

# January Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, January 8, 2007

**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 January 8<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ **Discussion of Shipe Pool Hours:** Possible opportunity to keep pool open two weeks longer if weekly schedule can be reduced. (*vote possible*)
- ❖ **Linda Cox** from Human Services will discuss flu preparedness.
- ❖ **Tim La Fuente** from Austin Fire Department will discuss *Fire Safety in Your Home*.
- ❖ **St. David's PUD:** (*vote possible*)
- ❖ **Avenue A District Zoning Change:** (*vote possible*)

**See you there!**

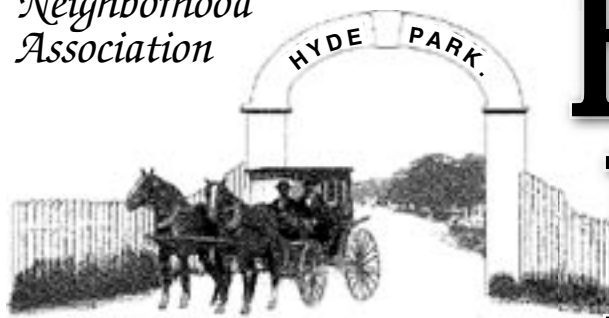
## HPNA December Meeting Minutes:

On December 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., Elaine Meenahan, President of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, called the monthly general meeting to order.

Bruce Thompson, executive director of **Helping Hand Home for Children**, gave a heartwarming presentation explaining the mission, history and needs of the neighborhood residential childcare agency. The home is a neighborhood treasure and has been located at 3804 Avenue B since the Rotary Club donated the facility in 1925. The presentation began with a short but informative video outlining the organization's history and growth. Helping Hand was formed in 1893 when a baby girl was discovered in a shoe box at Austin's railway station. Word quickly spread about the baby and a group of Austin women came together to

**Continued on page 11**

*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

January, 2007 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 33, No. 1

## Hyde Park Holidays Party 2006: "The Best Ever!"

Guests could almost hear the sleigh bells ringing as they arrived at the Woodburn House on December 15th for the annual Hyde Park Holidays Party. Santa's sleigh soon was overflowing with gifts donated to the Helping Hand Home for Children. Jennifer Rochelle organized this charitable effort with a great response from you, Hyde Park neighbors and friends.



Woodburn House proprietors and Holiday Party hosts Kristen and Noel De La Rosa share Yuletide cheer with U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett

Kristen and Noel De La Rosa, owners of the elegant and beautifully decorated Woodburn House, once again opened their home to the neighborhood and approximately 220 neighbors came to the party. About 60 of the attendees were children, for whom a wide variety of special activities were provided.

Many of the guests brought their special seasonal goodies to share, and they filled two tables with scrumptious dishes. But the food

and fun didn't stop there. Neighborhood eateries joined in also. *Vino Vino* provided some wine. *Dolce Vita* dispensed gelato on the front porch. *Truffle Two Step* brought, you guessed it, truffles! Ever-gracious Greg Bontempo of *NeWorldDeli*, along with his lovely wife and daughters, catered a generous buffet including a wide variety of vegetarian foods and sandwiches. In addition to the food he provided, Greg gave us ser-

**Continued on page 4**

# From the President's Desk:

Did you ever wonder how the Woodburn House got moved from its original site at 40th Street and Avenue F to its current location at 44th and Avenue D? Have you ever noticed those little "please pick up after your dog" signs in a neighbor's yard? And how did the annual Homes Tour get started, anyway? They were all due to initiatives by our neighbors.

Over the years, the HPNA has grown from a sleepy little organization into a bustling small "business." Technology, neighbors and concerns have changed over the years. As a result, in June, the HPNA approved a new set of bylaws to help govern the Association. The start of a new year seems like an appropriate time to explain how our Association works, why it exists and how residents get involved.

The HPNA is a not-for-profit organization that exists to foster a closer, more genuine community of neighbors and to preserve the historic and unique character, amenities, and



Minute Maidens Enjoying Minute Maid at the Hyde Park Holidays Party

ecology of the community of Hyde Park through various HPNA general and committee meetings. This is accomplished by combining the efforts of residents in effecting improvement, restoration and preservation of our community. Some of the goals of the HPNA are to encourage people to live here; to educate residents on options regarding home ownership, zoning, etc.; to promote preservation and enhancement of existing building stock; and to nurture and preserve our natural green spaces.

The Association is made up of residents of Hyde Park. Unlike a homeowner association, people do not have to own property to be a member. They simply have to be at least 18 years old and live here. However, to be a voting member of the HPNA, they have to join the organization and pay annual dues (currently \$1 per person per year). The HPNA typically meets on the first Monday of the month (unless that is a holiday). The agenda for this meeting is posted in the Pecan Press, the bulletin board at Fresh Plus, and our neighborhood listservs.

In October of each year, the general membership votes on its officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer

and Secretary). It also votes on six additional members to be Steering Committee members. This Steering Committee (SC) consists of all of the elected officers and Steering Committee members as well as the immediate past year's HPNA President. The SC meets on the Monday following the general meeting - typically the second Monday of the month. These meetings are open to the public.

In order to vote at a meeting, one must have been a paid member for at least 30 days. The 30 day period is determined from the date payment is received or the post mark date if it is mailed. Proxy or absentee voting is not allowed.

The HPNA consists solely of volunteers. In addition to the officers and other SC members, numerous good citizens step forward to head standing and ad hoc committees or act as representatives for the neigh-

Continued on following page

## Pecan Press

The Pecan Press is published monthly by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas.

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Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of month preceding publication.

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North of 45th/East of Duval • Sarah Heather.....452-8486  
South of 45th/West of Speedway • Robert Morris .....371-7246  
South of 45th/East of Speedway • Martha Campbell.....452-2815

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## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhdepark.org>

### — HPNA Officers —

#### President

• Elaine Meenehan • elaine.meenehan@gmail.com ..... 323-9772

#### Vice President

• Jennifer Berbas • Jennifer\_berbas@yahoo.com .....

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#### HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

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

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

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

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#### Children's Programs

• Vickie Parsons, daveandvickie@gmail.com .... 435-5398

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Homes Tour • Lorre Weidlich, lweidlich@mail2sevensesa.com... 300-2228

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borhood in various other roles. From the Homes Tour Chair to the Pecan Press editor to the Social Chair, all of these individuals perform necessary and important functions in the neighborhood. These individuals are required to periodically meet with the SC to give updates on issues concerning their committees.

As part of the changing times, the internet has become an important tool for neighbors to learn what is happening in their community.

We have a website <[www.hydeparkaustin.org](http://www.hydeparkaustin.org)> that provides a short history of our neighborhood, lists contact information for all committees and gives details on relevant issues in the neighborhood. We also have a listserv <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hydeparkaustin>> that currently boasts 473 members. This tool allows neighbors to communicate in real time on a variety of topics such as crime, lost animals and meetings. HPNA members can also join a member only list <<http://groups.google.com/group/HPNA-Notice>>. This list can only be posted by a few officers of the Association. It is used only to post notices of meetings and agendas.

The HPNA raises money from basically two endeavors – advertising from the *Pecan Press*, and the annual Homes Tour (ticket sales, ad sales, and corporate underwriting). All financial matters including the budget operate on a calendar year. The Finance Committee presents a budget in November of each year to the Steering Committee. In December, the general membership votes



HPNA President Elaine Meenehan with U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett at the Holiday Party

on the adoption of that budget for the next calendar year.

A conflict of interest provision was included in the latest version of the bylaws. It prevents any HPNA officer, representative or committee member from voting on any issue on which he/she may realize any direct or material benefit. The conflict of interest may be disclosed by the individual or any other person aware of a situation.

Not every nuance of the bylaws has been covered here, but I hope this column does explain generally how and why the Association functions. The key to it all is our residents. It takes various levels of time, commitment and expertise to make it work. Unlike a homeowner association that is formed by a developer of a subdivision and is mandatory to join if purchasing a property in that subdivision, a neighborhood association not only operates but thrives on volunteer community involvement to improve and enhance its community. Whether we just moved here or have lived here most or all of our lives, we all play a role in shaping the neighborhood in which we live. I encourage every resident to get involved in whatever capacity he/she feels passionate about. One person can and does make a huge difference to our community.

– Elaine Meenehan  
 HPNA President  
 <[elainemeenehan@austin.rr.com](mailto:elainemeenehan@austin.rr.com)>

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Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> \$1/year      Couple or Family: <input type="checkbox"/> \$2/year		
Dues paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash      Date _____		
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.		
Make checks payable to HPNA. Bring to HPNA meeting, or send to: Doris Coward HPNA 4810 Red River St. Austin, TX 78751		

**HPNA Membership Info**

All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

❖

Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of the designated boundaries.

❖

New members, and members who lapse in dues for over six months, are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.

**— We Welcome Your Submissions to *Pecan Press* —**

Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry\*) by the 15th of each month to:

**Editor, Pecan Press**  
**4106 Avenue F**  
**Austin, TX 78751**  
 <[hgthomas@youthlaunch.org](mailto:hgthomas@youthlaunch.org)>

\*Send your poems to:

**Nancy Taylor Day**  
**4001 Duval**  
**Austin 78751**  
 <[nancy@creativitmoms.com](mailto:nancy@creativitmoms.com)>

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

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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## HPNA Holiday Party... ...cont'd from page 1

vice with a smile and helped to keep us on track with his thoughtful assistance. Neighbor Judy Pape organized liquid refreshments and bartenders with wines, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages for all.

While the adult guests were mixing and mingling, the children had their own party. Here the children were able to be creative while decorating gingerbread men cookies and goodie bags. Some made bookmarks and decorations for a Christmas tree which Vickie Parsons donated to the Helping Hand Home for Children. The children also had a special buffet of their own. Vickie Parsons also organized all of the children's activities, assisted by a number of parents who took turns working in the children's area.

In addition to orchestrating many donations for the Helping Hand Home's new bedrooms for the children, Jennifer Rochelle also set up a silent auction to benefit the Helping Hand Home for children, and neighbors responded by bidding \$375 to benefit the Home. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our neighborhood merchants and neighborhood participation. The following merchants donated gift certificates for the auction: NeWorlDeli, Vino Vino, Dolce Vita, Julio's, Woodburn House, Asti, Hyde Park Bar and Grill, Toy Joy, and Quack's.

And the party rolled on! Congressman Lloyd Doggett and his wife Libby stopped by to share in the holiday spirit. Congressman Doggett said that he cares about and respects our neighborhood and wants to know about all the events. Even HPNA received a gift! Libby Malone, Director of Community Relations, speaking on behalf of Grande Communications, presented a check for \$250 to HPNA for use in establishing a Local Historic District in Hyde Park. Ms. Malone said, "Our gift to you represents a tangible expression of our passionate commitment to the Hyde Park community, where we are proud to work and to provide Grande services. We recognize and value the important grassroots work being done by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to preserve this treasured historic neighborhood within our beloved city of Austin. We salute you and the dedicated volunteers of Hyde Park. Thank you for the positive impact you make each and every day in our community."

A particularly hearty round of applause is in order for HPNA Social Chair Deaton Bednar, who is the creative party planning genius who brought this event to fruition. Deaton is quick to acknowledge that the success is attributable to the efforts by many neighbors, friends, and businesses all working hard and contributing to make this party possible. We say many thanks to you. However, we also say thank you to those who attended. Without you, this would not have been the party it was.

When this reporter left the scene at 7:30, the house and yard were still abuzz with happy neighbors exchanging best wishes for the season and coming year. Many were sure this was the best holidays party in HPNA history!

— Celeste Cromack

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### ❖ Undaunted Distributors Dept.:

From Distribution Coordinator Herb Dickson, this recent item:  
Goodbye, Welcome and Thank You!

Sarah Heather has been the one and only Pecan Press NE quadrant coordinator for 17 years. Circulating 465 newsletters for 17 years, she has coordinated delivery of over 95,000 newsletters to area homes north of 45th and east of Duval. That's a lot of papers, so at this point Sarah justifiably feels it is time to retire and let someone else assume responsibility for their delivery.

Consequently, I want to welcome Jay Gerard and Carrie Laughlin of 4411 Ave D as the new area coordinators for the NE quadrant. Jay and Carrie have lived in Hyde Park for fifteen years and have been delivering the Pecan Press on their block for 2 years. Hyde Park thanks you so very much, Sarah; and let's offer a hearty welcome to Jay and Carrie!



### ❖ Good Guys, Good Works Dept.: Volunteers with the HPNA

Beautification Committee at work sprucing up the traffic circle at 41st and Avenue B. For more information on how you can get involved in neighborhood beautification efforts, call 371-7754. Pictured: smallest, Eli Mann; next smallest, Cyrus Turner; less hair, Jason Mann; dressed for success, Committee chair Larry Freilich.



❖ Other Notable Neighbors Dept.: Among them... Woodburn House proprietors Noel and Kristen De La Rosa, who once again graciously hosted the most recent, and most fabulous, HPNA Holidays Party; ...Jennifer Rochelle, who coordinated a silent auction at the party which yielded a donation of \$375 to the Helping Hand Home for Children, as well as over 50 bedding and towel items for children at the Home; ...and HPNA Social Committee Chair Deaton Bednar, who orchestrated the whole affair in such contagiously enthusiastic and skillful fashion.



❖ Leaf Well Enough Alone Dept.: Well neighbors, now that fall has done its thing, city trucks may or may not be coming by to sweep up leaves off our streets. But in the meantime, we'd like to encourage folks to rake and bag up leaves in the street in front of their curbs, because those leaves will inevitably get smushed, and then get wet, and then turn into mud -- constituting both an eyesore and a health hazard. And, if/when you do notice city streetsweepers tootling about, we also encourage neighbors to

move their cars, so that the sweepers will have easier access to remaining leaves.



❖ **One for the Books Dept.:** The bad news about old phone books is that the city apparently doesn't accept them for recycling, and these big fat books take up a LOT of space at the landfill. The good news is that the good folks at Ecology Action will happily recycle phone books, and their facility is conveniently located at the intersection of 9th Street and the (western) I-35 access road.



❖ **Styrofoam is Forever Dept.:** And while we're on the subject of recycling: If you were shipped any Xmas gifts encased in those infernal styrofoam packing pellets (aka "ghost t--ds"), we're happy to report that said pellets can readily be recycled. So...rather than consigning them into the trash and out to the city dump -- where they will NEVER decompose -- just bag the pellets up and take them out to the good folks at Austin Home Brew Supply at 7951 Burnet Road (467-5597), who will be only too happy to put them to adaptive re-use. And once you've done so, go home, brew some suds, and toast yourself!



❖ **Strike Three and Year Out Dept.:** So long, '06; Welcome, '07; and Happy New Year, neighbors!



Does Hyde Park need a Local Historic District designation? This modest house, at 302 W. 44th, that had been on this site 70 or more years, was demolished in 1 1/2 hours on December 5th and carted off in a dumpster. This all-too-common occurrence in Hyde Park could preclude the designation of all or part of our neighborhood as a protected local historic district.

— Karen McGraw



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# Crime Report



by Carol Welder

## Happy New Year, Neighbors!

Now that you have exchanged gifts and, hopefully, have learned how to use your new electronic equipment, it's time to think about protecting your home from burglary. Officer Vargas reports that residential burglaries continue to be the biggest challenge in our neighborhood. I have read neighbors' emails regarding items being stolen from front porches and yards. Several of you had strollers taken and, after reporting it to the police, later found out that they had been resold at a children's store. Officer Vargas told me that it appears to be juveniles who are committing these crimes. While there have been several arrests, some criminals remain on the loose. So, please take extra precaution, to guard against the temptation, by bringing your belongings into the house or garage.

Officer Vargas also reports that Bobby Joe Kelly, the transient known for tire slashing, has been arrested for burglary of a business. It's good news for the neighborhood that he will be locked away for years.

Now that APD has a full time Graffiti Detective who is making cases, graffiti appears to be down.

One neighbor reported that, while outside, she noticed a guy riding his bike and acting suspiciously by doing circles while looking into her garage. When he noticed her looking at him, he left only to come back a few hours later. This is an example of what should be reported to the police. Get a good description and call 311.

Safety Tips: As you are disposing of boxes, turn the labels inside as you fold them up for recycling, so that criminals cannot see what you have in your home. Remember that the best way to protect your home from crime is to stay vigilant, watch out for each other and keep your doors and windows locked. Remove valuable items from your cars and lock the doors. Report suspicious behavior by calling 311 and 911, if a crime is in progress.

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

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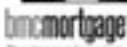


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If you have ideas, suggestions, creativity, and energy, we need you. We especially need house captains and researchers/writers, but if you want to be part of the process, regardless of your particular interests and talents, there will be a perfect job for you. Contribute to Hyde Park while meeting some of your neighbors, learning more about your neighborhood, and just plain having a good time.

Give me a call or drop me an email:

- Lorre Weidlich, 2007 Homes Tour  
Chairman, 300-2228,  
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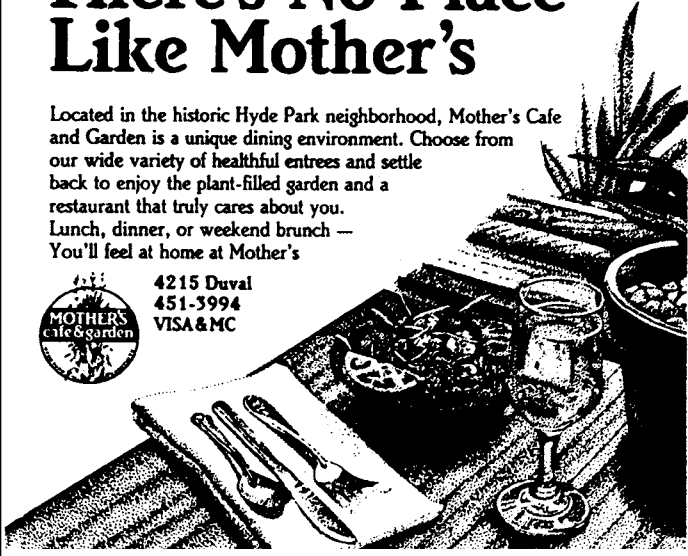



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# In Memoriam: Alton W. Weiss

The *Pecan Press* extends deepest sympathy to the family of Alton Weiss, who lived for many, many years at 4004 Ave. H. Mr. Weiss died recently at the age of 93.

In his lifetime, Mr. Weiss held many career positions. He was a former cotton gin owner, a part-time rancher and a teacher. He proudly served as a State Trooper and a deputy sheriff. He also served as the Sergeant at Arms with Texas House of Representatives, State Purchaser with the Texas State Board of Control, and Industrial Sales Coordinator with the Department of Corrections.

Closer to home, many of us in Hyde Park knew Mr. Weiss as a friend and an active member of HPNA. He was always there when there was work to be done. He stayed calm when tempers flared, and often had a solution to whatever the problem might be. For example, Mr. Weiss was the very heart and soul of the first generation of the Hyde Park Alley Cats. When it was time for the Alley Cats to prowl and prune and clean the Hyde Park alleys, Mr. Weiss drove his truck, shared in the work, kept an eye on the volunteers, and never stopped smiling and encouraging everyone. He also spearheaded Hyde Park's first-ever Neighborhood Watch program, which had a major and lasting impact on crime prevention efforts in the neighborhood. Indeed, the HPNA meeting devoted to launching that effort drew what many considered to be the highest turnout in the history of Association meetings.

In addition to Florine, his wife of 69 years, Mr. Weiss is survived by a large and loving family including five children, seven siblings, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and numerous other loved ones and friends.

Hyde Park will miss Mr. Weiss, but our neighborhood is better and stronger because he was our friend and our neighbor.

— Celeste Cromack

(Editor's Note: Celeste is a former HPNA President)

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# December Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 1

raise her and formed what was to become the longest continuously operating residential childcare agency in Travis County, a priceless resource kept strong and viable through community support.

Helping Hand Home is currently home to 41 boys and girls and works hard to attain its mission to maintain a therapeutic home for children and to restore each child to a healthy family setting. The children in the home, ranging in age from 5 to 12, have been the victims of severe physical, sexual and emotional trauma. It is the home's goal for the children to take responsibility for their own actions, leave with a sense of worth, improve their academic skills and gain an increased sense of trust. The home is working to maintain this goal with the support of volunteers who help through giving everything from financial help to working directly with the children as tutors or friends. The home is always in need of volunteers — to learn more feel free to stop by the home or just go to the website at <www.helpinghandhome.org> .

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Matt Whelan, Senior Vice President of Catellus Development Corporation, the master developer of the **Mueller Redevelopment**, the nearly 600-acre site located at 51st Street and Airport Blvd. Catellus is working to create what they hope will be a synergistic and unique self-sustaining mixed use development in the heart of the city. The redevelopment had a unique start in that the community was afforded the opportunity to set out their vision for the old

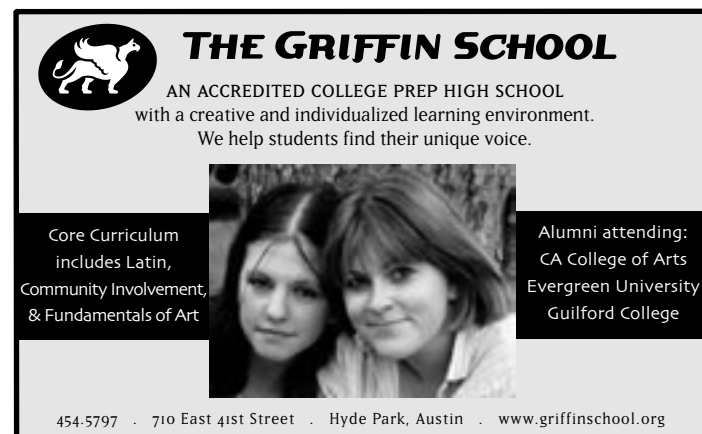
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## December Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 11

airport's redevelopment and solicited firms to carry it out – the opposite of many typical development plans.

Catellus has articulated these central guidelines for integration in the development: fiscal, economic, compatibility, diversity and sustainability. The neighborhood, which is set to break ground in the summer of '07, will be a diverse community consisting of 577 row homes/shop homes, 1,160 apartments and condos, 1,525 yard homes, 264 "Mueller Homes" (homes designed to look like mansions but are actually 4 to 6 individual family units), along with a number of mixed use apartment units.

The development will also include the 14-acre Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, set to open the summer of 2007. Another integral element of the community will be the Rathgeber Village for community nonprofits - including the Austin Children's Shelter, Family Eldercare, and many other service agencies - which are building new facilities on an adjacent tract of land donated by developer/philanthropist Dick Rathgeber. The Austin Film Studios (located on 51st Street) are within the Mueller site that will become mixed-use commercial, although the specific development plans are still pending.

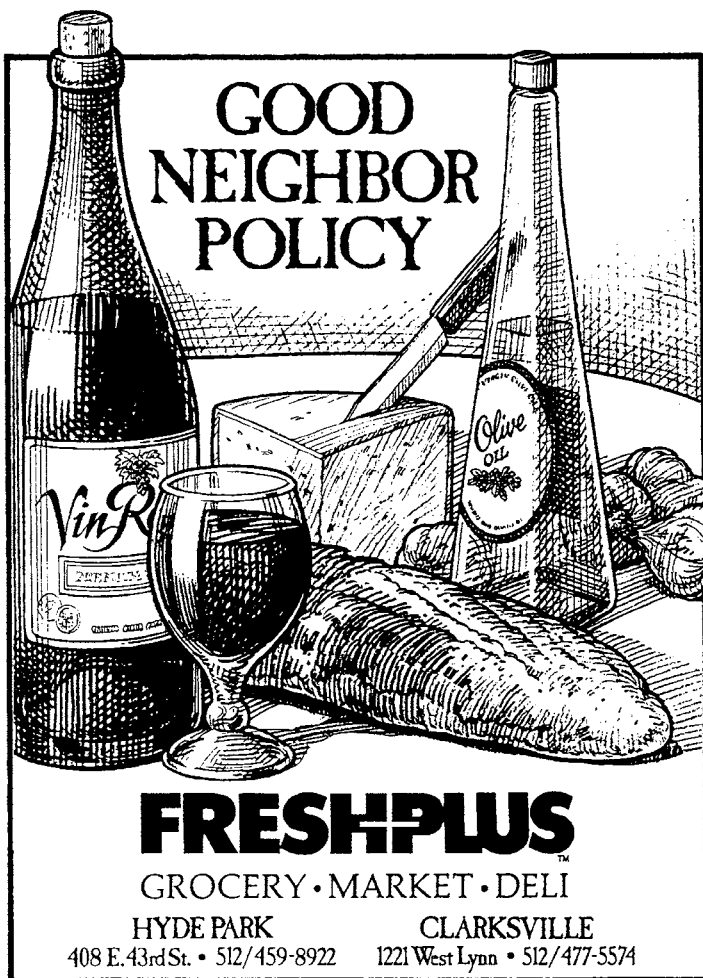
In an effort to further enhance and beautify the community, Catellus has set aside 140 acres, nearly 20% of the site's total acreage, as green space – including an ornamental entry to the Mueller neighborhood (on Aldrich Street off Airport Boulevard) which has been planted with crepe myrtles and two massive twin oaks, moved from elsewhere on the property. Just south will be the Welcome Center and Lake Park (under construction). The greenway running from the fire station on Airport Boulevard westward in an arc to the interstate will provide the first open/recreation area for the site; several others are planned throughout the neighborhood.

Mueller hopes to maximize utilization of two of today's most important trends in development – New Urbanism and Green Building. The compact, walkable mixed-use urban village means Mueller neighbors will have choices that don't necessarily involve getting in the car and polluting the air. And it means thousands of people can live in high-quality, reasonably priced neighborhoods without moving out to the edge of town and adding to suburban sprawl.

The community also combines Austin's homegrown Green Building Program – one of the best in the nation – with national LEED standards. Mueller's designs are resource-efficient, use non-toxic and recyclable regional materials, and help maintain and improve air and water quality. And the extensive greenspace system, along with Mueller's innovative utility systems, also will help keep Mueller clean, green, and sustainable. For more information on the Mueller Redevelopment, please visit their website at <[www.muelleraustin.com](http://www.muelleraustin.com)>.

Next, **HPNA Finance Committee** Chair Nick Van Bavel gave a presentation outlining the past year's budget. The presentation consisted of a 10 minute slideshow

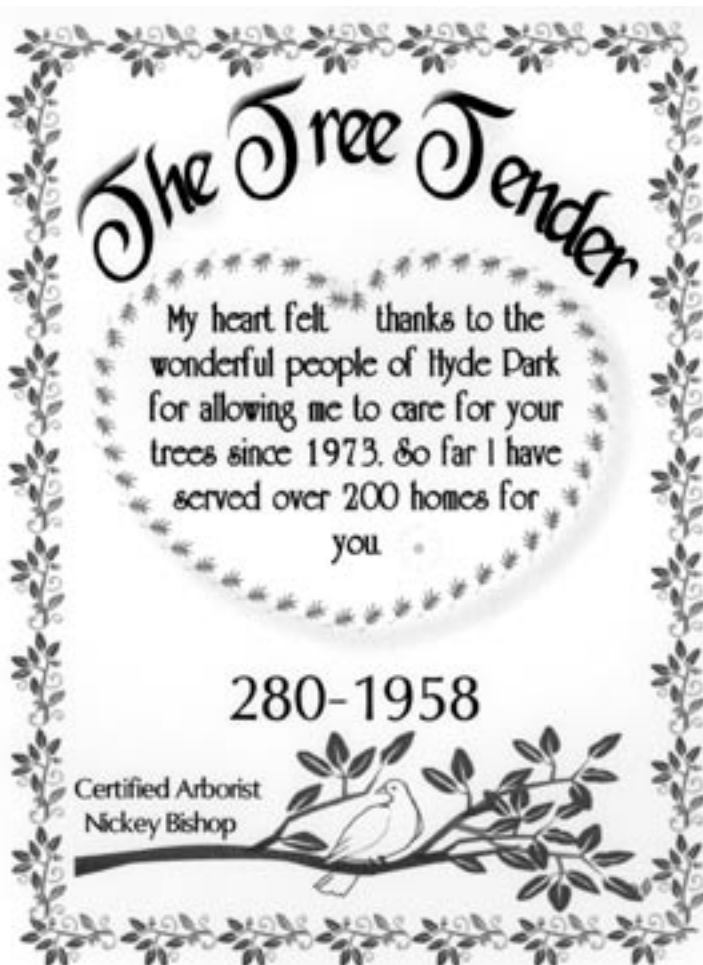
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## December Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 12

with a detailed outline of the past year's projected vs. actual performance. Most notable was the total annual income, which was projected to be \$40,620 but finalized at \$46,779; the overage can be attributed to the \$7,000 allocated to the sidewalk project that was never used. All other categories were extremely close to projections (any overage in expenses was recaptured through unexpected income). Currently, the Association has \$41,000.00 in liquid funds.

Following the 2006 budget presentation, Nick outlined the proposed budget for 2007. The most notable changes were the projected income, which was increased by \$7,000. This optimism can be attributed to the projected growth in the income produced by the *Pecan Press* due to a 10% increase in advertising costs. The largest change in the budget is the \$5,000 allotted to the Historic Preservation Investigation Committee, as well as the \$5,000 reduction (adjusted from \$7,000 to \$2,000) of funds for the sidewalk committee. Nick made a motion that the Association adopt the proposed budget that was seconded by Wanda Penn and approved unanimously.

The final presentation of the night was made by Wanda Penn concerning the \$100,000 **mitigation fund provided by Austin Energy**. The funds must be initiated by September 2007 or they will be lost. The urgency to use the funds was recently realized due to the fact that we are in the last planting season before the September deadline. After the proposition to use the monies to create a local historic district was denied due to its inapplicability to AE's requirement of community beautification other ideas were considered. The proposals that were deemed successful by Austin Energy were landscaping type projects which will be most easily implemented by committees and individuals.

The final announcement made at the meeting included a request for assistance in researching the neighborhood history for the **Historic Preservation Investigation Committee** by Sharon Majors. If you would like to help you can contact Sharon via email at <sharonmajors@grandecom.net>.

– Wendy Taddia, HPNA Co-Secretary  
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## Neighbors' Vigilance Promotes Compatible (Re-)Development

Why and how did the re-birth of Hyde Park happen? What was for many decades a derelict and crime-ridden neighborhood is now an exemplary historic district, as is documented in Dorothy Richter's oral history published in the November 2006 Pecan Press. The answer?: Dorothy and scores of other dedicated and vigilant residents who care.

The November 27th meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission is a case-in-point. Two items relative to Hyde Park were on the agenda: (1) a demolition permit for the century-old house at 311 West 41st Street; and (2) proposed expansive redevelopment of the property at 4309 1/2 Avenue F. Seven HPNA representatives were in attendance at the meeting in City Council chambers: Catherine and John Moore, Wanda Penn, Lorre Weidlich, Jane Anderson, John LaTouf and Mary Carolyn George. Presentations were made by members of our group about the viability of restoring rather demolishing the historic house.



The house at 4309 Avenue F

The house at 311 West 41st Street reappeared on the agenda of the December 18th session of the Historic Landmark Commission. Staff persists in recommending release of the demolition permit. Fortunately, twenty-plus HPNA members made informed and impassioned statements about the importance of the house in the development of Hyde Park < with the moral support of many others present who elected not to speak. Commissioners postponed a decision for 60 days while advocates for restoration work out a plan. Hopefully, more information about the house and its heroic rescue will appear in a subsequent issue of the Pecan Press.

Concerns over the inappropriate re-development of the Avenue F cottage < which had been permit-

Continued on page 18



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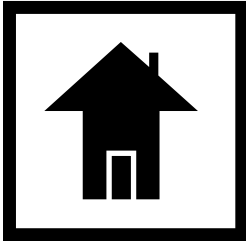
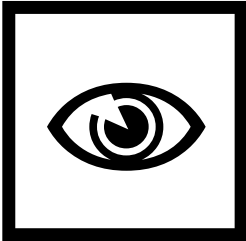
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## Compatible Redevelopment..

...cont'd from page 16

ted by city staff – extend far beyond those whose lives will be negatively impacted. Prior to the meeting, architect Karen McGraw, chair of the Hyde Park Planning Team, identified specific problems the permitting office failed to identify. To mention only a few of these, they include questions about provisions for proper parking access, impervious cover and fire code issues. A statement from HPNA President Elaine Meeneham and the Steering Committee was read to the commissioners expressing concerns about shoe-horning an overly large two-story house on a tiny 25-foot lot, created when a larger property was subdivided. Sally Robey, the nearest neighbor on Avenue F, also spent the day with city staffers sharing her research. At 10:30 p.m., when the Commission finally addressed the Avenue F dilemma, Steve Sadowsky announced that the building permit had been put “on hold” and that the property owners were advised to re-design the project in compliance with the various codes and regulations as well as the HPNA design guidelines.[ At the December 18th meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission under “Review of Permits in National Register Historic District” item D2, it was noted that “applicant has not yet submitted revised plans showing compliance with the Hyde Park NCCD. Postponed to January 22, 2007.” It is hoped that, working together, a design that is consistent in scale and quality < consistent with the fabric of the neighborhood – will be the felicitous outcome and that the Hyde Park Neighborhood Development Review Committee as well as the Historic Landmark Commission will be involved in the process. WORKING TOGETHER IS THE ONLY OPTION.

– Mary Carolyn George



Michael Klug and Michele Grieshaber's Hyde Park bungalow at 47th St and Avenue H is being featured on the PBS series 'This Old House.' The show is remodeling the 1926 Craftsman home using 'green' practices and will be updating the kitchen and adding bedrooms. It's working with a \$250,000 budget.



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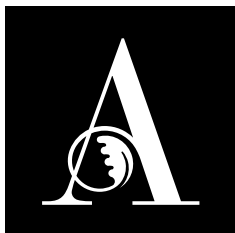
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