

# July Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, July 6, 2009

**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 July 6<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ No Business, All Pleasure:  
Ice Cream Social!

## The Dumpsters of Hyde Park

**Point One:** The outdoor part of this neighborhood, to most of us, is as much “home” as the four walls of our house.

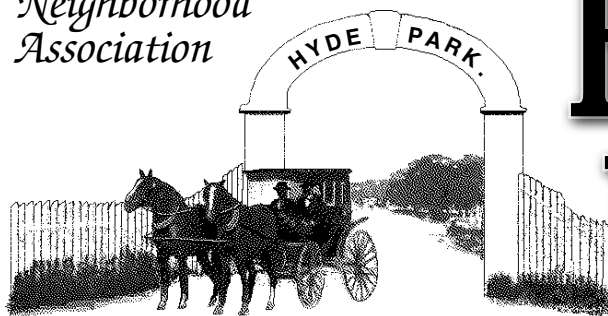
**Point Two:** The City of Austin, after considerable time and money spent to identify its “priorities,” has decreed that having a “healthy, safe city” with “sustainable...public health” is high on the priority list. (Check the City’s website.)

**Question:** Why are the streets and sidewalks of this neighborhood blighted with garbage dumpsters containing rotted waste, vermin, and graffiti, practically every few blocks?

This month—July, 2009—marks the one-year anniversary of the start of our campaign to insist that the City enforce its own code on its own property, and force removal of the private dumpsters throughout Hyde Park that are set on or near the curbs and sidewalks. The City’s right-of-way includes the sidewalk, the curb, and the land in between. This is public property. By Code, it is not available for private dumpster use, except under a license agreement with the City. There are 20 illegally-placed dumpsters throughout Hyde Park and another 300-plus citywide. So far as we can determine, no dumpster has ever been licensed, no fees ever col-

Continued on page 4

*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

July, 2009 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 35, No. 7

## Hyde Park Homes Tour 2009

The 2009 Hyde Park Homes Tour, held Fathers’ Day weekend June 20-21, richly demonstrated the distinctive diversity and spirit of the Hyde Park community. We grossed \$18,699, including \$4866 in sponsorships, and expenses will be around \$6000. That leaves us with net proceeds of nearly \$13,000, which will enable us to continue to make improvements to Hyde Park and to further our efforts to become a local historic district. Thanks to the hard work of over 200 volunteers, we brought back the tour in grand fashion.

Our approximately 700 guests had the pleasure of touring the homes of Mike McHone and Sharyn Hamm, Arlinda Abbott, Michelle and Doug Paris-White, Paula and Andy Rhodes, Eric Stumberg, and Wanda Penn. Each home had its own personality and style, mirroring the character of our neighborhood. The music at each venue paired beautifully with its surroundings, due to Mary LaTouf of Book Austin Music.

The house docents did a great job of informing our guests and securing the featured houses. It turns out our bus conductors were incredibly entertaining, as well as very knowledgeable as to the history of Hyde Park and its former residents.

Our tour booklets were excellent, thanks to the hard work and writing skills of Robin Silberling (also web



Visitors at the McMullen-Falk House  
(all Tour photos by Lorre Weidlich)

designer, poster mentor, and editor of the booklet) and our writers — Sally Robey, Clay Smith, John Paul Moore, and Peter Maxson. Rice (Rusty) Jackson provided photography for our website, publicity, and tour booklets; check out his website at <terra360.com>. John Paul Moore also recruited the bus conductors and took care of their scripts. Elaine Valentour managed our ticket sales and John Kerr did a phenomenal job on our publicity — including, and especially,

Continued on page 3

# From the President's Desk:

## Old Neighborhood, New Energy

Wow! Where do I begin? In the beginning of June, we had the Shipe Pool Opening party. Thanks to all the event organizers and sponsors. The music was wonderful and the food was great! And then, the Homes Tour event this Fathers' Day weekend!

It was spectacular and meaningful to the neighborhood, and appreciation goes out to everyone in making it a success. Special thanks to Barbara Gibson, Chair of the 2009 Homes Tour and her committee, the homeowners, house captains, the docents, sponsors and volunteers, and of course the visitors.

As a house captain, it gave me a chance to talk to the visitors on their visit into the neighborhood.

Many of the visitors expressed their gratification in that there was a Homes Tour event again this year. Many expressed how lucky we are to live in such a historic and close-knit neighborhood. The planning process for the 2010 Homes Tour will start soon. I know that as a neighborhood association, we may have many opinions and we may not agree on some things, but one thing is for sure: Hyde Park is a neighborhood that is more than willing to do whatever it needs to do to remain vibrant for many years to come.

However, a neighborhood association is only as good as the members who make it up. I heard that many times during the Homes Tour. Many people thought I, being President of the Association, had lived in the neighborhood for many years; and they were surprised to learn that I had only been a member of the Association for three years. So I am asking for those new members to step up and get involved. There is always a seat at the table! So have a nice Fourth of July, be safe, and I look forward to seeing you at the monthly meetings.

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



### Pecan Press

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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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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment 2008-09 Membership

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All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

# Hyde Park Homes Tour 2009...

...cont'd from page 1

securing prominent coverage in the Statesman two days before the tour. KXAN also did a feature on the tour, which is posted on their website <kxan.com>.

Carolyn Grimes secured our generous underwriters, which makes financing the tour feasible. House

captains David Conner, Joan Rivers, Pam Morris, Dave Lyons, Deaton Bednar, and Sharon Majors took care of getting volunteers, acquainting them with the houses, and coordinating with the home owners.

Make sure you thank these folks as well as all the others who gave their energy and time to this event. Also please thank our presenting sponsors Suzanne Pringle of Avenue



Jim Genevro contemplates the bottle tree at Arlinda Abbott's House

One Realty and Steve Vinklark of State Farm Insurance, and our contributing sponsors – Grande Communications, Lin Team–Old Austin Realtor, and CG&S Design Builder. We also appreciate the flowers from Casa Verde Florist. Please also remember to thank (and patronize) NeWorldeli proprietor Greg Bontempo who, along with his lovely wife and daughters, very generously took care of



Arlinda enjoys some wine while watching the parade of Homes Tour visitors



Docent Anne Marie waits for the next group of Tour goers



Stan Kozinski at Schenken-Oatman House,

our thank you party at the conclusion of the tour.

We are all fortunate to be a part of the Hyde Park community – the folks as well as the beautiful homes. The annual Hyde Park Homes Tour affirms the community we all enjoy; we may disagree on the details, but we come together for the benefit of all.

– Barbara Gibson,  
2009 Homes Tour  
Chair



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**Austin, TX 78751**  
**<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>**

\*Send your poems to:

**Nancy Taylor Day**  
**4001 Duval**  
**Austin 78751**  
**<poemmom@gmail.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.

# Dumpsters of Hyde Park...

...cont'd from page 1

lected, no fines ever assessed. (Compare: Philadelphia charges a landowner \$3000 a year to post a dumpster on the right-of-way). Today, after a year of pressuring City officials with our 311 reports, follow-up calls, emails, letters, dumpster photos, joint walks through the neighborhood, and innumerable conversations---including an in-person meeting with the City Manager and Assistant City Manager---our success is nothing to brag about. Voluntarily, only five landowners have moved their dumpsters back onto private property. Another 20, as this goes to press, remain on the right-of-way, some hanging over the curb or blocking the sidewalk. We believe the City itself has created this problem by being unwilling to provide trash service to commercial (mostly apartment) properties. So the commercial property owners hire private haulers, who avail themselves of the convenience of curb-side pick-up, and the City turns a blind eye to the violations. Thus, a drive or a stroll down Speedway is still blighted by dumpsters from 38th to 46th, to say nothing of the view from every porch. Here is the link to a recent *American-Statesman* article about this issue, which contains a video link:

<<http://www.statesman.com/news/content/news/stories/local/2009/06/10/0610watch.html>>

Why has the City allowed this blighted health hazard to persist in the neighborhood and refused to protect its own public property? Why has the City not provided responsible trash pick-up to these commercial landowners?

We don't know, but we've heard it all: The problem is "complicated." The alleys are too narrow. There would be too many cans. We need more meetings. Fences might need to be moved. Tree limbs are too low. Enforcement needs to be "compassionate." We have to talk to the private trash haulers. Let's talk to some residents. Alleys surfaces aren't tough enough for big trucks.

Our response to all this has been: We think that no more meetings are needed and that the alleys, the trees, and the fences do not need to be altered. Get a smaller truck. It should not be necessary to reconfigure or destroy a neighborhood in order to collect its garbage. There was trash service, we've been at pains to point out, in Greece and Rome. If they can do it, the City of Austin can figure out how to pick up the trash in a multi-family older neighborhood such as ours. Technology and trucks designed for a mall will not work here. If necessary, make new requirements. But the solution cannot be that the garbage is stored, day after day, in dumpsters that blight where we walk, jog, drive, and gather together.

— Martha Campbell  
<[mcampbell0722@aol.com](mailto:mcampbell0722@aol.com)> and  
Mary Lou Serafine  
<[sonata0516@yahoo.com](mailto:sonata0516@yahoo.com)>

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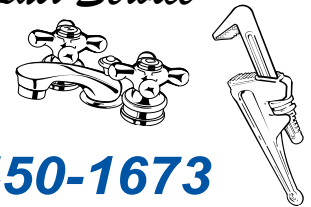
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# The Local Historic District Corner

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

I'm sad to report that north Hyde Park – the J.J.Hegman subdivision – has lost an important structure in its planned Local Historic District. Despite the support of an overwhelming majority of the neighborhood for historic zoning of the house and their objection to what is planned to replace it, the City Council voted against historic zoning.

This is another example of one of the points I introduced last month: the lack of city support for historic zoning. It also points out a common motivation for local historic districts: the desire to protect a neighborhood against structures that are inappropriate because they are out-of-scale or out-of-character for the rest of the neighborhood. This was the motivation behind the Harthan Street Local Historic District; it has been a major issue for the J.J. Hegman subdivision residents; and it is an ongoing fight for the Caswell Street residents of north Hyde Park.

But this issue is not limited to historic preservationists. Even those who don't care about the demolition of historic structures are likely to care about what gets built in their places. Most of us like variety, but most of us do not appreciate living next door to a structure that looms over our own. Compatibility in structure and massing is part of what makes a neighborhood cohesive; incongruity is visually jarring.

Fortunately, the residents of the J.J. Hegman subdivision plan to continue their efforts to create a local historic district. We need to give them our support.

– Lorre Weidlich, Hyde Park Local Historic District Chair



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**Ooops! Dept.:** In our last issue, we neglected to give credit for the photo that appeared on p. 1. The photo was taken by Rice R. Jackson, and we apologize for the oversight.



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## Around & About the Avenues

♦ **New Neighbor Dept.:** A hearty Hyde Park howdy to Ms. Carmela Rose Williams, who made her planetary debut on Wednesday, June 17 at 12:19 p.m., weighing in at an even 8 lbs., and measuring out at 20.5 inches. Co-sponsors of the debut were John Williams and Michelle Rossomando of 4307 Avenue F, and the former reports that “Mother and baby are both doing great,” while “...big brother Vince is skeptical.” To all three we’d like to offer our congratulations; and to their new housemate, Welcome to Earth!



♦ **Dump the Dumpsters Dept.:** Congratulations (and thanks) are also due to noteworthy neighbors Martha Campbell and Mary Lou Serafine, whose dogged efforts to get the City to do something about the unsightly, filthy, malodorous and altogether objectionable dumpsters that are currently (and illegally) perched on public right-of-way in all-too-many locations around Hyde Park were the subject of an extensive article in the June 10th issue of the American-Statesman. The short version is that the dumpsters are an eyesore and a health hazard, and that the City can and should enforce dumpster regulations that are already on the books; and a long(er) version of the issue can be found in an article by Martha and Mary Lou that appears in this issue.



♦ **Care Communities:** Like LOTS of other people in and beyond Hyde Park, we’ve had sad first-hand experience with helping family, friends and loved ones deal with serious illnesses like AIDS and cancer. That’s why we were touched and gratified to learn that one of the visitors at last month’s HPNA meeting was Roger Temmes of Care Communities, an organization that puts together and supports “Care Teams” of volunteers who provide “customized non-medical assistance” (light housekeeping, shopping, transportation, emotional support, etc.) to folks who are dealing with such illnesses. If this idea makes as much sense to you as it does to us, Denise Girard’s HPNA meeting minutes in this month’s issue can tell you more about what the organization does, and how you can get involved.



♦ **Pecan Press to Homes Tour: Welcome Back!** Finally, some major kudos are due to 2009 Homes Tour Chair Barbara Gibson and the small army of volunteers she recruited and deployed in a markedly successful effort to revive the Tour after a one-year hiatus. Moreover, while it’s not just about the money, the estimated net Tour proceeds of nearly \$13,000 can and will go a long way towards strengthening, sustaining and improving the ‘hood. So, to Barbara and everybody else who helped to make it happen once again, Congratulations, and Thank You!



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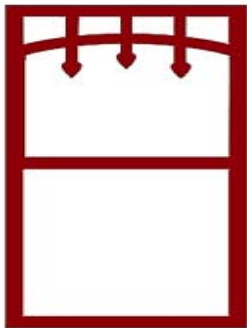
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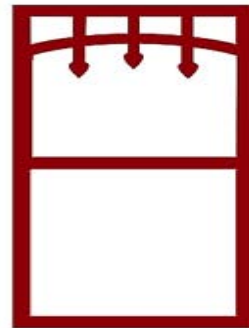
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# Crime Report



by Carol Welder

Hi Neighbors! I hope that you are all trying to beat the heat by getting your exercise early in the morning or after the sun goes down. As a reminder, while you're out and about the neighborhood, keep your eyes and ears open for any suspicious activity. It seems as if criminal incidents have slowed down a bit, which I believe is directly related to citizen involvement. Raising the awareness level of the neighborhood has helped the police apprehend criminals who may have gone free before. Keep up the good work.

For your information, due to budget cuts, the district representatives have changed again and the future of DR's is questionable. For now, if you should need assistance, contact Officer Kelly LaHood at <Kelly.lahood@ci.austin.tx.us> or at 974-5833.

The Austin Police Department has launched a Web-based communication tool, the Citizens Alert Network, which lets residents sign up to receive crime alerts through emails and text messages. The alerts will include information about wanted suspects, missing persons, weather emergencies and crime trends. In light of budget constraints, technology is being used to help citizens and businesses stay in touch with the Police Department. In addition to alerts, the system lets residents submit anonymous tips through the Web site or through text messages. The Web site also has a mapping tool to view crimes in an area by type and location. **To join the Citizens Alert Network:** Go to <www.citizenobserver.com/registration.jsp> and fill out the form, selecting the Austin Police Department as the agency.

**To send an anonymous tip:** From <www.citizenobserver.com>, click, "Find Your Community", select Austin Police Department, click on "Submit a Tip". **To text:** Text the word APD plus your message to tip411 (847411).

National Night Out 2009 – Save the date October 6, 2009 for this year's NNO event. More details later.

Stay safe and watch out for each other, especially while neighbors are on vacation.

– Carol Welder  
459-6205  
<cjwelder@msn.com>



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## HPNA General Meeting Minutes: June 1, 2009

Randy Jewart opened the meeting with an explanation of the **Wheatsville Food Gro-op**. The Gro-op is an experiment by Austinians who are dedicated to growing food for themselves through a network of local urban farms and gardens. He encouraged neighbors to go by Wheatsville to see the Gro-op plots there, and to consult <[www.wheatsville.coop](http://www.wheatsville.coop)> for more information on how to participate or donate.

Next, Paul Tomasso from the **Code Enforcement** department of the City of Austin Solid Waste Services division began by announcing new personnel, reorganization and a name change. Willie Rhodes, Director of Solid Waste Services, will become the Director of Code Enforcement and the name of the department will be changed to Code Compliance (Tammie Williamson is the new acting director of Solid Waste Services). Before Paul could start his formal presentation on the varied general responsibilities of Code Enforcement in the City of Austin, neighbors eagerly asked multiple questions about issues that are specific to Hyde Park. These issues are mostly related to development, construction, and permit issues. Repeated questions involved construction that has an approved permit, but the permit requirements aren't followed. He emphasized that if there's an active permit, Code Enforcement is not involved in the inspection. Suspected violations of this nature must be referred to the city department that issued the permit and their inspectors. After fielding a number of questions, he started a filmed presentation that showed various Austin citizens and citizen groups talking about the issues from their neighborhoods and how Code Compliance gets involved. The Code Enforcement Division handles a diverse list of items. The website <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/code.htm> has detailed information about this department's responsibilities and how to report suspected code enforcement violations for department review.

Roger Temmes from the **Care Communities** organization was the final speaker of the evening. He came to educate neighbors about the mission of the Care Communities and encourage Hyde Park to get involved. Their mission is to provide practical and compassionate support through care teams for people with serious illness such as AIDS and terminal cancer. Each of their care teams is a group of four to six volunteers who work together as a team to provide non-medical care to a Care Partner (a person living with a serious illness who has applied and been accepted into the Care Program). Each Team offers customized non-medical assistance such as light housekeeping, shopping, transportation, meal preparation, yard work, emotional support and com-

Continued on page 14

*Vintage Properties Available*



**703 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street** This updated 1940 cottage has room to entertain – indoors and out -- spacious living, formal dining and family room plus study/office. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths, detached garage and storage, large shady back yard. Six blocks to UT, 2 to St. David’s, 2 to Lee Elementary, 2 to Eastwoods Park. **\$419,500**



**801 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street** This 1959 ranch-style house on Waller Creek has been translated into a tropical garden with pool, spa and greenhouses. It has two bedrooms, three baths, two living rooms, a formal dining room, breakfast area, utility room, huge rear sunroom, 2496 sf of living space on the main level and a full basement. **\$539,000**



**3913 Avenue G** The 1893 Page-Gilbert House, in the National Register of Historic Places, was one of Austin’s first to be zoned historic. It has 2 or 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, +/- 2000 sf, faithfully restored with period finishes. Recent 2-car garage has a workshop and upstairs apartment. **\$649,000. SOLD**



**3103 Harris Park Ave** This 1930 Cottage, a short walk from UT, has 4 bedrooms and 2 baths plus a 2 car garage with a 500 sf upstairs apartment. Redone in and out with decorator colors. It has a town-house-size lot, but Eastwoods Park is only steps away. **Reduced to \$449,000.**



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## June Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 12

panionship. He showed a presentation with actual Care Partners and Care Team members talking about what the program means to them. He concluded by encouraging Hyde Park neighbors to volunteer and get involved as a Care Team. To talk about volunteer opportunities, Roger encourages us to contact him at <roger@thecarecommunities.org> or 459-6883.

The meeting concluded with announcements about various **Local Historic District efforts** within the neighborhood association boundaries. July's HPNA meeting is expected to include an update from Hyde Park Local Historic District chair Lorre Weidlich and consultant Terri Myers. It may also include presentations from the Rowena/Hegman and Caswell/Ridgetop groups. Charles Roeckle gave a brief presentation about the efforts of Caswell neighbors to begin the process of applying for Local Historic status. Ridgetop School will be celebrating their 70th birthday in November, 2009. Their committee is looking for pictures of the school and its students from any time during the lifetime of the school.

— Denise Grimes, HPNA Co-Secretary <dmgirard@grandecom.net>

## Letters Dept.

### Neill-Cochran House to Neighbors: Come See Us, and Bring the Kids!

Dear Neighbors,

You may not have known, but just across Guadalupe from Hyde Park, at 2310 San Gabriel, is one of Austin's architectural treasures—the Neill-Cochran House Museum. We welcome visitors from all over the world, but we really love it when Austinians visit us for the first time and learn what this House witnessed in the early days of the capital city. For example, did you know that Custer was here during Reconstruction?

This summer we're offering three unique classes for children: The Artful Eye of Abner Cook (who built both the Texas Governor's Mansion and the NCHM); Historic Games People Played; and Mind Your Manners. If you have children between the ages of 6 and 12, we would love to include them in the fun. For information on the museum and summer program, please visit our website (neill-cochranmuseum.org) and our new Facebook page or call us at 478.2335. We are open for tours (\$5) from 2-5 PM Tuesday-Saturday. See you soon!

— Cecille Marcato  
NCHM Director



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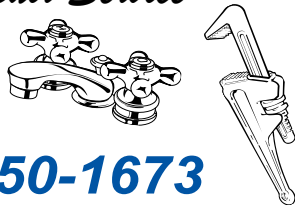
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Hyde Park Poets — 

## Large Pick-Up

We both wondered if someone knew or just wanted the discarded birdcage to sit beside another object, our chest of drawers, one drawer smashed, pieces no longer valued, left at the curb.

The birdcage waited patiently overnight and now sits on our patio, an imagined frame for a spirit house in the backyard. I've thought of building a spirit house, with little critters to guard our space, to allow only good entities a place of repose. Now there is a frame, and soon, when the fence comes down for a new gate, wood for the exterior, and then glass and ceramic animals that can move outside, and incense, and stones, and poems.

Terry grinned when I brought the cage up to the front porch, grinned and said: I thought you'd keep it.

— Nancy Taylor Day  
4.26.2009

Letters Dept. — 

### Our Trees Need Water!

Neighbors,

RIGHT NOW – go outside and take a look at the trees around your house. We are in a near-drought situation and trees won't survive unless we give them an occasional drink by letting a hose slowly drip around the base. If you don't believe this, go by the church at 40th and Ave. B and take a look at the giant oak that has already succumbed. If you start losing your shade cover, your cooling and water expenses will go up.

— Wanda Penn

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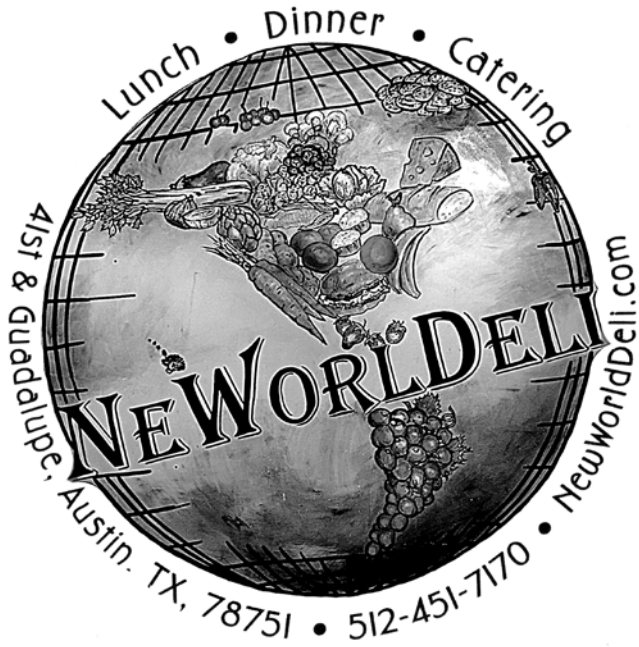
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## Season Opens at Shipe Park Pool: Now, Let's Extend That Season!

The Shipe Pool Opening Party on June 13th was a great success! There was a steady line at the grill and we served somewhere in the neighborhood of 180 burgers, 112 hot dogs, 48 veggie burgers, and 160 sodas! The beautiful sounds of Shelley Hirini's guitar and voice floated across the park. Many brought food to share, adding to the communitarian spirit of the event. And everyone enjoyed the chance to hang out together cooling off at the pool. It was great fun!

Many thanks to our party sponsors: HPNA, Grande Communications, Fresh Plus, Quacks, Daily Juice, and The Griffin School for their contributions. Thanks also to our active group of volunteers including Paul Smith, Steve Sanderson, William Cook, Mike Kintner, Robin Silberling, Tip Meckel, Melissa Hoffman, and Heather Reddick. The pool party is the brainchild of Mark Fishman, who pulled all the strings to make it happen!

In addition to hosting a cool neighborhood party to launch the summer pool season, we were also launching our fundraising effort to raise \$3500 to extend the season at Shipe Pool for two extra weeks at the end of the summer and keep the pool open through Labor Day weekend. Although the generosity of our community and the affection folks have for our neighborhood pool is not a surprise, I was awed by the fives, tens, twenties, and checks that people added to our fund. We have raised \$1263 so far – more than a third of what we need! This is a great start, so thank you to everyone who has donated!

If you are willing to support our effort to extend the season at Shipe Pool, please consider making an online donation at <[www.austinparks.org/member.html](http://www.austinparks.org/member.html)>. Important note: Be sure to select "Shipe Park POOL" as the special fund to which your contribution should go. You can also send a check made out to "Austin Parks Foundation" with "Shipe POOL" in the memo line to: Austin Parks Foundation, 816 Congress, Suite 1680, Austin, TX 78701.

One neighbor pointed out at the party that if 70 families each made a \$50 contribution, we'd reach our goal. With that in mind, please consider the value of our lovely community pool for you and your family, and make a donation at whatever level is feasible for you. Thank you very much for considering a donation to extend the pool season for all of us!

Thanks and see you at the pool!

– Adam Wilson for Friends of Shipe Pool

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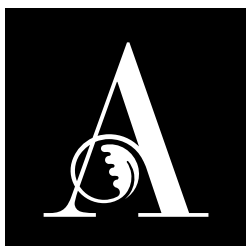


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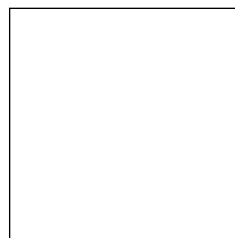
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