

# June Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, June 1, 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 June 1<sup>st</sup>

- ◆ Homes Tour Update
- ◆ Austin Green Art Presentation
- ◆ Local Historic District Presentation and Q & A.

See You There!

## Partnerships Work!

Neighbors, HPNA, PARD, Austin Energy, and Austin Parks Foundation Work Together to Improve Shipe Park

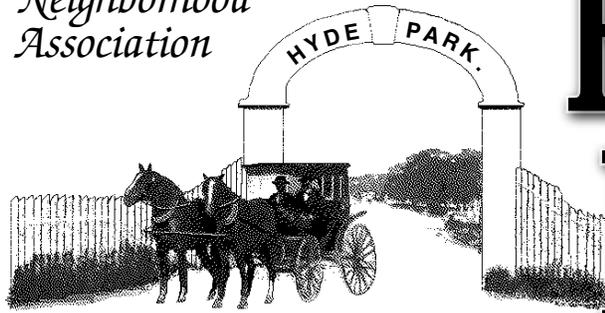
*"We believed in our idea - a family park where parents and children could have fun together." - Walt Disney*

Hyde Park neighbors may have noticed the many recent improvements to Shipe Park. These have come about through the efforts of neighbors working closely with the City of Austin and the Austin Parks Foundation to address several long-term needs of the park. As a result, we will be assured of continued enjoyment of Shipe for years to come.

**It's My Park! Day:** Hyde Park neighbors have participated in an annual spring work day at Shipe Park as part of the city-wide It's My Park! Day sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation. Over 100 people have participated each of the last three years. Volunteers have cleaned out Waller Creek, spread mulch, raked leaves, painted benches, spread Dillo dirt, planted grass seed, and generally spruced up our park. Recent It's My Park! Day events were organized by neighborhood leaders Betsy Clubine (2007), Jack Nokes (2008), and Mark Fishman (2009).

Continued on page 3

*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

June, 2009 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 35, No. 6

## Hyde Park Homes Tour 2009

The 2009 Hyde Park Homes Tour is in less than three weeks! Tour dates are Father's Day weekend June 20-21, and we have six fantastic homes on the tour this year. They include two landmark homes, a twice-moved house dating from the 1800's, and homes sporting five star energy rated renovations. Enjoy a stroll from house to house or ride the buses and hear the transport docents share a little Hyde Park history.



One of the many attractions on this year's Homes Tour

Tickets are available for advance purchase at a discount at [HydeParkHomesTour.Org](http://HydeParkHomesTour.Org). They may also be purchased at NeWorldeli two weeks in advance of the tour dates. On tour days, tickets may be purchased at full price from 10-6 on Saturday and 1-5 on Sunday on the grounds of the Church of Christ in Hyde Park. We're still looking for volunteers, so please contact John Williams <[jawilli@grandecom.net](mailto:jawilli@grandecom.net)>, 350-1094 if you'd like to help out, whether as a docent or in some other role(s).

Proceeds from the tour will help to support neighborhood improvement efforts, so this is your chance to entertain your family and friends and support worthy neighborhood projects all at the same time. After a one-year hiatus, you can help make HPNA's revival of the Homes Tour a great success!

— Barbara Gibson  
Chair, 2009 Hyde Park  
Homes Tour

# From the President's Desk:

## Homes Tour Si, Graffiti No!

Hello, Neighbors -- is it my imagination, or is the graffiti getting more graphic around the 'hood?. Lately, I been driving down the Avenues and have been noticing more graffiti on the fences and dumpsters. Some of it is quite graphic in nature, and it's really starting to bother me. I hope that this is not a trend.

As you know, the 2009 Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour will be upon us, so hopefully the graffiti can be cleaned up. I already called an apartment owner on Speedway about some graphic graffiti on their dumpster. Hopefully, by the June Pecan Press distribution, it will be taken care of.

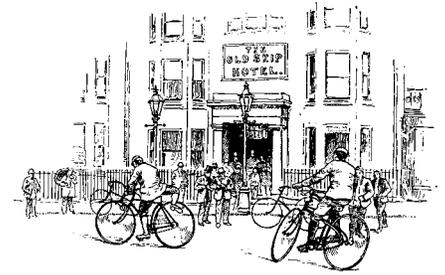
Please welcome all the visitors coming to the Homes Tour on Fa-

ther's Day weekend. Much hard work has gone into this event. So, on behalf of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Steering Committee members, we appreciate and wholeheartedly thank Barbara Gibson ( the 2009 Homes Tour Chair), all the homeowners whose houses are on the tour, the house captains, the docents, the sponsors, and all the volunteers.

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



Flower power: Kitchen in one of this year's featured homes



## Pecan Press

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

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

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**Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment 2008-09 Membership**

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Payment:**  Check     Cash    **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:

**HPNA Membership**  
 P.O. Box 49427  
 Austin, Texas 78765

Make checks payable to HPNA.

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# Partnerships Work! ...

...cont'd from page 1

*"When was the last time you spent a quiet moment just doing nothing - just sitting and looking at the sea, or watching the wind blowing the tree limbs, or waves rippling on a pond, a flickering candle or children playing in the park?"*

- Ralph Marston

**New Trees For Shipe:** In spring 2008, over 20 trees were planted at Shipe. This project was funded by Austin Energy "mitigation" funds (to mitigate the impact of installation of power poles in the neighborhood.) Neighbor Jill Nokes worked with Judy Fowler of Austin Energy to select and site appropriate trees for the park. To ensure the survival of the trees, the project included putting all of them on an irrigation system. This foresighted effort will ensure that, when and if our beloved older trees pass on, we will have a new generation of trees for Shipe users to enjoy.

*"All I need to make a comedy is a park, a policeman and a pretty girl."* - Charlie Chaplin

**Sprinkler System for Playing Field and Pool:** Despite annual fertilizing and re-seeding of the playing field area of the park, heavy use and drought conditions have turned the field to bare dirt and dust by the end of each summer. So this year at It's My Park Day, several volunteers proposed a solution: put in a sprinkler system. Neighbor Jack Nokes took on this project. He asked the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to fund up to half of the estimated \$3,600 cost, and he agreed to raise the rest from neighbors. Within a week, 23 generous Hyde Park neighbors (see list, below) had pledged the remaining amount. During this process the idea was put forward to extend this project to cover the large swimming pool area as well. Neighbor Nick van Bavel offered a matching grant for the pool project, and within another week eight more neighbors put up the remainder. Our friends at the Austin Parks Foundation agreed to provide financial oversight of the project, and PARD will own, operate, and provide water for the system.

*"And I remember going to the record studio and there was a park across the street and I'd see all the children playing and I would cry because it would make me sad that I would have to work instead."* - Michael Jackson

**Retaining Wall for the Large Pool.** This spring a hard-working PARD crew built a retaining wall at the northwest corner of the large pool at Shipe. This improvement not only will address an erosion problem, but it

has also created a level area for sun-bathing on those hot summer days. With the addition of new sod, and the assurance of regular watering of the grass around the pool, the Shipe Pool experience will continue to improve.

*"If people don't want to come out to the ball park, nobody's gonna stop 'em."* - Yogi Berra

**Partnerships Work.** The recent improvements to Shipe Park are a reminder of the power of partnerships. When neighbors work together with PARD, the Austin Parks Foundation, Austin Energy, and HPNA, we all have a greater sense of ownership, accountability, and pride. The success of collaborative projects, such as ones at Shipe and Sparky Park, shows that neighbors who care about the quality of life in Hyde Park can make a real difference.

**Many Thanks to Our Neighbors.** The following is a list of neighbors who contributed to the Shipe Park Sprinkler System Project:

**Park Benefactors: \$1,800**

- Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

**Park Heroes: Over \$500**

- Linda and Nick van Bavel, Thad Avery

**Platinum : \$200 - \$300**

- Jackie Dano and Bain Perkins, Jennifer Vickers and Lee Walker, Mark Strüb (Strüb Residential), Carol Welder

**Gold: \$100**

- Don and Sharon Brown, Mark and Aviva Fishman, Michael Horowitz and Betsy Clubine, Terry Meenehan, Jill and Jack Nokes, Chandra Roukema and Wouter Habraken, Robin Silberling and William Cook, Maury Sullivan and Todd Pruner, Jack Taylor and Peter Maxson, Linda Team, Grant and Margot Thomas, Jon Wainwright, Joan Yamini and Gary Freeman

**Silver: \$50**

- I. J. Aarons, Mitch Berman and Ingrid Johnson, Maya and Leah Berry, Nancy Hohengarten, John and Susan Kerr, Michelle Rossomando and John Williams, Adam Wilson

**Bronze: \$25**

- Katherine Chiarello, Jeff and Cori Ervin, Larry Freilich, Ann Graham and Arlen Johnson, Norman Johns, Barbara Mahler



## 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>**

\*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.

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# Hyde Park Scout Completes Conservation Project at the Elisabet Ney Museum

Hyde Parker Nick Johns, a Boy Scout in Hyde Park-based Troop 459, has completed a required project for his Eagle Scout award. Nick's project also makes him eligible for the William T. Hornaday Conservation Badge, a very prestigious award, earned by Scouts who complete a certain group of conservation-related Merit Badges (including Soil and Water Conservation, Forestry, Environmental Science, Gardening, Landscape Architecture and others) and complete a significant conservation project. Nick, working with the staff at the Elisabet Ney Museum and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, planned and completed an invasive species removal project along Waller Creek between the bridge at Avenue F and the old dam on the Creek. This project is one of the first phases of a landscape restoration project being conducted at the Ney Museum, with the ultimate goal of returning the landscape to the prairie conditions that existed in the early twentieth century when Ms. Ney was in residence.



Scout volunteers cutting down Legustrum

Nick, scouts and adults from Troop 459, friends, neighbors and family invested over 140 hours on three weekends working on the project. In early March, Nick identified poison ivy along the creek, and working with City Parks and Recreation crews, covered several areas of pre-emergent poison ivy with six-mil black plastic (spraying herbicide along the creek was not an option). With most of the poison ivy covered, city crews operated chain saws to cut overgrown "junk" vegetation along the creek, which the boys hauled to the edge of Avenue F for removal and disposal. In total, several hundred cubic yards of unwanted vegetation and trash was removed, exposing several old hardwood trees and opening the otherwise overgrown creek corridor. According the Ney Museum staff, this project had the unintended benefit of making this portion of the creek a little less welcome to the homeless persons who appear to have frequented the area.

Nick Johns grew up in Hyde Park, attended Lee Elementary, Kealing Magnet School, learned to swim in Shipe Pool, and is currently a Senior at the Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy at LBJ High School. He will attend Austin College in Sherman, Texas in the fall, and is considering majoring in Environmental Science.



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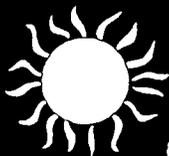
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## Around & About the Avenues

◆ **Homes Tour, Anyone? - Homes Tour, Everyone!** As noted in this and our previous issue, the annual\* Hyde Park Homes Tour — after a one-year hiatus in 2008 to tend to Local Historic District issues — will be very much back in business in 2009, on the upcoming Fathers' Day weekend. As in previous years, the success of the Tour will be very much dependent on lots of neighbors pitching in and helping out — as docents, guides, lemonade stand merchants, good will ambassadors for the 'hood, and a host of other volunteer roles. So if you'd like to help, please contact HPNA Co-Secretary and docent coordinator John Williams <[jawilli@grandecom.net](mailto:jawilli@grandecom.net)>, 350-1094 — he'd love to plug you into the action!

\* (We checked the PP archives, and the '07 Tour was the 32nd Annual; so we're assuming that the '09 edition should be referenced as the 33d Annual. But since we skipped a turn in '08, maybe we call this year's event the 33d Virtually Annual? Usually Annual? )



◆ **Notable Neighbors Dept.:** Thankfully, we have LOTS of them, including...

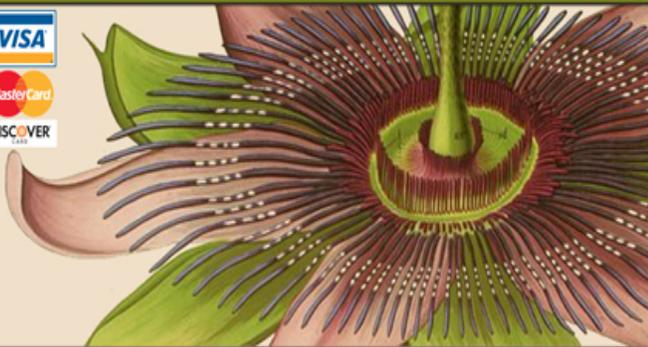
...**Jack Nokes** of 4200 Ave. F, who rallied the HPNA and a host of generous (and similarly notable) neighbors in support of installation of long-needed sprinkler systems for Shipe Park. This initiative is but the latest in a series of park improvement efforts that have been inspired and driven by neighbors' involvement, and predicated on partnership with kindred park-o-philic organizations and souls elsewhere in the city. Elsewhere in this issue is an article spotlighting all that has been accomplished through these efforts, and recognizing all the neighbors who contributed so generously to the sprinkler project.

...**Eric Stumberg** of 3911 Avenue D, whose stellar efforts on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters in Central Texas and beyond were recently recognized in a piece in the *American-Statesman*. An excerpt: "Eric Stumberg, founder and CEO of Tingo Internet Inc., was selected by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to serve on its National Leadership Council...As a member of the Council, Stumberg will help promote communication between affiliates and assist in the development and implementation of nationwide programs." Right on, (Big) Brother Stumberg!

...Asti Trattoria proprietors **Emmett and Lisa Fox**, whose establishment at 43d and Duval ranked an impressive 6th in the *Austin Chronicle's* 2009 Restaurant Readers' Poll. Moreover, only a frisbee toss or two distant from Hyde Park is their other restaurant, Fino, which came in at #2 in the poll. In sum, two spots in the Top Ten — Congratulations and Bon Appetit, Foxes!!



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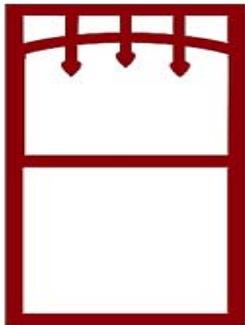
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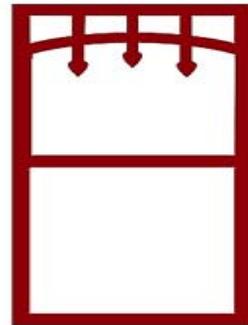
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# HPNA May 2009 Meeting Minutes

At 7 p.m. on Monday, May 4th, at the Hyde Park Methodist Church, HPNA President David Conner began the meeting.

First on the agenda was Mark Fishman, speaking on behalf of Jack Nokes, to discuss the **irrigation system for Shipe Park**. Mark mentioned that over \$1,000 had already been raised in private donations, and that the maximum needed was \$3,000 (see related update in this issue). HPNA will match the private donations, so we are really close to meeting the funding needs. If you would like to make a private donation, you can do so by going to [www.austinparks.org/member.html](http://www.austinparks.org/member.html). From there, go to the section that reads, "Gifts to Special Funds," pull down the menu and highlight "Shipe Park Sprinklers," and then click on the button that reads "Give Special Fund Gift Now."

Next, **Chris Riley, candidate for City Council Place #1**, addressed the group. He introduced himself, reminded everyone to go out and vote in the upcoming local elections, and discussed his support for many of the programs that the HPNA supports, such as the formation of the Local Historic District and the Tree Preservation Program.

Next, Mike Robbins spoke about his experiences over the years protesting his property taxes at the **Travis County Appraisal District (TCAD)**. Some suggestions he had were to try to fight the improvement value of your property by comparing it to other properties in the area in terms of class and grade of construction. He mentioned that photographs are helpful in this argument, and encouraged folks to ask for comps of other properties by calling and requesting them directly from TCAD.

Finally, Niyanta Spelman, former HPNA Co-President and current Executive Director of **Rainforest Partnership**, gave a presentation on rainforest protection and the problems with deforestation around the world. The goal of their organization is to identify threats to forests around the world, to create sustainable economic alternatives to deforestation, and to raise awareness of the issue. One of the facts that Niyanta pointed out was that 20-25% of greenhouse gas emissions comes from deforestation. As a comparison, all carbon emissions from transportation around the world represent less than the amount from deforestation. In concluding, Niyanta explained that she was a part of this organization because she thinks it is important to explain the role that rainforests play in climate change, that choices we all make for our lifestyles all around the world matter, and that we need to start treating rainforests as if they are our own backyard. She ended with this quote: "What happens there affects us all everywhere." If you would like more information on this organization, you can go to their website at [www.rainforestpartnership.org](http://www.rainforestpartnership.org) and they are also on Facebook.

– John A. Williams,  
HPNA Co-Secretary  
[jawilli@grandecom.net](mailto:jawilli@grandecom.net)



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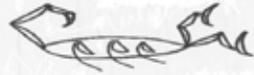
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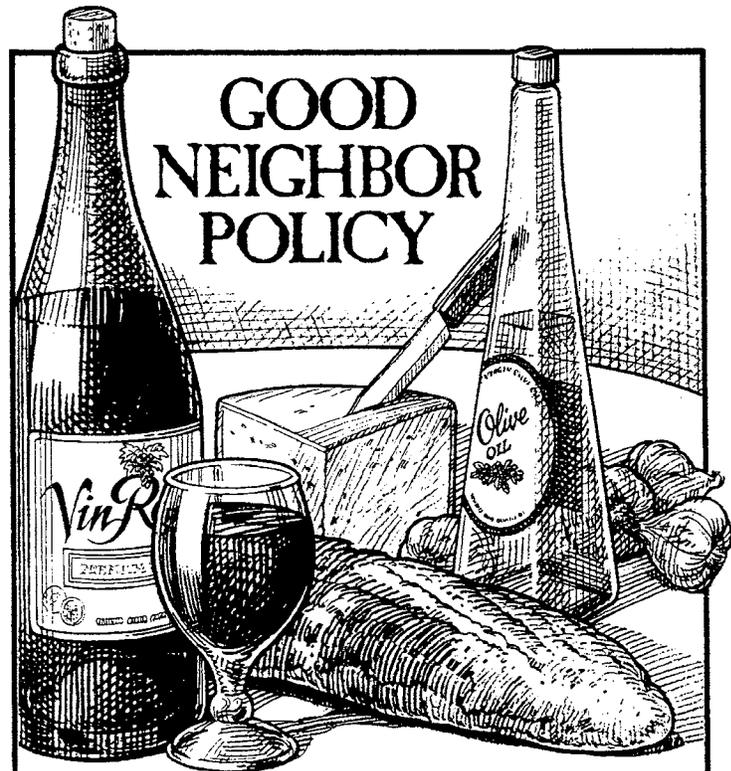
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## Grow Your Own Food... here's an ambitious new opportunity in Austin!

Many neighbors may already know Austin Green Art (AGA - <www.austingreenart.org>) for its Earth Day events, for its presence at SXSW, and/or for its community efforts expanding the notion of public engagement about the environment through creativity. Well, now AGA is further expanding its scope of work to include interesting new initiatives that foster the development of home gardens. Read on:

1) Want to plant a garden, but need assistance? AGA's new local business, Green Collar, has started a service called Resolution Gardens. Their motto is "Grow food. We'll help." <http://www.resolutiongardens.com> They have gotten off to an ambitious start, building a garden a week since mid-March, including a large garden at St. Edwards University.

2) Instead of paying to grow grass, GET PAID to grow food! Wheatsville Food Co-op envisions a decentralized urban food grid, where neighbors provide produce for each other, and for restaurants and groceries — the Wheatsville Gro-op! If 1% of Austinians are over-producing a basket of tomatoes with their home gardens, that's 10,000 bushels! A North University neighbor is donating the installation of a 1800 square foot garden in his backyard. The garden maintenance will be funded by Wheatsville and they will harvest all the produce for their deli operation. This is the first pilot Wheatsville YardFarm. Become a member at <www.wheatsville.coop/gro-op.html> You can donate time, money, talents, a garden plot, and/or a yard to build this endeavor -- the site will tell you how.

3) Attend the June 1st HPNA meeting and hear about these opportunities and more from AGA's director Randy Jewart, or contact Randy at <randy@austingreenart.org>.

Thanks!

-- Ann Graham

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# Shipe Pool Opening Party!

Saturday, June 13th, 12-3pm

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**Neighbors**

Hosted by the Friends of Shipe Pool  
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The heat of summer always starts early in Austin, so we are fortunate that our neighborhood pool provides wonderful wet relief for kids, parents, early-morning lap swimmers, and late afternoon pool-side loungers. Shipe Pool opens on Tuesday June 9th this year, so Friends of Shipe Pool are hosting a pool opening party to help us celebrate the start of summer and the gift of our neighborhood pool!

With help from some generous support from our sponsors, we will have burgers and sodas and some excellent live music (band to be announced). Big-hearted support also comes from our neighborhood partners The Daily Juice, Quack's Coffee Shop, and Fresh Plus who are contributing food and iced coffee to the event. Neighbors are invited to bring side dishes, other drinks, and/or desserts to fill out our lunch tables.

The main goal of this party is to provide a casual time and space to visit with each other and appreciate the swimming pool that is a focal point of the summer experience in Hyde Park. We will also be raising the funds needed to extend our pool season a couple of extra weeks at the end of the summer. Friends of Shipe Pool is seeking to raise the approximate sum of \$3500 needed to keep the pool open through Labor Day weekend © two full weeks beyond the currently projected closing date of August 22nd. (Remember how hot it is at that time of year?!) This is a very feasible fundraising goal if everyone who enjoys the pool will make a contribution, so bring a check to the party or just put five bucks in the donation jar we will have available. Whether you can contribute to the cause or not right now, we hope you will suit up and come for a swim, a burger, some music and some neighborly bonding!

*See you at the pool!*

— Adam Wilson, for the  
Friends of Shipe Pool

## Vintage Properties Available



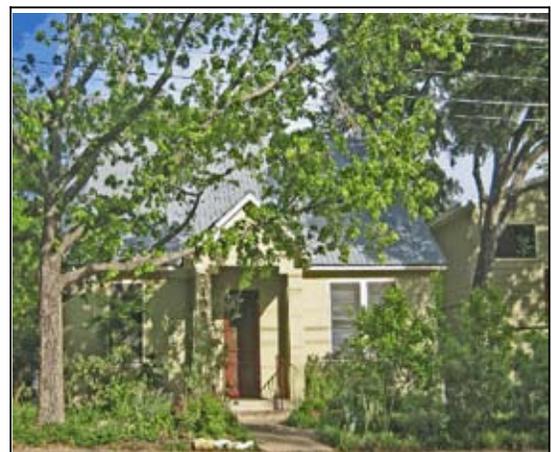
**4104 Avenue B** - Turn this dear 1910 wing and gable Victorian cottage into a home worthy of its character and location under huge post oaks on one of Hyde Park's best streets. It needs a lot of work but the lot is large enough for expansion and there is alley access. **\$275,000.**



**804 Leonard** Featured on the 2001 AIA Austin Architects Tour, this 1930 cottage is updated and enlarged by architects Lina Husodo and James Linville of Studio H+L. Quietly tucked away on a short, hidden, street ending at a footbridge to Eastwoods Park, it has 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 living, office and a screened porch. **\$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. **\$469,000.**



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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: <lweidlich@mail2sevensseas.com> or 300-2228.

As I write this, the Bradford-Nohra house at 43rd and Avenue G stands in imminent danger of demolition. Despite the work of many people to re-search it, document it, negotiate over it, and work to preserve it, and despite the fact that both the Historic Landmark Commission and the City Council (on first reading) voted unanimously for it to become a historic landmark, the permit has been issued. Why? Because of a supposed error on the part of the City, "discovered" by the city attorneys a few days before the house's final historic determination.

Does this sound familiar? It should. The same thing happened about a year ago, when the Gertrude Jones house, which also was on the path to historic landmark status, was demolished because of an error on the part of the City. That lot is now empty. We don't know yet what will replace the Gertrude Jones house; we believe that the Bradford-Nohra house will be replaced by a four-plex if it's demolished. Is that what we want occupying an important corner lot? Or do we want a vintage home, restored and housing a Hyde Park family?

Two houses, on their way to historic zoning, sabotaged by a city error. One thing these two cases makes abundantly clear is the lack of support by the City of Austin for historic preservation. The second thing these cases make clear is the need for a local historic district, with its protection of not just historic landmarks but contributing structures. In the area we're proposing for a local historic district, 70 to 75% of the structures are contributing.

We're moving into the home stretch. Our neighborhood survey has been done. After a year and a half of work, we have design guidelines. Preservation Central is working on the remaining paperwork for our nomination, and our online database of historic data will soon be up and running.

At the June HPNA meeting, there will be a presentation about the local historic district.

That same presentation will be online. During the next two months, someone who lives close to you will invite you to a block gathering to talk to you about the benefits of creating a local historic district. Bring your questions. If your neighbor can't answer them, she or he will bring them to me and I'll track down the answers. We need your support so that we don't lose another Gertrude Jones or Bradford-Nohra house.

— Lorre Weidlich  
*Hyde Park Local Historic District Chair*



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## Off the Grid in Hyde Park

Five years ago, we took advantage of Austin Energy's rebate program to install a 3 KW PhotoVoltaic System on the roof of our home. Rebates for PV systems at that time were around 80% of the installed price. The 3 KW system, installed by Texas Solar Power Company, cost a little over \$18,000, including installation and sales tax. After the rebate, our out-of-pocket expense was a little over \$4000. The system went "on-line" in February, 2005 and has been steadily cranking out power from the sun; over 13 MegaWatt Hours since it was installed. The system reduced our monthly electric bill by roughly half during the non-air-conditioning months (from the mid \$50 range to the mid \$20 range).

As a part of a current remodel project on our garage apartment, we installed another 3 KW system, which went active in January of this year. So far this year, we have paid less than \$4.00 for electricity to Austin Energy. In fact, our April bill was \$0 for electricity - 0 KWHr usage (there is a \$6.00 customer charge by Austin Energy that you pay whether you use any electricity or not.)

Both of the systems are "grid-tie" systems, which means that they return power to the grid - turning the meter backwards - whenever your usage is less than the PV system is producing.

The rebate from Austin Energy has fallen to around 50% of the installed cost, but there is a federal tax credit that we will receive on our 2008 federal tax bill that will bump it up close to the 80% range again. So, for less than the price of a fairly modest used car, "energy independence" is a step closer to reality in Austin - thanks to a very progressive utility company and a finally-getting-the-message federal government.

If you would like more information, or to get a "tour" of the Avenue G power plant, please give us a call at 452-0077 or email <gilg@dieproducts.org>.

- Larry and Susan Gilg

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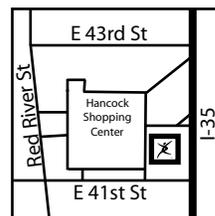
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Hyde Park Poets — 

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— *Albert Huffstickler*  
6.6.2000

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## 602 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street

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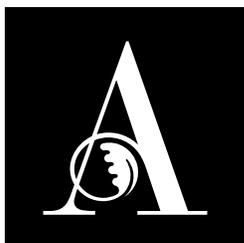


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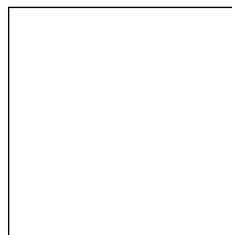
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