

March Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 3, 2008

Where: Hyde Park United
Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Who: YOU and your neighbors

Note: HPNA general meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for March 3rd

- ❖ Anti-solicitation Discussion
- ❖ Homes Tour update
- ❖ Cindy Reed from AIBA (Austin Independent Business Alliance) will be discussing "buying local."

See you there!

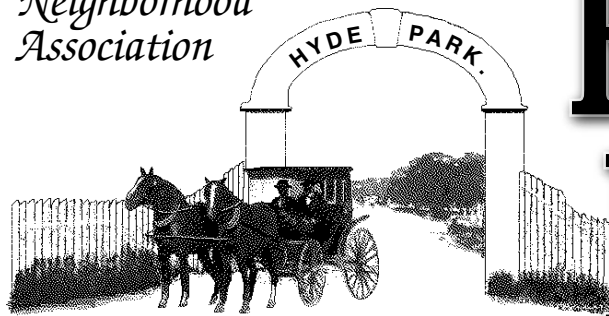
Minutes of the February 2008 HPNA General Meeting

President Elaine Meenehan called the Monday, February 4, 2008 General Meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to order at 7 p.m. Alan Marburger discussed planning for the annual **Homes Tour** sponsored by HPNA each June. HPNA does not have a Chair for the Homes Tour Committee; therefore, several members have volunteered to help with initial planning for the event. Denise Girard, Doris Coward, and Lorre Weidlich, Chair of the committee for the past two years, have agreed to help. These volunteers are investigating homes north of 45th Street to be presented on the tour this year. Alan scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, February 6, to discuss whether HPNA can go forward with the Homes Tour this year. He will report to the Steering Committee on February 11.

Mary Carolyn George asked members to support a request to **Enrobri Homes**, the developers of the View on Shipe Park, to im-

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*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

March, 2008 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 34, No. 3

Ship-Shape Shipe: More New Trees!

On January 30th, Austin Energy sent a landscaping company (Avery's Lawn Care) over to Shipe Park to plant 16 new good-sized shade trees, as well as to make other improvements to the park such as irrigation, leveling an area outside the pool for picnic tables, and removal of old stumps inside the swimming pool area.

This will help insure that the park remains inviting for years to come. Money for this project was provided from mitigation funds that Austin Energy had made available to the neighborhood several years ago following the installation of the huge power poles on Guadalupe Street. Also in the photo on the left is neighbor Jack Nokes of 4200 Ave. F, this year's chairman of the Austin Parks Department's "It's My Park Day," scheduled for Saturday, April 16th. Stay tuned for more details on that event. We hope to build on last year's terrific turnout of over 80 volunteers who came to clean



up and groom the park. A special thanks goes out to Michael Horowitz of 4310 Ave. F, who so faithfully organized neighbors to water the three trees that were planted in the park last year. Now all but one are on the new irrigation system! Hooray for trees!

Elisabet Ney Celebrated in Germany Under Patronage of U.S. Ambassador

A major retrospective, "Elisabet Ney: Mistress of Her Art," opened at the Stadtmuseum Münster, in Münster, Germany, on January 26, 2008, commemorating the 175th anniversary of the birthday of Elisabet Ney.

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From the President's Desk: _____

Tour Be, or Not to Be?

For the past 32 years, Hyde Park has held our annual Homes Tour. Most of our residents enjoy this event both as volunteers and voyeurs. People come from far and wide to get glimpses of our lives, our neighborhood and our unique houses. It has been the highlight of our year, not to mention our fundraising efforts for a third of a century.

For the past six months, we have looked for a volunteer to chair the homes tour. When it became obvious that no one would step forward this year, Lorre Weidlich suggested that the chair be broken up into three categories: houses and transportation, printing and publicity, and volunteers and ticket sales. Alan Marburger agreed to chair the

houses and transportation committee. Lorre signed on to run the printing and publicity committee. I agreed to oversee the volunteers and ticket sales.

Based on past experience, we look for six houses to be on the tour each year. As it stands at press time, we have four homes committed to being on the tour. We have given ourselves a short deadline to find two more houses or to cancel the tour. My strong preference is to hold the homes tour this year, but these events take time to plan. At some point, we have to determine if it is feasible or not in the amount of time we have left.

I have received mixed feedback and feelings about the possibility of canceling the tour. Many people were at first upset at the possibility, but then thought perhaps we needed to take a year off to regroup and re-energize. We are all busy. We have jobs, families and personal commitments that make up our lives. Perhaps a vacation from volunteering would be good for us. But there are also those of us that are dead set against breaking with tradition and worry that a sabbatical would cause us to lose momentum in the following years. They are both right.

By the time that you read this column, the decision will have been made and I hope that it was the right one. If it was decided to cancel the tour for this year,

I hope everyone enjoys their Fathers' Day weekend in peace and comes back next year rejuvenated. If the decision was to put together the homes tour in three months, then we will require vast amounts of volunteers and dedication to make it the success that it has been for over three decades.

— Elaine Meenehan
 HPNA President
 <elaine.meenehan@gmail.com>



Pecan Press

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Editor

Grant Thomas 450-0464 <gthomas@youthlaunch.org>

Associate Editor

Sarah Sitton 459-4530 207 E. 39th St.

Poetry Editor

Nancy Taylor Day 892-0127 <nancy@creativitymoms.com>
 4001 Duval (Salon) 78751

Crime & Safety Chairman

Carol Welder <cjwelder@msn.com>

Production Manager/Advertising Director

Robert M. Farr 731-0617 <rbfarr@austin.rr.com>

Mail Ad Payments to:

Lorre Weidlich, P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

Mail Ad Artwork to:

Robert M. Farr <rbfarr@austin.rr.com>
 7500 Chelmsford Dr. Austin, TX 78736

Distribution Coordinator

Rimas Remeza • 4105 Ave. F • 371-3158
 <yimas.remeza@yahoo.com>

Area Coordinators

North of 45th/West of Duval • Pam Dozler 458-8927
 North of 45th/East of Duval • Jay Gerard & Carrie Laughlin 371-1548
 South of 45th/West of Speedway • Robert Morris & Kathryn Kotrla...
 371-7246
 South of 45th/East of Speedway • Martha Campbell 452-2815

Contributors

Glen Alyn, Candy Gray Becker, Cynthia Beeman, Laurence Becker, Deaton Bednar, Mary Collins Blackmon, George Bristol, Chris Brown, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Kathryn Bryn, Mark Burkhardt, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Nicole Caspers, Kitty Clark, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Rob D'Amico, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Don Davis, Pam Dozler, Russell Duke, Cathy Echols, Carla Feldpausch Siegle, Merle Franke, Gregory Free, Larry Freilich, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Rachel Hector, Ben Heimsath, Albert Huffstickler, Liz Jones, Barbara Kelly, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Bo Kersey, Susan Kirk, Mike Kintner, Dennis Lensing, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Jason Mann, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Brook Meggs, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wanda Penn, Cecil Pennington, Peter Pfeiffer, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Kristen De La Rosa, Steve Sadowsky, Mary Lou Serafine, Sheree Scarborough, Jaime Shimkus, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Clay Smith, Niyanta Spelman, Jenna Stephens, Julie Strong, Kathleen Strong, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Lorre Weidlich, Joe Wiseman.



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765
<http://www.austinhypark.org>

— HPNA Steering Committee—

President
 • Elaine Meenehan • elaine.meenehan@gmail.com 323-9772
Vice President
 • Jennifer Berbas • jennifer_berbas@yahoo.com.....
Co-Secretaries • Pam Whittington • pam46@yahoo.com 452-9776
 • Celeste Cromack • bcero@io.com
Co-Treasurers • Lorre Weidlich, • lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com
 I Jay Arons • jjaarons@aol.com • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765
Additional Steering Committee Members: • Wanda Penn • Rob Clinchard • Dorothy Richter • Alan Marburger • William Cook • Stan Kozinsky

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AISD • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H.....458-8096
Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, skywash@austin.rr.com.....
Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Lisa Harris, ljharrisus@yahoo.com
Beautification • Larry Freilich, lmf@earthlink.net.....
Children's Programs • VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F. 459-8349
Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, robin@wcook.org.....452-1783
Crime and Safety Chairman • Carol J. Weider, 4101 Ave F.....459-6205
Development Review • Stan Kozinsky, 4604 Ave. G451-4455
Finance • Nick Van Bavel, nvb123@yahoo.com
Graffiti Patrol • E. Meenehan, elaine.meenehan@gmail.com 323-9772
Homes Tour • Lorre Weidlich, lweidlich@mail2sevenses.com...300-2228
Membership • Doris Coward, dcoward@mail.utexas.edu.....453-2476
Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C459-2261
Local Historic District • Sharon Majors, sharonmajors@grandecom.net..
Shipe Park • Mark Fishman, m.fishman@yahoo.com.....656-5505
Sidewalks • Rob Clinchard, robsold@texas.net.....
Social • Deaton Bednar, deatonbednar@grandecom.net.....
Tree Preservation • JP Moore, johnpaulmoore@austin.rr.com ...789-7025
Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C206-0729
Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G.....452-5117

February Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 1

prove the design of the planned construction. She noted that the Landmark Commission strongly recommended that Emrobrai Homes follow the Hyde Park Neighborhood Design Guidelines for new construction and work with the neighborhood association to achieve compatible solutions. Mary Carolyn told members that this developer does not have a history of being cooperative and willing to work with the association. Sally Robey moved that HPNA send the developer a letter requesting that the designs for this property be improved. John Paul Moore seconded the motion. It passed on a vote of 21 to 0. For more information regarding this project, please refer to the February issue of the *Pecan Press*.

Mark Fishman, Chair of the Shipe Park Committee, informed members that the annual "It's My Park Day" will be held Saturday, April 12. Volunteers are needed to help with cleaning the park. If you are interested in helping, contact Mark at <m.fishman@yahoo.com>. Dorothy Richter noted that the City Aquatics Advisory Board oversees the City pools, including **Shipe Pool**. Currently, the Board doesn't have a member with ties to Shipe Pool, and Dorothy hopes that a neighbor who uses the pool will volunteer to serve on this Board. If you are in-

terested, contact Dorothy or the City Parks Department.

John Paul Moore let members know that the City's **Web Redesign Project**, Austin Go is ongoing. Log on to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austingo/> <<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/austingo/>> for more information. Elaine noted that at the March General Meeting we will discuss the possibility of requesting that the City consider an **anti-solicitation ordinance**. Several neighbors are researching the pros and cons of the issue.

Carol Welder, Chair of the Crime and Safety Committee, discussed the Austin Police Department's **Citizens on Patrol Program**. APD provides training for volunteers. This training includes classroom instruction and 10 hours riding with a police officer. For more information log on to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/news/patrol.htm> or contact Carol. (See Carol's column in this issue for more info on Citizens on Patrol.)

Elaine then adjourned the meeting.

– Pam Whittington
 HPNA Co-Secretary
 <pamw46@yahoo.com>

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment

2007-08 Membership

HPNA Membership Info

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Address _____

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All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:

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All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.



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



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



We Welcome Your Submissions to *Pecan Press*

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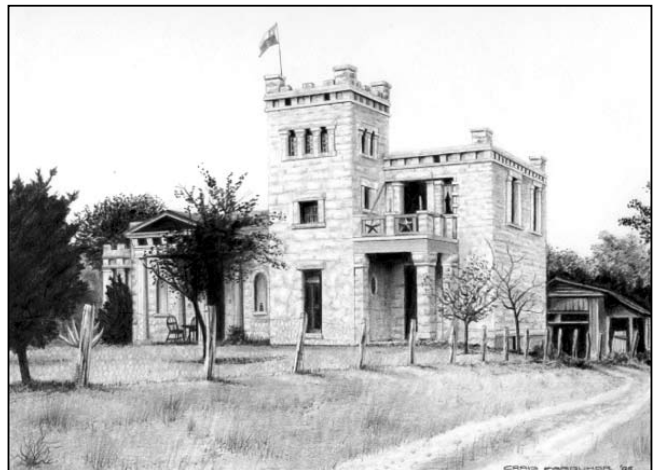


Ney Celebrated in Germany...

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Sponsored by U.S. Ambassador to Germany William R. Timkin, Jr., the exhibition features all of the known portraits in marble Elisabet Ney executed during her early career in Europe before immigrating to America in 1871. Of particular note are two previously unknown portraits, a Bust of a Child, owned by a private collector in Berlin, and another Bust of a Child, purchased by the Stadtmuseum Münster at Sotheby's London in November.

The work of Ney's father, also a sculptor, is represented, as are portraits by her teachers and contemporaries that provide a context for appreciation of Ney's unique talent and skill, particularly in her day. A catalog, with articles by a roster of Ney scholars, was published.



Courtesy of Craig Farquhar

The opening, a major event by invitation only, was attended by over 400 people. The opening program included speeches by Ambassador Timken, a senior member of the German Parliament and The Lord Mayor of Münster. The Stadtmuseum Münster also invited Elisabet Ney Museum Curator Mary Collins Blackmon to take part in the program. Ms. Blackmon read a letter from Mayor of Austin Will Wynn congratulating The Lord Mayor of Münster and the Stadtmuseum Münster on the commemoration. The Elisabet Ney Museum and University of Texas Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center provided extensive research, photographs and art in support of the retrospective.

The exhibition and opening were widely covered in the German press. Large articles, with photographs, appeared in three major German newspapers, including the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, that has the largest distribution in Germany. *Der Spiegel*, the major German weekly newsmagazine similar to *Time* and *Newsweek*, published a two-page article with photographs on Ney. Twenty-five German art journals,

Continued on following page

news and culture magazines placed commentaries and listings on their websites, and a thirty-minute program was televised covering the opening.

While in Germany, Ms. Blackmon also took the opportunity to research Elisabet Ney's life and work in Munich. The American Consul General in Munich invited Ms. Blackmon to lunch and offered the services of the Consulate's Public Affairs Section. The Consulate provided addresses and contacts for Ney's former studio in the Residenz of King Ludwig II of Bavaria, the villa the King built for Ney in the Schwabing district of Munich, and two previously unknown residences and studios of Ney's in Munich during her early study at the Munich Academy of Art and, later, as a celebrated artist under the patronage of King Ludwig II.

The American Consulate also provided copies of articles that have appeared in the Munich press over the last hundred years. These articles, plus current photographs of Ney's studios in Munich, are now in the archives of the Elisabet Ney Museum. The Consulate also placed links to the Ney Museum and exhibition on the homepage of the Consulate website - "Texas Tie-in" and "Sculptress of Kings" - and is preparing an article on connections between Elisabet Ney in Texas and Bavaria for distribution to the Munich press.

Elisabet Ney's former American studio is in Hyde Park. Established in 1892, Ney's former studio is, today, the Elisabet Ney Museum, a venerated national, state and local historic landmark visited by people the world over each year. The museum is located at 304 East 44th Street. It is open Wednesday - Saturday, 10-5, and Sunday, noon-5. Free admission. For further information, please call 458-2255.


— Ney Museum

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Leaf Blower Noise and Air Pollution

A committee has been formed to address the problem of leaf blower use in Hyde Park, and residents are asked to discontinue using them and to ask their lawn service companies to do the same. Increased lung disease risk---not just for operators but for everyone---and the negative physical and psychological effects of noise are the reasons blower use has come under attack in many cities and is increasingly banned or restricted.

Asbestos air pollution

Asbestos air pollution is a source of lung disease risk that is potentially associated with leaf blower use. The California Air Resources Board has noted that "using a leaf blower to clean sidewalks" can raise asbestos exposure, where outdoor asbestos-containing rock, soil, or street dust is present. They further note that asbestos fibers would remain airborne long after a blower has stopped, that all forms of asbestos fibers can cause cancer, and that asbestos-related diseases may not be observed for 20 or more years after exposure. It is not known whether or how much asbestos might be present in local soil, rock, and surfacing materials (it would have to be tested), but the potential asbestos risk is the reason why California has instituted a program for concerned homeowners and has recommended against blower use, among other precautions. (For more information, see www.arb.ca.gov and www.oehha.ca.gov.)

Particulate matter air pollution

A previous *Pecan Press* article described the PM-type air pollution associated with leaf blowers---that is, particulate matter or tiny particles less than 10 microns in diameter. Just recently the *New England Journal of Medicine* published research showing a definite relationship between decreased lung function and PM-type air pollution. (See NEJM, 12/6/07 article by Downs et al.) Leaf blowers -- whether electric or gasoline-powered -- "entrain" or put into the atmosphere an estimated five pounds of PM per hour, per single blower, according to the California Air Resources Board. Like asbestos fibers, PM stays airborne for long periods of time, possibly days.

Noise pollution

The typical gas-powered back pack leaf blower generates up to 95 decibels of high-pitched, intermittent noise which, even at a distance of 50 feet, is fully 75 decibels to the ear. Most homes, cars, and passers-by are much closer than 50 feet from the blowers used around Hyde Park. Even assuming a 50-foot distance, that level of blower noise is, according to the World Health Organization, 100 times too loud for healthy outdoor noise, and one thousand times

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too loud for indoor sleeping (think of infants, children, and night-workers). It is known that noise disrupts sleep even when it does not wake us up.

Aside from the fact that blower noise can be vastly louder than the jet and vehicle noise that makes homeowners hate living near airports and freeways, why is blower noise so annoying? According to scientists, noise triggers a "fight or flight" reaction in response to the possibility of danger. This is so even when no danger is found to exist, and the response, physiologically and psychologically, is even greater when the noise is intermittent and out of our control, as with blowers, than when it is continuous and we can do something about it, such as turn down the radio or TV. Thus, because we are biologically wired to react to it, we simply can't shut noise out. That is why noise pollution---which might not seem, at first glance, to be a serious problem---is increasingly being studied as an inhibitor of work productivity, social relations, and normal contact with the sounds of nature, such as the bird songs we are audience to in Hyde Park.

To help or contribute comments to the Hyde Park committee on blower use, please contact Mary Lou Serafine at <Sonata0516@yahoo.com> or call her at 220-5452. In forthcoming issues of *Pecan Press*, look for an article on Are Leaf Blowers Really Necessary?

- Mary Lou Serafine

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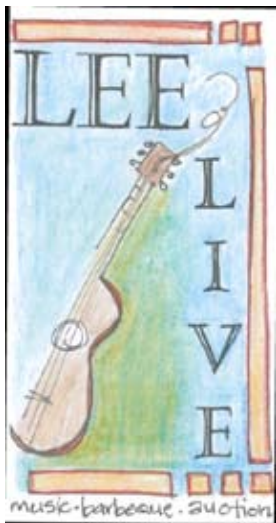
Remember the brides? Remember the sunbathers? Remember the funeral procession that wove its way through the streets of Hyde Park last April and once a year for four years before that? These were all fleeting images from *floodlines*, the evocative, moving theater project created and directed by Austin multidisciplinary performance artist Jaclyn Pryor (also creator of First Night Austin's notable "Bread" and "Pink" projects). *floodlines* 2008 returns to the streets of



Photo by Larry Freilich

Hyde Park this April for the fifth performance of the seven year cycle. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 20th from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. With seating limited to 24, tickets will go on sale in early April. Also, Saturday, April 5th from 3-5 p.m., will be the *floodlines* 2008 Garden Party & Benefit to be held at 3815 Avenue H, the Hyde Park home of Ann Graham and Arlen Johnson. We're hoping that this year it doesn't snow (but check with <annsgraham@gmail.com> if it is! and many thanks, again, to VinoVino for coming to our rescue during last year's sleet storm!) For more information about both events, check the April *Pecan Press*, the Hyde Park listserv or contact Hyde Parker Ann S. Graham at annsgraham@gmail.com or 914-8096. Also, Hyde Park residents are encouraged to play an active part in the actual performance - no formal theater experience needed. If you would like to play a role, please contact *floodlines* Stage Manager, Sean Jenkins at <seanjenkins@gmail.com>

- Ann S. Graham
(512) 914-8096
<annsgraham@gmail.com>



To continue Lee's tradition of excellence, the school needs more resources.

On March 1, Lee PTA is holding a fundraiser, *Lee Live!* to provide the school with things like improved computer equipment and library books. Lee parents Kelly Willis and Bruce Robinson

will perform at this event. In order to make the night a success, Lee PTA is seeking sponsors from businesses who serve Lee neighborhoods. Please partner with us in this important effort by supporting *Lee Live!*



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Welcome to Earth Dept.:



A hearty "Welcome Aboard!" is due to Ms. Rebecca Claire van Bavel of 213 W. 41st St. (pictured herewith), who made her planetary debut at St. David's Hospital at 5:58 p.m. on January 3, 2008, weighing in at 7 lbs. 6 oz., and featuring blue eyes, dark hair, and a full complement of fingers and toes. To debut co-sponsors Nick and Linda van Bavel and big brother Michael, we'd like to say, "Congratulations!"; and to their housemate and our newest neighbor, "Welcome to the 'hood!"

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New Worship Times At HPUMC Begin in March

*Worship Services at Hyde Park United
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times starting with the first Sunday in
March.*

The new Sunday Schedule at HPUMC
will be as follows:

- 9 a.m. - Traditional Worship Service**
- 10 a.m. - Sunday Studies Classes**
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Crime Report

by **Carol Welder**

Just as I thought crime was slowing down, I read a posting on the neighborhood listserv stating that several bicycles had been stolen out of a garage. The owners did mention that they had mistakenly left their garage open. As the weather warms and days get longer, there may be a tendency to leave doors and windows open or unlocked. Please be on alert that criminals are in our neighborhood looking for opportunity. Don't be a victim. Protect yourself and your belongings. As mentioned in previous articles, call 911 if a crime is in progress and 311 to report a crime after the fact. I would like to add that it is important to post criminal activity to the neighborhood yahoo group, so that neighbors are aware of what is happening around them.

I wanted to bring to your attention a couple of other topics being discussed in the neighborhood. One that will be discussed at the March HPNA meeting is a solicitation ban. Some Hyde Park neighbors have expressed views on solicitation, so a presentation will be made and input gathered. Neighbors who are in favor of a ban feel that opening your door to strangers presents an opportunity for criminals to case your home. Another point was that neighbors are tired of unwanted solicitation. Those opposing a ban point out that a ban would prohibit "neighborly solicitation" such as school or association fundraisers. I encourage you to attend the March HPNA meeting on March 3rd.

The other topic is theft of recycling bins. Did you know that it is against a city ordinance for anyone, other than the owner, to rummage through your trash or recycle receptacles? This may be a sensitive topic, but every garbage day, people rummage through recycling bins stealing cans. The city has a goal of Zero Waste. If the recycling program is going to work, it has got to be profitable. If people are stealing cans from the recycling bins, the city is losing money because they will then pay out to those bringing in the cans. You may not think this is a big deal, but this kind of activity could also lead to crime as people walk up and down the alleyways rummaging through your trash. Who knows what else they may be looking for? Another Opportunity?

Continued on following page

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-David Bohm*



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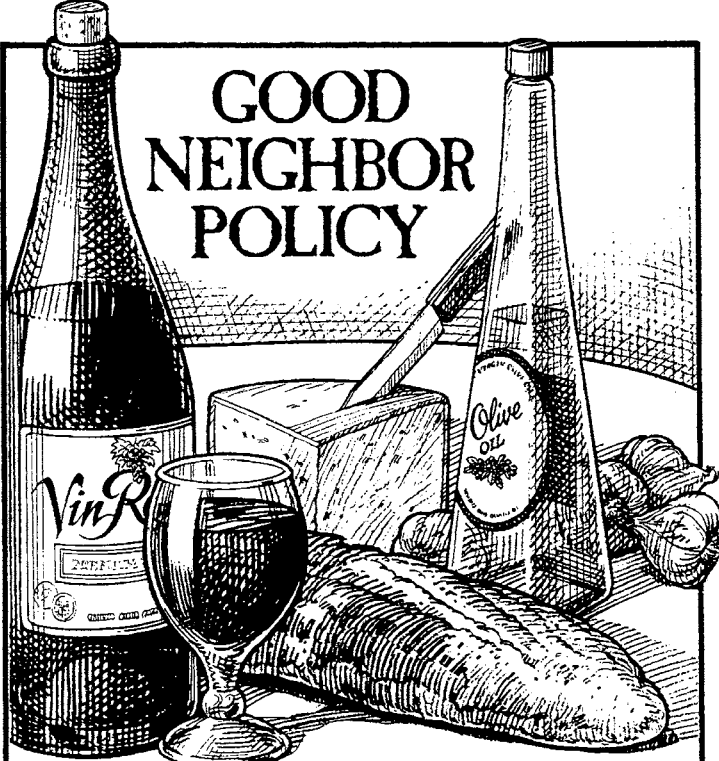
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HYDE PARK

Call for Citizens on Patrol:

Hyde Park is organizing a neighborhood "Citizens on Patrol" initiative, to help the local police fight crime. Seven neighbors went recently to the first six-hour classroom training, and after a ten-hour shift accompanying an officer on a night patrol, we will get our official t-shirts, caps and magnetic signs for our cars and can then start patrolling. Anyone is welcome to join. We will not have set shifts or patrols, so don't worry if you don't have a lot of time to give. We just want to be more eyes and ears in the neighborhood to report suspicious activity to 911, and we want the criminals to notice the additional surveillance. The police simply don't have the resources to be here all the time, and as residents we are more apt to know who's a neighbor and who isn't. The main rules are that we are totally non-confrontational (we simply call 911 if we see anything at all suspicious) and that we always have at least one other C.O.P. (Citizen on Patrol) participant with us. Therefore, if you are interested, try to find another person who can walk or drive around with you after the training. Email Carol Jackson at caroljackson@austin.rr.com and she will let you know when the next classroom training will be held.

— Carol Welder
<cjwelder@msn.com>



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Rainforest Partnership: The View from Costa Rica

Editor's Note: Hyde Parkers Niyanta and (former Council Member) Bill Spelman and their son have departed their home at 3802 Ave. F, and embarked upon a multi-month adventure to raise awareness and inspire action with regard to climate change. Below is the first installment of what we hope will be an ongoing series of dispatches from the front.

An Introduction

Costa Rica is beautiful, that most of us have heard. Our second visit to Costa Rica is not as tourists but as visitors on a quest. In December, we started an Austin-based organization called Rainforest Partnership that is focused on protecting tropical rainforests in collaboration with local communities, and creating a connection between those communities and communities in the U.S. in order to raise public awareness of the role of rainforests in climate protection.

The first such collaboration will be between a community that lives in and around a rainforest and Austin, the first Rainforest Partnership city. The quest to identify, visit, meet, and learn from communities to create such partnerships is what brings us to Latin America. With my husband Bill and 4 year-old Ronan in tow, we are traveling through Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Panama over a period of five months. (Of interest to folks in Austin, Bill is writing about the benefits and costs of urban growth in the U.S.)

So, I will write about something of interest to Hyde Park from each country and this first installment comes from Costa Rica. Our base in Costa Rica is the lower house on a thirty-acre farm belonging to our now very good friends Reinhold and Gina Muschler. It is located 3,000 feet above sea level looking down on the lush central valley around Turrialba, a 90-minute drive west of San Jose, the capital.

Living in a house with a full kitchen has allowed us to eat wonderful fresh organic fruits and vegetables as well as consume fresh milk. Some of the fruit comes right from the farm, as does some of the milk, yogurt and cheese; it is a treat to cook and each such wholesome food. But as I have known the sources of much of our produce here, it has made me think of how removed we are in Austin (and in the U.S. generally) from our food sources and what that means in today's global economy where the food we eat comes from all over the world and we know little of who produces it and under what conditions, to say nothing of what effects our consumption patterns have elsewhere around the globe.

In particular, looking down in the valley at the largest contiguous coffee farm in Costa Rica, and many other parts of Costa Rica, has been a great opportunity to learn about coffee. Central America has been greatly affected socially, politically, economi-

Continued on following page



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cally from the production of this one cash crop. So, if you want to read a little of what I saw and learned about coffee, please go to <rainforestpartnership.org/blog>. We went and saw firsthand how coffee is grown and processed and then we picked our own shade grown coffee beans and processed them all the way through roasting them and grinding them. Too bad, we didn't produce enough to take with us to Ecuador! In Ecuador awaits visits to Mitad del Mundo (the equator), communities in the Amazon and a base in Quito, the capital.

– Niyanta Spelman

(Continued in next month's issue)

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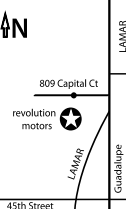
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Trowel & Error!

On Saturday, April 5, from 10 AM to 1 PM, Mayfield Park will once again host Trowel & Error, the Spring event that annually attracts gardeners from far and wide to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens.

Sponsored by Friends of the Parks, Trowel & Error will feature Rosina Newton, garden specialist at Natural Gardener, explaining the hows and whys of organic gardening. David Meeker, nursery manager at Gardens, will discuss growing heirloom veggies for this hot Texas climate. Rounding out the day, Paula Middleton, certified master gardener, who likes to offer a different way to look at landscapes, will talk about using edible treats in your landscape.

For those who arrive early enough, Mayfield's hard-to-find heirloom bulbs and perennials may be purchased for your April garden. Also featured will be the legendary raffle of "garden goodies".

No one leaves Trowel & Error without a smile, many with an armful of heirloom plants. It's a wonderful way, rain or shine, to spend a morning learning how to add color into your Spring landscape while relaxing among gregarious peacocks, towering palms, flowering trees and ponds filled with lilies... and for only a \$5.00 donation!

For more information contact Karen at 453-7074 or <neenok@aol.com>.

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Letters Dept.

Wisconsinians ♥ Hyde Park

Dear Editor,

Hello!

My husband and I left the blistering snows of Wisconsin last week to spend time in Austin visiting our son who lives on Avenue A in your wonderful neighborhood. He is in an apartment for now, but hopes to someday purchase a home there. We spent every morning just walking up and down the streets, and were thrilled to see so many beautiful homes, including the "T.O.H. home" that we watched on PBS like millions of others. We were just amazed, street after street of beautifully preserved bungalows. It was easy to see the pride taken by so many home owners.

Keep it up! What you have there is priceless!

Very Respectfully,
Maureen and Richard Dick
1409 Carriage Dr.
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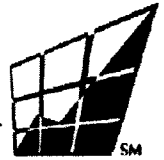
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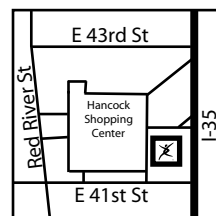
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Concerns About Solicitors Grow

If you've been reading the neighborhood listserv e-mails or attending meetings with the Austin Police Department, you are aware of the recent crime wave affecting our neighborhood. One of the common techniques used by these burglars is to knock on your door posing as a solicitor or as someone looking for work around the house. If you answer the door, they try to get a glimpse inside your house to plan a robbery in the future. If no one answers the door, they check to see if anyone is watching and then kick in the door for their pillage.

As a Neighborhood Watch block captain, I have heard stories about these things happening to people on my street and have seen video footage from a break-in that occurred right across the street from my house. I have also listened to numerous complaints of aggressive and dubious people knocking on our doors and paying no attention to "No Soliciting" signs.

Many neighbors are frustrated that there seems to be nothing we can do to prevent this type of behavior, and want to gain more control over this problem. Some suggestions call for creating a no-solicitation zone for the neighborhood which would require permits for solicitors, or simply having a law that requires people to honor the 'No Soliciting' sign on your door.

I have also heard from neighbors who want to leave their porches open to the variety of visitors who may come knocking with cookies to sell or political issues to discuss. Our diverse neighborhood has many views on this matter and it is essential that we come together to find a solution that will work for Hyde Park. I hope to see you all at the March meeting to discuss solicitation in our neighborhood.

— Jason Mann

The Tree Tender

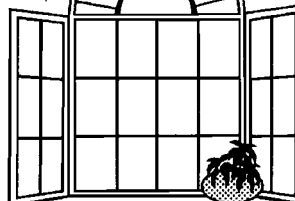
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Letters Dept.

Settlement Club Seeks Foster Families

Dear Editor,

The Settlement Home for Children is a private, non-profit agency that has been serving children in the greater Austin area for nearly 100 years. I am the Family Developer with our foster family program, and we verify single adults, couples, and families to provide temporary and/or permanent care for children who have been removed from their parents by the state for abuse and neglect. We provide extensive, 24-hour support to our families and ongoing training for the parents and therapy for the children as needed.

We find that many mid-career professional singles and couples without children seek out foster-adoption as a way to extend their family, and they are often excellent parents, especially for older children. We also see many active-but-retired singles and couples whose children have already left home also love fostering children who are their "favorite" age. Also, of course, we find that community-minded families have often been considering foster-care for several years before they encounter a link to take the first step.

I am hoping that you might be interested in using your neighborhood newsletter to bridge the needs of Austin area to children with the interests of some of your residents. If you would like to discuss this further, I would love to give you more information. I can be reached at this email address or by phone at 512-836-2150 x161, or you can also visit our website at <www.settlementhome.org>.

Thank you very much for your time!

— Bridget Shrum, Foster Family Developer

Letters Dept.: Save the Ney Wall!

Dear Editor,

I support the restoration of the Ney Museum, as it has been said, "wall and all." I see the lovely, low stone wall along 44th Street as the frame Austinites long ago put in place around the picture of what Elisabet Ney created there.

The wall has a rich and important history of its own. I hope my neighbors will take the time to inform themselves about this history and how it explains and amplifies Ms. Ney and what she stood for. And how tragically short-sighted it would be to do anything short of preserving it, as it is.

Whatever can and should be done inside the Ney tract can appropriately restore the artist's vision. And commencing that restoration immediately north of the wall preserves BOTH the artist's vision and tangible evidence of her long-standing influence on Hyde Park, Austin, Texas, and the world.

If I understand the landscaping plan as proposed, the prairie grasses to be planted there will grow taller than the wall anyhow.

There is simply no need for neighbors to be divided over this issue. From what I have read and heard from my neighbors, preserving the studio AND the wall would unite all of us in our support.

— Joel Cryer, 514 E. 40th

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As quiet as butterflies' wings, opening and folding back.

When snowflakes drop on water, the sound is deafening.

— Charlotte Herzele
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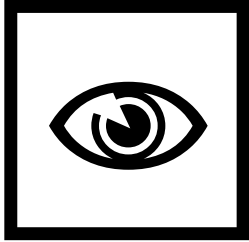
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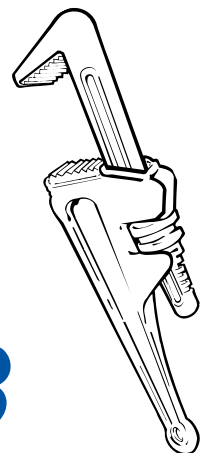
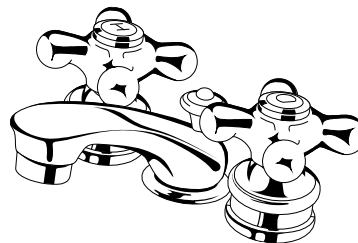
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— Nancy Taylor Day
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Address: **301 East 38th Street**

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Address: **4530 Avenue H**

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

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Listed at \$732,600



606 & 608 West 31½ Street

Two restored homes on two lots to be sold as package.
Listed at \$795,000

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Suzanne Pringle

REALTOR®, Broker

Mobile 512.217.1047

pringle@aveone.com

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