## January Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 7, 2013

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 Jan 7<sup>th</sup>

- HPNA 2012 Annual Budget Discussion
- Discussion & possible vote on resolution concerning tract of land across from McCallum HS (see text of original proposal on page 3 of December issue of *Pecan Press*)

All Hyde Park residents are welcome.



## HPNA Holiday Party Wrap-Up

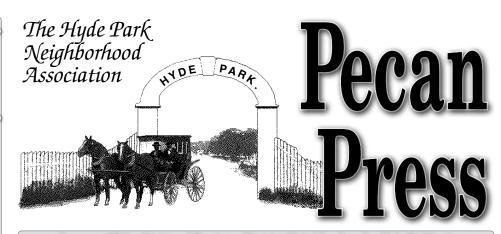
Many neighbors, young and old, came to the HPNA holiday party at The Parlor on the evening of Sunday December 16th.



We appreciate that The Parlor let us hold a potluck event in their restaurant. Our Congressman (through the end of 2012

at least), Lloyd Doggett, and our State Representative, Elliott Naishtat, stopped by. There wasn't a formal program, neighbors ate, drank, visited and played pool.





January 2013 · National Register District Neighborhood · Vol. 39, No. 1

# You are invited: Peace Through Pie Social & MLK Day of Service at Trinity United Methodist Church

As millions of Americans come together to celebrate the Martin Luther King (MLK) Holiday, our neighborhood

is celebrating our second "America's Sunday Supper" pie social followed by an MLK Day of Service community project. Inspired by Dr. King's legacy, America's Sunday Supper encourages communities to share a meal and conversation about topics that deeply affect our lives and highlight the power each one of us has to make a difference.

Please join us on Sunday, January 20th at **Trinity United Methodist Church** (TUMC) at 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Speedway for the **2**<sup>nd</sup> **Peace Through Pie Social** hosted in partnership with many community groups and nonprofit organizations including Griffin School, Amigos de las Americas, Center for Inquiry Austin, AHB Community School, AHB Community School, and HPNA.

You are welcome to bring your favorite pie story and sweet or savory pie to share (every culture around the globe has its unique pie recipes: samosas, empanadas, tamales, calzones, meat pies, or pizza pies). Peace Through Pie is rekindling the pie social to promote



PEACE through PIE

community building, one piece at a time. This year, our round table topic is immigration, focusing on the challenges, obstacles, hopes, and fears facing families starting a new life in this country.

Monday's Day of Service project partners with Posada Esperanza, <www.casamarianella.org/posada-esperanza> a full service transitional housing program for immigrant mothers and children escaping domestic and cultural violence. Posada's goal is to create a nurturing environment for the children while their moms work to achieve self sufficiency. There are tasks for volunteers of all ages: light carpentry and "fix-it" proj-

Continued on page 17

## From the Co-Presidents

Happy New Year! We hope that all of our neighbors had a restful holiday break, filled with family and friends. And thank you to everyone who attended the 2012 HPNA Holiday Party! We appreciate the times when our community can come together to share homemade food and enjoy each other's company. A special thanks goes out to The Parlor for hosting us.

We also look forward to all that 2013 has to offer. Already, we've had a number of great neighbors step up to take on larger roles in the neighborhood association in the coming year. Annette Lucksinger has agreed to be our new AISD Representative, acting as a liaison to our neighborhood schools and communicating their happenings to our Hyde Park parents. Carol Welder will reprise her role as the Crime & Safety Chair, work-

ing closely with our APD District Representatives and acting as a resource to neighbors who've had a crime related issue and need guidance on how to handle it. Finally, Tammy Young has agreed to assist our Social Committee with organizing and coordinating parties. Many thanks to Annette, Carol, and Tammy!!

We also want to mention that HPNA still has some vacant positions which we hope to fill. As a major annual event and fundraiser for the neighborhood, the Hyde Park Homes Tour will need a Chair or Co-Chairs for 2013. Other standing committees which need representation include the Parking & Transportation Committee and the Tree Preservation Committee. Finally, with possible changes coming to publicly owned land surrounding Hyde Park (discussed in the next paragraph), HPNA has created some new positions known as "Greater Austin Development Liaisons," to help our neighborhood communicate with the City and State players and have a seat at the negotiating table. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact us (our email addresses are in the box on the 2nd page of each Pecan

At City Council's December 6th meeting, members approved an Inter-local Agreement (ILA) with the Texas Facilities Commission to participate in a study to assess the possibility of interim development for some state-owned land. The parcels of land which



Pecan Press

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the  $15^{th}$  of month preceding publication.

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are under consideration include the Austin State Hospital between 38th and 45th Streets, unleased tracts surrounding the Triangle development between 45th and 47th Streets, and the state office buildings on either sides of Lamar Blvd. just south of 51st Street (adjacent to the Intramural Fields). Possible development or redevelopment of such large parcels immediately adjacent to our neighborhood could have a major impact on Hyde Park and deserve our close attention.

#### Continued on following page

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

#### - HPNA Officers/Steering Committee -Co-Presidents .. <jawilli@grandecom.net> John Williams . Ashley Schweickart .....<amschweickart@gmail.com> Vice President .. <mlfishman@gmail.com> Mark Fishman ... Co-Secretaries • Claire de Young • Mike Pikulsi Co-Treasurers • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765 I.J. Aarons <ijaarons@aol.com> Lynne Hohlfeld ..... Ihohlfeldcpa@yahoo.com Additional Steering Committee Members: Dorothy Richter • Lorre Weidlich • Eric Stumberg Kevin Heyburn • Kathy Lawrence • Paul Kamprath Annette Lucksinger • Lisa Harris HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs) AISD • Annette Lucksinger Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, <sky2wash@austin.rr.com> Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Ellen Williams, <anc\_rep@yahoo.com> Beautification • Robin Burch < robinburch@gmail.com> (903) 780-5275 Children's Programs • Elise Krentzel Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F. Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, <robin@wcook.org> Crime & Safety • Carol Welder Development Review • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com> Finance • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com> Graffiti Patrol • Pete Gilcrease <pgilcrease@gmail.com> 817-313-3896 Homes Tour • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com> Lorre Weidlich <lweidlich@mail2sevenseas.com> Membership • Sharon Brown <donsharon4213@sbcglobal.net> • Karen Saadeh <kdmatthis@gmail.com> Neighborhood Outreach • Larry Gilg <lgilg@grandecom.net> Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C 459-2261 Local Historic District • inactive Parks & Public Space • Mark Fishman, <mlfishman@gmail.com> Social • Deaton Bednar, <deatonbednar@grandecom.net> Transportation • ..... .. VOLUNTEER NEEDED

... VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Tree Preservation • ......

Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C 206-0729

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



Finally, there are several volunteer opportunities for Hyde Park in January and February. Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO), who presented at our December HPNA meeting, is looking for volunteers for the annual Point in Time count held January 25th-26th (visit <www.austinecho. org>). Trinity United Methodist Church is looking for volunteers for America's Sunday Supper and Pie Social coming up on January 20th (email <mail@tumc.org>). Finally, Without Regrets Foundation is one of the 26 Miles for 26 Charities organizations assisted by the Austin Marathon happening February 17th. They need volunteers during the marathon to help run the water stop at the Children's Discovery Network at 4112 Duval Street (email <tara@withoutregrets. org>).

Ashley Schweickart
 <amschweickart@gmail.com>
 John Williams
 <jawilli@grandecom.net>
 HPNA Co-Presidents

## **Hyde Park Egg Scramble**

Attention all Hyde Parkers. Please mark your calendar for the first annual Hyde Park Egg Scramble at Shipe Park on Saturday March 30th, 2013, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This HPNA sponsored event is open to everyone in the neighborhood! There will be many fun events including egg hunts and a bounce house. Refreshments will be served.

The egg hunt will be divided into the following three age groups: under 3 years old, 4 & 5 year olds, and over 5 years old. If your child is going to participate in the egg hunt festivities, please drop off 1 dozen plastic eggs filled with age appropriate treats any time between Saturday, March 23rd and Friday, March 29th at the following houses:

There will be bins on the front porch marked by age group. We will need assistance from volunteers for set up and clean up. Questions, comments, or interest in volunteering please email Michelle at <mrossomando@grandecom. net>. More details to come as it gets closer to the event, but mark your calendars now for what we hope to be a new tradition for our neighborhood!

- Rossomando/Williams House at 4307 Avenue F OR
- Luyet/Cabada House at 4809 Eilers



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2012-13 Membership	<b>HPNA Membership Info</b>
NamePhone		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  Payment: ☐ Check ☐ Cash Date  All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.	Austin, Texas 78765  Make checks payable to HPNA.	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

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Editor, Pecan Press pecaneditor@gmail.com>

\*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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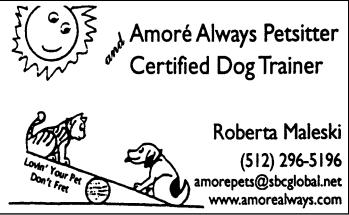
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# HPNA Meeting Minutes: December 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. Announcements were made. Volunteers are needed to chair some of the HPNA committees. Neighbors were asked to consider leading the Crime & Safety, 2013 Homes Tour, Parking & Transportation, and Tree Preservation Committees, or being involved as Greater Austin Development Liaisons.

The first item of business was a possible vote in support of the Brentwood Neighborhood Association's (BNA) decision regarding a proposed development near McCallum High School. BNA opposes changing the existing zoning on the land in a manner that would permit higher density development. A quorum of voting members was not reached at the meeting, however, and therefore no vote was taken. Since the children in Hyde Park attend McCallum High School, HPNA has an interest in any future development proposals across the street from this school. This item may be revisited at another meeting of HPNA.

Updates from the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) meeting of 11-28-12 were given. The City is launching a Citizens Redistricting Commission in response to the passage of Proposition 3 in November. A forum will be held Tuesday, December 4th at 7 p.m. at 525 Barton Springs Road to discuss the implementation of this ordinance. Everyone is encouraged to apply to become a member of the Commission to establish the boundaries of the 10 new council districts. Information and commissioner qualifications can be found on the website, austintexas.gov/10-one. Additionally, the ANC is formulating their 2013 priorities at this time. Neighbors may send emails to our Hyde Park representative Ellen Williams at anc\_rep@yahoo. com with any ideas and concerns for ANC to address this coming year.

The meeting continued with a presentation by Ann Howard, Executive Director of the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO). ECHO is "fiercely committed to ending homelessness" and intends to achieve this by feeding, clothing, housing, and giving legal aid and prenatal care to homeless persons. This organization is preventing and ending homelessness through Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), defined as residential apartments with nonprofit case management services provided through public agencies. There is a shortage of apartments in Austin for PSH.

Continued on following page

Ms. Howard announced that the annual Point in Time count which will be held January 25-26, 2013 to obtain a more accurate estimate of the number of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons who need services across Travis County. Volunteers will walk different sections of the city at different times and count persons who are homeless. Ms. Howard reported that 2,244 persons were counted during the 2012 Point in Time. Anyone can help by contacting austinecho.org. Meeting attendees mentioned that Trinity United Methodist Church in Hyde Park participates in homeless assistance by providing cold weather shelter, lunches, and a food bank.

Mark Fishman gave the update on the activities of Parks & Public Spaces Committee (formerly the Shipe Park Committee). Huffstickler Green at Duval and 38th Street is nearing completion. HPNA, in conjunction with the Hancock Neighborhood Association, will be responsible for watering any plants and trees. Additionally, the Shipe Park Mosaic Project is nearing completion while the Shade Space at Shipe is on hold.

Adam Wilson gave a more in-depth report on the Shipe Park Mosaic. Thus far \$42,000 has been raised, and about \$5,500 more is needed to complete the work. Blue Moon Glass Shop has been a great help and supporter of the project. Many neighbors have participated through creation of small mosaic pieces within the larger design, on the theme "A Day in the Park." The Mosaic, located on the pump house wall of Shipe Pool, is being installed in 5 stages and will be 80% complete in February. February 2, 2013 is the next opportunity for students to work on the Mosaic, at Griffin School, then on February 3rd the work will be open to neighbors. To participate in this "investment in the neighborhood" please contact ShipePark. org with contributions, or to get more information. Contributors will be acknowledged on plagues. The finished Mosaic will be unveiled during the summer of 2013, to coincide with the Shipe Pool Opening Par-

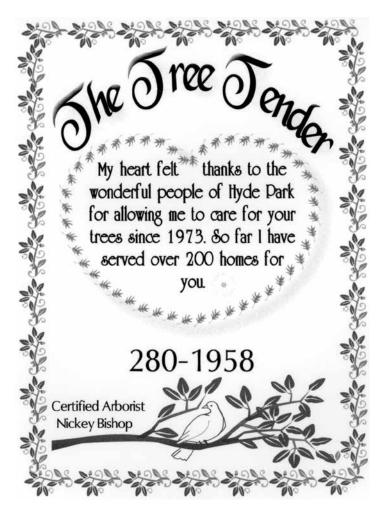
Funding for Shipe Pool may again be in question next year, as a City contractor begins a citywide pool evaluation and audit in January. Friends of Shipe Park will be monitoring the progress of this evaluation, and public input will be very important to protecting Shipe Pool.

Finally, John Williams reminded everyone that the HPNA Holiday Party is taking place on December 16th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Parlor, located at 43rd & Guadalupe. This is a pot-luck dinner with a cash bar. Children's activities will be included.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Submitted by,

 Mike Pikulski & Claire de Young, HPNA Co-Secretaries



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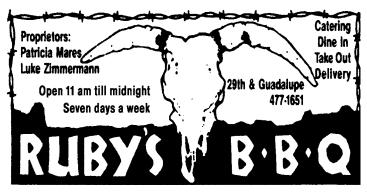
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## Selling and Leasing State Land

On the evening of November 29, 2012, I attended a public meeting which the City of Austin held to get input on developing an interlocal agreement with the Texas Facilities Commission. Ashley Schweickart and Karen McGraw also participated.

Attendees from the city included George Adams, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Review, Jim Robertson, who heads the urban design division of Planning and Development Review, and several Councilmembers or their aides. Aundre Dukes represented the Texas Facilities Commission at the meeting, and aides for Reps. Donna Howard and Elliott Naishtat attended as well. Trustee Allen Kaplan participated for Austin Community College. Various members of the Downtown Alliance, residents of neighborhoods that adjoin the state land and affordable housing advocates, also participated.

The Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) currently is doing a feasibility study of selling or leasing state lands in Austin. They are not developing any site plans or approving development plans now. Mr. Dukes indicated that TFC will take no action of that sort until after the upcoming Legislative Session. The TFC is trying to reduce use of leased space to reduce expenses for the state. TFC is also acting in response to recently passed legislation which added Chapter 2267 to the Texas Government Code. The new chapter sets out criteria for evaluating potential public-private partnerships and processes for entering into public-private partnerships. The TFC is developing criteria for soliciting development proposals and evaluating unsolicited proposals under this chapter.

At its November 8th meeting Council adopted a resolution that directed the City Manager to negotiate an interlocal agreement (ILA) between the City of Austin (COA) and the Texas Facilities Commission to participate in the Texas Facilities Commission's master planning efforts for state-owned sites identified by the commission within the City of Austin and bring the draft agreement back to Council on December 6, 2012. Council also directed City staff to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of that agreement. The November 29th meeting was that opportunity for stakeholders to participate. Some of the lands the ILA relates to are very close to Hyde Park – what TFC refers to as the North Austin Complex (state buildings on Guadalupe and Lamar north of 45th St.) and what they call the south campus – the Austin State Hospital area, excluding Central Park.

Continued on following page

Under the ILA the TFC and COA would coordinate and collaborate on development feasibility studies. They would assess the existing conditions and develop test scenarios/hypotheticals. They would consider factors including infrastructure needs and potential impacts to surrounding areas. The city would not actually be doing the feasibility study, only participating in it.

At the November 9th meeting we broke up into groups and talked about what the city should make sure is in the ILA. Each table of participants created a list of priorities for the staff and City Council. City staff have put the input they collected on the COA website here:

<http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/
files/Planning/Texas%20Facilities%20Commission%20Studies.pdf>

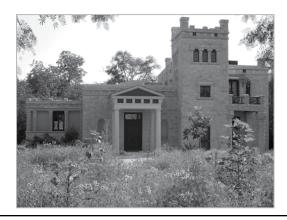
Some of the common themes in the public comments included that the development should be consistent with adopted City plans, including the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan; that development or redevelopment of state land for private purposes should trigger city zoning and site plan processes and comply with city rules regarding development (regardless of whether the land is being sold or leased), that there should be provisions for public input in the development process and that traffic impact analysis should be done.

On December 6th Council voted 5-2 to enter into an ILA with the TFC and to spend up to \$400,000 on the TFC analysis. The resolution that Council adopted is available on the city's website here:

<a href="http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2012/20121206-reg.htm#064">http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2012/20121206-reg.htm#064</a>

The resolution directs that adjacent property owners and interested parties be notified when a proposal for a public-private partnership is received and that project proposals be submitted to the applicable land use commission, Planning Commission or Zoning and Platting, and that commission hold a public hearing at their first available meeting to consider public comment relating to the proposal.

Lisa Harris



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Contact Geoff Coalson: (832) 797-7675 geoff.coalson@mail.utexas.edu.

This study has been approved by The University of Texas at Austin Institutional Review Board.

## Restricted

An Excerpt From Austin Restricted: Progressivism, Zoning, Racial Covenants, and the Making of a Segregated City

For bibliographical references please consult a draft copy of the full report at: <a href="http://academia.edu/1888949/Austin\_Restricted\_">http://academia.edu/1888949/Austin\_Restricted\_</a> Progressivism\_Zoning\_Private\_Racial\_Covenants\_and\_the\_Making\_of\_a\_Segregated\_City>.

In 1889 Colonel Monroe Shipe arrived in Austin from Kansas and over the next thirty years or so, until his death in 1924, he played a major role in how the city developed. Among his many financial ventures, one, the construction of a neighborhood called Hyde Park by the M. K. & T. Land and Town Company, would shape Austin's residential geography for generations. Shortly after arriving in Austin, he acquired a large tract of land about two miles north of the Texas State Capitol and the University of Texas' main campus. Here in 1891 Shipe platted and then later built Austin's first planned upscale suburb, which would be "select and entirely free from nuisances and an objectionable class of people, proper restrictions being taken to guard against undesirable occupants." About two miles from Austin's central business district, the neighborhood would be connected to the city's nerve center by a private street car that Shipe had also designed and built. Within the first decade after its founding, however, land sales were slack and Shipe was forced to create smaller subdivisions and lots and cater to a more moderately resourced community. Advertisements at the time discussed the many amenities of the neighborhood, such as free mail service, the scenic nature of the area, good streets, rapid transit, electricity, city water, its safety from floods, the prohibition of saloons, and, most significantly, that it was "exclusively for white people." Shipe was not alone in creating areas only for whites, a fast-developing fashionable neighborhood just south of Hyde Park, called Alridge Place, also advertised its racial purity. It, however, was dwarfed in size by Hyde Park's 206 acres and its planned subdivision of 400 blocks, most of which was built in the late 1920s, much of it after Shipe's death.

Shipe was a strong proponent of Progressive municipal reform in Austin. In Texas, such reform efforts were generally led by the business community, which was opposed to ward politics because of its potential for corruption and tendency to support more populist elements in government. Stuart McCorkle described how "a group of citizens headed by M. M. Shipe spent the greater part of 1908 attempting to convince the Austin voters that a change in the city charter providing for commission government would assist in finding solution to their many municipal difficulties." These reformers were successful. In 1909, Austin adopted a new municipal charter, one that

Continued on page 10

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### Restricted...

#### ...cont'd from page 8

was essentially written by Shipe, which changed the structure of its local government from an alderman (or ward) system to a commission system. Shipe had been a strong advocate of this new form of government because it was believed to be more efficient at delivering government services, and in 1908, he wrote in an editorial in the local newspaper, "So long as a town is divided by wards and controlled by politics the growth of the town will be retarded." Shipe was attacked in some quarters, particular by Mayor Maddox, for "wanting to improve streets so he could sell lots in his private interests [Hyde Park]," but such attacks proved ineffective at stopping Shipe and his fellow reformers, such as Alexander Woodbridge; in 1909 a slate of reform candidates won a landslide election and took control of the newly organized commission government. Soon after entering office, the new administration undertook an effort to finance a host of public works programs designed to encourage residential and commercial growth in Austin, such as building sewers and a new dam for electricity.

Shipe's story illustrates the way the dynamics of urban development and municipal reforms in Austin, and more generally in the South and Southwest, largely ran together in the early portion of 20th century. Shipe was a land developer, an important businessman in the community, who was trying to profit from his financial land speculations. He saw the need for a stronger local government that would help the city grow, and he knew this was essential for him to get a profitable return on his investment. He also knew that people like him had to control the government in order to dictate how public revenues were spent on public works. Shipe, therefore, acted and created a new "businessmen's government," which would help fuel the city's growth through public expenditure and discourage the vast majority of people from meddling in politics, particularly poor and non-white people. Moreover, his antipathy toward non-whites became embedded in the very way Austin grew. For generations, Shipe's planned development, the first planned subdivision in Austin, excluded certain people from some of the best real estate opportunities in the city for no other reason than their lack of perceived similarity to a social group called the 'wĥite race.'

- Eliot M. Tretter, PhD *University of Texas at Austin* Department of Geography and the Environment *Urban Studies Program* 



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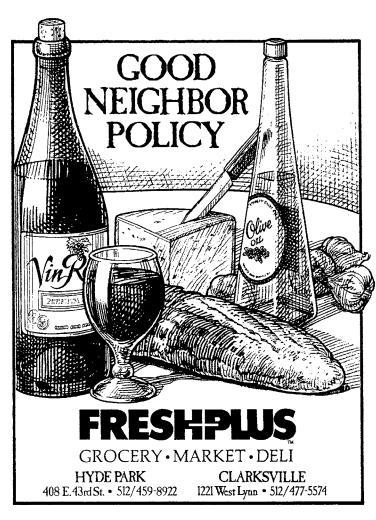




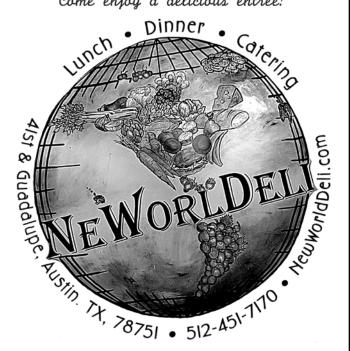








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## ANC Meeting Topics Update

At the November 28, 2012 General Meeting of the Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) four topics were presented for which HPNA neighbors might have interest in participating either with their time or ideas. Each opportunity has deadlines, so please act now to participate.

- 1) **Request for input** to submit to ANC for 2013 topics of concern and interest: At the next ANC meeting in January, the ANC neighborhood assn reps will submit issues that the neighborhoods would like the ANC to focus on for 2013. If you have topics of interest you would like me to submit for consideration, please email them to me at <anc\_rep@yahoo.com>. I have submitted to this month's *Pecan Press* several volunteer opportunities which ask for your participation.
- 2 & 3) **Volunteer to help** the homeless (pg. 14)& low-income families pg. 16): Two of the topics that were presented in the November ANC meeting are included as separate articles within the *Pecan Press*. They involve opportunities for Hyde Park neighbors to volunteer in January for annual events to help two Austin organizations to help the homeless and help low-income families in preparation of their tax returns.
- 4) The fourth additional HOT topic Qualification (pg. 18) to become a Commission Member of the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission (CIRC) to establish the boundaries for the 10 geographic single-member districts for future city council elections, beginning November 2014. This process was detailed at the ANC meeting by Fred Lewis representing the group, Austinites for Geographic Representation. <www.austingeorep.org>. Mr. Lewis was there to encourage all Austin citizens who might qualify and be interested in serving as one of 14 Commission members for the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission (CIRC), which was voted into law as Proposition 3 in the recent general election, November 6, 2012. This is the important group that will actually establish the ten single member geographic boundaries from which the future ten City Council members will be elected and represent. Interested in becoming a Commission member? IMPORTANT STUFF! See the article in this Pecan Press to establish if you might qualify as one of the 14 Commission members to be selected.
  - Ellen Williams
     ANC rep for HPNA

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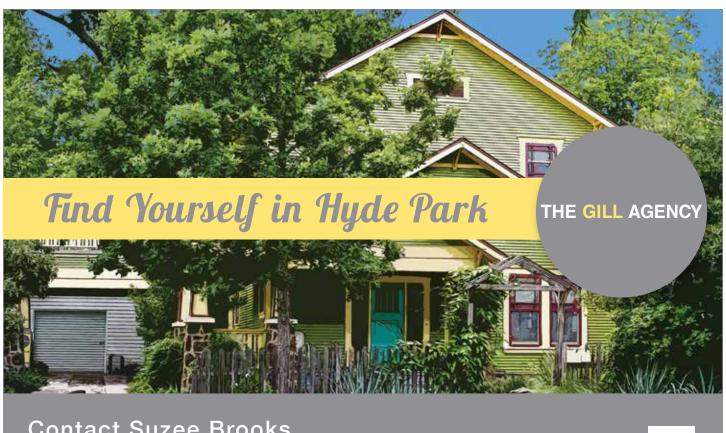


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## (2) Volunteer for Annual "Point-in-Time Count" of Austin's Homeless

At a recent presentation Ann Howard, Executive Director for (ECHO), Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, explained the non-profit's mission to provide expert coordination to prevent homelessness, address short-term homelessness, and end long-term homelessness. To learn more about their program, consult the website <a href="http://austinecho.org">http://austinecho.org</a>>.

ECHO's annual program "Point in Time Count," January 25-26, 2013, needs volunteers to physically count the homeless in Austin and Travis County. In order to receive funding of \$5.2 million from HUD, ECHO is required annually in January to perform a count and survey of the homeless in Austin and Travis County—including those in shelters as well as the unsheltered. This survey also provides data to evaluate and advocate for services for the homeless in our communities.

You can help with the essential Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. This count is a vital component in assessing the well being of Austin area's homeless population and in securing the greatest level of funding the federal government will allot Travis County's homeless service providers. Counts are scheduled:

- Friday, January 25th from 4 -8 p.m. furthest parts of the county
- Friday, January 25th from 6 10 p.m. immediate rural/suburban/urban areas
- Saturday, January 26th from 3 7 a.m. downtown/ urban areas

Want to participate? Go to their website and see tabs: "Events" "Point-in-Time-Count" and read where to Click on Volunteer Registration. There is a detailed explanation of volunteer involvement and training.

Volunteers will attend a training session. Both training sessions will be held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church - 606 West 15th Street. Sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

Saturday, January 12th from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 23rd from 6 - 8 p.m.

To sign up, go to <a href="http://austinecho.org/count">http://austinecho.org/count</a>. For questions, contact ECHO at <a href="https://homelesscountaustin@gmail.com">https://homelesscountaustin@gmail.com</a> or call Tera at 512-247-8678.



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### (3) Volunteer: Help Low-Income Families File Taxes

According to their website at <a href="http://foundcom.org">http://foundcom.org</a>>: "Foundation Communities is a local non-profit providing first class, affordable homes and support services for thousands of low-income families and individuals, empowering them with the tools they need to succeed. They offer an innovative, proven model that enables their residents and neighbors to achieve educational success and financial stability. They own and operate 17 properties in Austin and North Texas providing affordable homes to over 2,600 families, create enriched learning environments for over 700 children as well as ongoing adult education and financial coaching, and help over 17,000 low income residents file their taxes free of charge every year returning \$27 million in refunds to the local economy."

Each year, over 600 volunteers at their Community Tax Centers help with the preparation and filing of tax returns for low income residents. As a volunteer, you can help by working directly with families to file their taxes; or welcome clients and screen them for eligibility; or serve as a translator for the 34% of clients who only speak Spanish.

No previous tax preparation is necessary. Volunteers must complete their tax preparer training in January (up to 12 hours of training) and pass an IRS certification test. They provide all the training you need!

Get involved! You can visit their website www. foundcom.org and click on "Get Involved" or email <jackie.blair@foundcom.org>

## Hyde Park Poets——•

### The Things You Keep from the Past

I still fix pork and beans the way my mother did – chop half an onion, sauté it, empty the beans on top, stir, add two or three tablespoons of catsup, a touch of sugar if they're not sweet enough. She used to fix Germanfried potatoes with them but I'm too lazy. I just eat them with bread and butter, maybe a salad and I always think of her. Funny how you can feel both comforted and lonely at the same time.

— Ca 1/1994 Albert Huffstickler

## Peace Through Pies... ...cont'd from page 1

ects, fresh coats of paint, and basic clean-up. Donation needs include disposable daily items -- toilet paper, paper towels, cleaners, detergent, soap, shampoo, and toothpaste. Or purchase ESL books and facilitate permanent volunteer help (ESL tutors, job-training, nutrition-classes, etc.).

Neighborhood leaders and volunteers start the day with a Peace Through Pie (pizza pie) lunch and then assemble teams to tackle the tasks. Volunteers from Food is Free project are already on board to help install drought-resistant garden beds at Posada (while simultaneously teaching others how to make these "wicking beds").

We had a fabulous turnout for the 2012 MLK pie social and service project (community garden ground-breaking at Griffin School) and we hope to see you this year! For more information and to volunteer to help out at the events, please contact: Amy Duncan, <mail@tumc.org>, ph:512.459.5835, <www.tumc.org>.



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# (4) How to Qualify & Serve on CIRC

Austin City Council passed and approved Ordinance 20120802-015 in August 2012, which ordered an election to be held on November 6, 2012 for the purpose of adopting a proposed amendment to the City Charter. This amendment was to provide for the election of council members from 10 geographic single-member districts, with the mayor to be elected from the city at large, and to provide for a Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission (CIRC) to establish the boundaries of the 10 geographic districts.

In the November 6th general election, the ballot Proposition 3 related to this amendment was passed by the voting public.

Proposition 3 provided for the City Charter to be amended to provide a 10-1 single-member geographic representational system of government and a CIRC to establish the geographic boundaries of the ten geographic single-member districts, which will be adjusted each ten years after the census.

In contrast, the current city council has six members, plus a mayor, all of whom have always been elected at-large, each member representing all citizens and all geographic regions of Austin.

With the November 2014 election the number of city council members will increase to ten, with each being elected from and representing the geographic district in which they must live in order to serve.

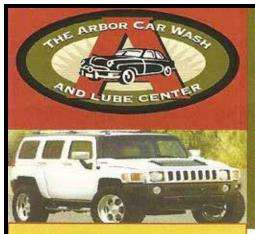
It is the responsibility of the CIRC, comprised of 14 citizen commission members, to initially establish the boundaries of the 10 geographic single-member districts of which ten city council members will each represent from the November 2014 election.

Additionally, the 14-member CIRC will hire consultants and conduct public hearings regarding the districts. Strict, but simple, guidelines explain who can qualify to be one of the 14 CIRC members, as well as how they will be chosen.

There are 7 prioritized criteria that the 14 Commission members must use for establishing the boundaries of the council districts for the City. The basics to qualify and/or apply as a Commission Member for the CIRC can be found at the City's website at <a href="http://austintexas.gov/article/city-auditor-kenneth-j-mory-invites-public-input-citizens-redistricting-application-process">http://austintexas.gov/article/city-auditor-kenneth-j-mory-invites-public-input-citizens-redistricting-application-process</a>.

If you prefer to read the detailed ordinance that specified the charter amendment guidelines, visit the City website to read the Ordinance No. 20120802-15, adopted August 13, 2012.

On December 4, 2012 the first public forum was conducted by the City Auditor to encourage citizens to apply to be considered as a CIRC member. The deadline to apply as a CIRC member appears to be February 1, 2013, so hurry to apply.



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