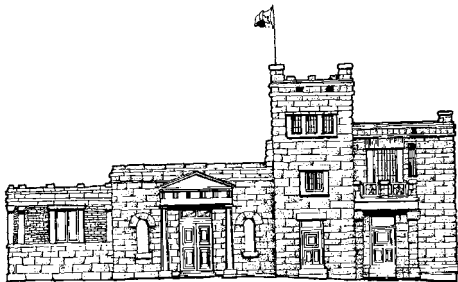
It strikes me as odd that we would tear down an actual historic structure in order to replace it with a new structure that only mimics an older one. This is moving from historical toward hysterical. The wall was erected by the venerable Violet Crown Garden Club as a tribute by previous fans of Ney, in the same spirit that the statues of Stevie Ray Vaughn and Barbara Jordan celebrate their legacies and accomplishments. The contribution of previous lovers of the Ney should be respected as well. They also came before us.

Many of us have fond memories of that wall. I have gone to sit there in contemplative moments. My son has hunted Easter eggs in its shadows for ten years. One year in July, we found an Easter egg hidden at the foot of the wall that no one else had discovered. For years afterward, as soon as school let out, he insisted that we scan every inch of the wall for another egg. We didn't find another egg, but we found other cool stuff, including a 1765 musket. (Just kidding.)

Seriously, though, sometimes the historic preservation in this neighborhood seems to lose its head. Following the logic of the Ney reformers, we should all tear down our homes and replace them with teepees. After all, that is more in keeping with the vision of the original inhabitants of Austin. Oops, I mean Waterloo.

Yours,

— Carla Feldpausch Siegle,
4210 Ave C
<cmf@grandecom.net>



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Ban the Blowers!

Hyde Park residents are being asked to refrain from using leaf blowers, including electrical ones, and to ask their lawn service companies to refrain from using them. Frequently, homeowners are misinformed about the necessity or benefits of leaf blower use, or they believe that the lawn service companies "know best." Sometimes homeowners who are away during the day are unaware of blowers being used on their property.

At times, we've seen blower operators endlessly blowing off even tree trunks, walls, bushes, and cars, as well as public curbs and street areas, with little benefit and serious drawbacks. In reality, the pristine appearance created by blowing debris off a driveway, sidewalk, or deck is very short-lived, since the material has merely been displaced, not removed, and is wind-carried right back to its original spot, sometimes immediately.

Concerned? Call your lawn service company

Most lawn service companies will refrain from using blowers at the homeowner's request, although this will mean the driveway and sidewalk and other surfaces will not be blown free of every leaf and particle of dust---a condition that is usually unnecessary. However, service without blowing off all the surfaces should be cheaper (ask for a discount), because of the time and fuel saved. For the few jobs where brooms and rakes are substituted for blowers, there will probably be an added cost. Note that many mowers will remove or mulch lawn leaves, making blowers unnecessary for that purpose.

Leaf blower bans in other cities

There are two reasons why numerous cities concerned about quality of life have severely restricted or, increasingly, banned leaf blower use entirely: the air pollution they create increases the risk of lung disease and allergic reactions for everyone, not just the blower operator. And their loud, grating noise disturbs the calm and quiet associated with good neighborhoods.

All blowers pollute

As to air pollution: Blowers, including electrical ones, generate wind speeds up to 250 miles per hour. They lift into the air (or "entrain," speaking scientifically) large quantities of dust, debris, fecal matter, spores, mold, allergens, carcinogens, pesticides, herbicides, and small-micron particulate matter. All of this is especially harmful to children and pets (air pollution exposure per pound of body weight is the relevant measure), but everyone who goes outdoors -- the pedestrian, runner, bicyclist, porch-sitter, stroller-pusher, and back-yarder -- is at risk for increased allergies and lung disease.

Particulate matter or "PM" refers to tiny particles that are 10 or fewer microns in diameter, which remain airborne for hours and even days after a blower has been used. These particles are associated with cardiopulmonary disease, bronchitis, asthma and other allergic reactions, and a decreased ability to fight infection. The California Air Resources Board has estimated that one leaf blower entrains (or puts into the atmosphere) five pounds of

Continued on following page

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PM per hour. Those experiencing respiratory or allergy problems when pollen season is not in force may want to assess whether leaf blower use or exposure could be responsible. Moreover, it is noteworthy that street dust activated by blowers is not an innocent pollutant. It has been found to contain lead, mercury, and arsenic, as well as other minerals and carcinogens.

Gasoline-powered blowers pollute even more

Particulate pollution is a problem with both electrical and gasoline-powered blowers, but the latter, which are far more commonly in use, create additional health hazards. They emit carbon monoxide and all the other pollutants generated by gasoline engines. This they do in spades. It has been estimated that the toxic emissions of one gasoline-powered blower are, minute for minute, equivalent to the smog generated by 17 cars. Unlike cars, blowers generate smog but are not subject to emissions control standards at present. And blower pollutants are concentrated in a small area – a yard or part of a block – unlike auto smog, which is distributed over a larger area as the car travels forward.


Hyde Park Issues


A committee has been formed to address blower use in Hyde Park. To help or contribute comments, please contact Mary Lou Serafine at <sonata0516@yahoo.com> or call her at 220-5452.

In forthcoming issues of the *Pecan Press*, look for articles on Leaf Blower Noise Pollution and Are Leaf Blowers Really Necessary?

– Mary Lou Serafine



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MJ Neal, AIA and Viviane Vives

MJ and Vivianne will explore the historical and architectural importance of the KPM Institute campus and its buildings, and will outline possibilities for preserving the past while moving into the future. Light refreshments will be served. MJ and Viviane founded MJ Neal Architects, located at 4220 Duval, and are residents of Hyde Park. You can see examples of their work at <www.mjneal.com>. They are also parents of a 4th grader at Sri Atmananda Memorial School operated by KPM Institute, located at 4100 Red River.

We hope that you can join us for this lively discussion — **February 28, 2008, 6:30pm to 8:00pm;** in Ceremony Hall on the KPM Institute Campus, 4100 Red River (across from Hancock shopping center).

— *Melissa Graham-LaMure, 467-2820,
<melissagrahamlamure@kpmstitute.org>*

(Note: MJ Neal was recently awarded the American Institute of Architecture's 2008 Institute Honor Award for Interior Architecture.)

Hyde Park Poets —


Definition

There are ways to define words, the ones expected, through Webster or the OED, the way academics and pundits and newspapers use them. There are other ways, many, the definition of body or heart, the memory of the word when first thrust upon us, when first overheard, when stolen from an inappropriate source. Two ways of seeing, of hearing, of feeling may enrich; two ways may negate, may bring disgrace upon a verse, may call into question an innocent request. Words, flung around us in print, in broadcast, we take for granted, yet, like herpes or strep they can roll off, benign or latch shredding nostrils and lungs, drawing out plasma, settling, drowning the body, the soul. I sit in awe, my hands tingling as I type, in wonder that a self-proclaimed woman of low adventure risks using words, risks wounding another, risks being judged as Patient Zero.

— *January 7, 2008
Nancy Taylor Day*

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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

Crime is on the rise citywide and the police are asking for our assistance. A Commander's Forum, sponsored by the Austin Police Department, was held on January 16th to inform citizens of trends in crime, report on recent statistics and to address questions and concerns. I have attended several of these meetings where the officers outnumbered the citizens, but this was not the case at this meeting. The room was full, with standing room only. No doubt a result of the recent increase in tire slashings and break-ins.

Commander Antonia Singletary stated that crime was up citywide. She reported that, in the 4th quarter of the year, there had been a 50% increase in robberies, a 14% decrease in aggravated assaults, a 4% increase in burglary of residences and a 9% increase in burglary of vehicles. She reported that out of the 64 auto thefts in the 4th quarter, 16 had the keys left inside the car. We still need to do a better job of protecting ourselves. She mentioned how important citizen awareness is in helping the police apprehend criminals. In one instance, 4 suspects were apprehended on a burglary charge because a UPS man called 911 to report that he saw the men running with guns.

The Commander then explained a new program called MOUSETRAP. This is when an officer may look inside your vehicle to see if anything of value is in sight. When I came out of the meeting, there was a card on my windshield checking off that a cell phone or accessory was in sight. I knew that I had my cell phone with me, but after looking more closely, I saw that a device used for air purification was plugged into my cigarette lighter. I never thought that this might make my car a target for theft. (Hmm, I guess I have more work to do in learning to think like a criminal!) Another program being used by APD is called AROW, targeting apartment complexes to raise awareness of becoming more alert to suspicious activity.

Neighbors asked questions about the best methods for protecting our homes. The Commander said that an officer will come to your home to advise you on security measures. The officers said that alarm systems are effective because, in addition to scaring off criminals, they alert neighbors. Reinforcing your doors with 3" screws is good, but a deadbolt is only as

Continued on following page

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secure as the door frame. Contact a lock & key company for a bid. When to call 911 was also discussed. The Commander said that if you want an officer to respond, call 911. Calling 311 is to make a report, not to get an immediate response. In calling 911, it is important to report what happened, when it happened, where it happened and to have a description of the person or vehicle. Staying alert and following your instinct is advised.

Carol Jackson, one of our Neighborhood Watch block captains, has volunteered to get more information on a program called Citizens on Patrol. We plan to establish a volunteer group who walk the neighborhood at varying times of day assisting the police by calling in suspicious activity. As soon as we get more details, we will let you know. It is important to invite our District Representative, Officer AJ Rodriguez, to neighborhood meetings in order that he gets to know us better. Hyde Park now has over 40 block captains (see the roster on page 2 of this issue), but in reviewing the neighborhood map, we could use more help, especially north of 45th St. Please let me know if you are interested in finding out more about Neighborhood Watch.

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

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Hyde Park Poets —

Flying Animals

No human could imagine
animals which fly.
They had to come visually,
in a world where miracles
would be commonplace
if we had enough eyes.
Bird flight is no simple thing,
for we measure the distance between
a hummingbird and a swan
in terms through which a mind may travel
but no bird has ever flown.
Between a toucan and a sparrow,
a butterfly hangs limpid in the air,
no more helpless upon freshets
than the wrist of a woman
who wants a man's attention.
I could speak of beauty here,
or in the same breath, engineering,
but talk about animals flying
will not succeed except in poetry.

— Robert Elzy Cogswell
November 2006

Found

Now that would be a grand series, what in life has shown up, emerged, unearthed itself. Not the typical treasure-hunter show, not the divers at the site of Atlantis's demise, nor the showmanship of the Egyptian archeological minister who smiles at the camera while revealing the wrinkled, darkened, preserved skin of centuries' ago Pharaoh. What I'd like to see is how a child found a kitten, or a man a sweet woman, or the post office the Valentine sent 75 years ago to a cowboy herding cattle in Montana. I waited at the edge of my driveway yesterday, waited for the tiny white postal vehicle, received in hand a stack of flyers and magazines, a catalogue, a check, a card elegantly addressed, delayed by who knows what, perhaps a thing as simple as my zip code, the station terminal too far south for quick delivery. Found the most eloquent bits of paper, perfectly penned poems, crawling out when I opened the flap, curling into my palm, stretching a bit after a cramped trip, murmuring: are we here yet? Oh, yes, my lovelies, you are definitely here.

— Nancy Taylor Day
January 15, 2008

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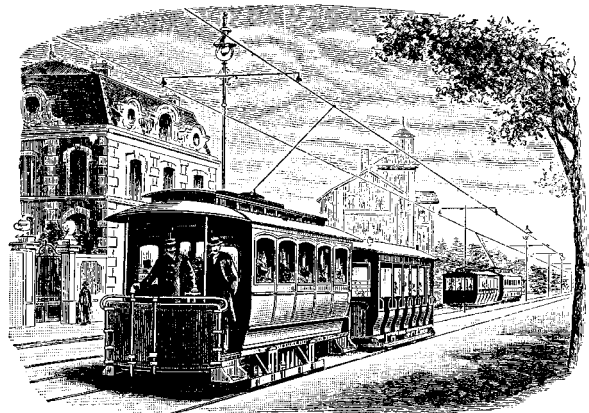
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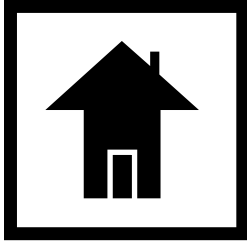
Hyde Park Poets —

Making a Moment of No Importance

Either by wind or temperature,
the night explains to the trees
that it's time to get on with their lives.
On such a night, I sit inside a car
underneath a venerable pecan tree
and hear a tympanum section to rival
the finest orchestral passions.
In the morning old couples
walk the streets and collect the food
thrown down during the insanity.
They echo the footfalls
of my hidden ancestors,
the ones who never heard of Paris
or London, who walked beneath
these very trees and picked up
food from the ground,
who never knew that this satisfaction
gave them protein, gave them life itself.
They lived like domestic animals
in the hallowed presence
of each precious present moment.
Today to shell pecans I must
shut out the world, answer no e-mails,
find a quiet porch and remember stillness.

— Robert Elzy Cogswell
November 2006





**Hyde
Park**



Me*

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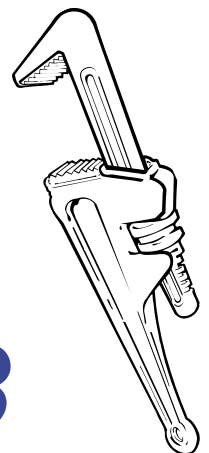
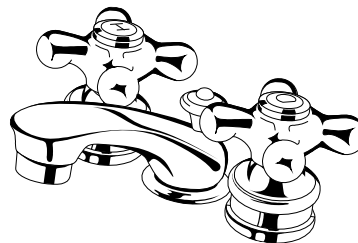
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Bach and Bill Gates

Cursors blink, there's a way to set the speed unlike
with time passing, it clicks along, JS Bach knew time exactly,
note by note playing life out on harpsichord.
I wonder when people first noticed time,
the big chunks of day and night, then bigger chunks
of seasons. We have carved time up into uglier
and more beautiful components. Cursors blink as I write,
digital watches count as we talk, eyes flicker as we gaze
at loved ones, hearts beat as we embrace. Numbers get
a bad rap on standardized tests, dreaded math, but when
we think of love numbers, coos and kisses, cuddles and orgasms,
caresses and smiles, numbers hold us together, invisible cords
woven from essential spirit. The cursor keeps blinking,
elegant black against my white screen, odd, this poet rarely
understands things in black and white, blinking, beating,
pulses everywhere, colored and discolored, sounds raspy to some,
comforting to others of us. For you who need quiet, there is
a place, for you who need white space, there is that, for you who
need time unencumbered by convention, there is that, too.
The cursor blinks. My coffee gets cold. Light is fading, not diurnally
but with this season. Time, that big chunk we call summer, is folding
away her beach towel, taking with her the scents of allure and
competition. The cursor blinks. Stopping it? I lack the power,
wouldn't desire that power, even if it meant having everything all
at once. The cursor. Of all things constant, it is here with me,
here every morning, here when I create and invent and call onto
the page moments of friendship. Where does this morning fit into
my life? The cursor knows. Time, each moment strung out on my
pages, a long story, many elegant images on paper textured with
foot prints, watermarked with tears and sweat and spilled iced tea.
Autographed, loved ones' real names. The cursor keeps blinking.

— Nancy Taylor Day
October 2007



HybridRealtor@Stanberry.com

Hyde Park Resident & Neighborhood REALTOR®



Address: **3713 Robinson**

FOR SALE

Listed For: **\$289,000**

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**

FOR SALE

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**

PENDING

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: **\$419,000**

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: **301 East 38th Street**

PENDING

Listed For: **\$359,000**

Stunning restored duplex. Both 2/1 units upgraded but still w/historic charm. Live in one, home office/rent the other. Both rent for \$1250+/m. Huge lot backing the new "Sparky" park. Both units - hardwood flooring/central heat and AC/total kitchen upgrades/period detailing/separately fenced yards.



Address: **4530 Avenue H**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$419,000**

Amazing 3/2 on a corner lot. Lee Elementary. Classic bungalow remodel with 2 living areas and 2 dining rooms. Hardwood flooring, glass fronted cab./stainless Jenn-Air cooktop, period lighting and hardware.



Jeff Baker 619-7421

ABOR, REALTOR®, Former State Licensed Appraiser

Stanberry & Associates

REALTORS®

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

Your Hyde Park Real Estate Expert

Call Suzanne today for a free market analysis on your home or investment property. Over 15 years experience marketing and selling Hyde Park!



**AvenueOne
Properties**



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