

May Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 5, 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 May 5th

- ❖ Twin Liquors in the Old Navy Space (possible vote)
- ❖ Texas Park & Wildlife Land Issue
- ❖ Discussion on Tire Slashings
- ❖ City Elections - City Council Members and School Bonds
- ❖ floodlines Recap

The Local Historic District Corner

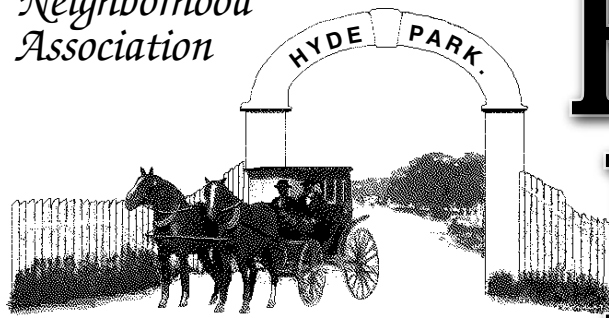
Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: <lweidlich@mail2sevensseas.com> or 300-2228.

First, let's talk about design standards. There seems to be a large amount of concern about them, coupled with a limited amount of understanding. Just what are we talking about here?

When someone applies for a building permit in Hyde Park, whether for construction, addition to an existing structure, or renovation, that application goes through a series of reviews designed to ensure that the building does not violate any of the zoning standards currently in place. First of all, it cannot violate city code, which is concerned with such issues as fire and safety standards. Second, it cannot violate any of the standards established by the McMansion ordinance; height is an example.

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The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

May, 2008 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 34, No. 5

It's My Park! Day 2008: Hyde Park Neighbors & Friends Clean Up Shipe Park

On April 12th, 98 Hyde Park neighbors, friends, and other volunteers gathered to make improvements to Shipe Park. Armed with rakes, shovels, lopping shears, wheel barrows, and little red wagons, workers of all ages accomplished the following projects:

- A small army of rakers removed leaves from the kiddie pool and playscape area.
- Park benches and trash receptacles received a new coat of paint (as did a few volunteer painters).
- Brave members of the "Creek Crew" removed piles of ragweed, trash, invasive plants, and other unwanted matter from Waller Creek.
- Volunteers aerated the soil under the beautiful oak trees and lovingly spread Dillo Dirt and mulch around their bases.
- The "Playing Field" received a layer of Dillo Dirt and new grass seed was planted (it will be roped off – probably for around a month – until the grass gets established).
- New sod was planted in a bare spot between the log cabin and 44th Street
- Two giant mounds of mulch were spread along the creek-side to suppress weeds and nurture the newly-planted trees.



Young and old(er) alike pitching in. Photo by Lorre Weidlich

This community effort was part of the Austin Parks Foundation's citywide It's My Park! Day project, whereby an estimated 1,600 volunteers tackled similar projects at almost 50 parks throughout the city. For more information and volunteer opportunities for APF's ongoing projects go to: <www.austinparks.org>. Hyde Park's first involvement in It's My Park! Day began in spring 2007 when neighbor Betsy Clubine led a thorough

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From the President's Desk: _____

Will the (Traffic) Circles Be Unbroken?

Spring has sprung. Birds are chirping. Leaves are returning. Sand weeds are taking over many of our traffic calming circles.

A few months ago, several residents met with Stuart Strong of the Austin Parks Department. There were concerns that the vegetation in the calming circles were too high and might endanger pedestrians walking in the streets. At the initial meeting, Stuart informed us that the City had adopted a policy that the vegetation in the circles be no higher than 30 inches (with the exception of the large trees).

Since we have many existing plants that were larger than this

new policy, Jill Nokes made recommendations to the group to determine which plants should be removed as well as a list of native plants that could be used that would not grow above these new height restrictions.

A few weeks ago, I worked with Andrew and Melissa Shea on the circle at 42nd and Avenue G. We picked out a variety of plants that would work for this circle, including a Red Bud tree. The Sheas paid for all of the plants as well as arranged for their installation. The circle looks good and should fill in nicely in the coming years.

The other circles in our neighborhood are not in the same condition. The one at Speedway and 42nd has remained unplanted since the Parks Department cut everything to the ground last year. The one at Avenue B and 41st is completely overgrown with weeds and vegetation. The one at 43rd and Avenue B also needs some TLC to manage the overgrown rosemary and weeds.

The Parks Department has agreed to replant the other circles where necessary, as well as come out once per quarter and cut back vegetation. However, they will not do so until they have received assurances from the neighborhood that the circles will be maintained. We need neighbors to adopt the circles to keep the plants watered, remove trash and keep the weeds down. So if you live close to one of the circles and are willing to adopt one, please let me know.

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



Rake's progress: Volunteer Lisa Harris shows it's My Park! Day spirit. Photo by Lorre Weidlich

Pecan Press

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LHD Corner...

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Finally, it cannot violate any of the standards dictated by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Conservation Combining District (NCCD). Local Historic District design standards would provide an additional level of zoning designed to ensure that any building that goes on in Hyde Park is compatible with the structures already standing there. We are not talking about retrofitting anything, only about establishing the point that changes to Hyde Park do not stand out in uncomfortable contrast to what already exists. Will this additional level of zoning slow down the process of getting a permit? The time increase should actually be minimal, because the same city authorities will be doing the reviewing.

How restrictive will these standards be? They will be ONLY as restrictive as the majority of Hyde Parkers are willing to accept. The current Design Standards Subcommittee will be presenting a draft, not a final product. That draft will be reviewed by the neighborhood; there will be debate and feedback; and a final draft will be generated. Any Hyde Parker will have the opportunity to question and comment on the standards. Until they are accepted by 60% of the neighborhood, they are not official.

The people currently working on generating that first draft are all volunteers, and they come from a variety of backgrounds:

- Design Standards Subcommittee Chair **Michelle Paris-White**, a recent transplant to Hyde Park from the Bay area, has studied opera and chiropractic medicine, but most importantly is a LEED (Leadership

Energy & Environmental Design) professional, certified by the US Green Building Council.

- **Paula Rhodes** has lived in Hyde Park for 10 years and, in her words, "will never leave." She's a mother of two and a licensed architect, with a strong interest in historic preservation.

- **Kelly Schaub** is another Hyde Park newcomer, and she also proclaims that she will never leave. A former teacher, she now works as a bookkeeper.

- **Lynn Osgood** is a landscape architect and a student of urban planning and public policy at the University of Texas.

- **Thad Avery**, known to most Hyde Parkers because of his affiliation with VinoVino, also owns several other buildings on Guadalupe.

- **David Conner** has lived in Hyde Park for about four years. He is a certified internal auditor with a strong interest in historic preservation.

- **Carol Burton** has lived in Hyde Park since 1984 and owned her house for several years before that. She describes herself as "passionate about architecture".

- **Carolyn Grimes** moved to Hyde Park ten years ago and immediately plunged into neighborhood work – Homes Tours and Fire Station Festivals. Her background is in information management and business development.

In addition to these regulars, other occasional participants include **Garland Turner** and **Eugene** and **Mary Carolyn George**. They can also include you; if you're interested, get in touch with Michelle for the time and place. And look forward to reviewing their work in the upcoming months.

– Lorre Weidlich, LHD Chair

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2007-08 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
<p>Name _____ Phone _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Dues (per person)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member</p> <p>Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____</p> <p><i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i></p>	<p>Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:</p> <p>HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765</p> <p>Make checks payable to HPNA.</p>	<p>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">❖</p> <p>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.</p>

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Shipe Park Cleanup...

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clean-up of Shipe. Building upon that success, Shipe Park has seen more improvements through the planting of 15 new trees (made possible through Austin Energy mitigation funds and the persuasive efforts of Jill Nokes) and ball moss work on the large oak trees. Another important development has been the creation of the Friends of Shipe Pool, the group that arranged for Shipe to extend the days it was open in summer of 2007. To join this group, contact Adam Wilson at <adam@griffinschool.org>.

Long-time Hyde Park residents have been delighted to see a resurgence in use of Shipe Park, particularly the crowds of small children, young parents, and weekend birthday parties at the park and pools. With this increased use comes the continuing need for the maintenance and upkeep of the park grounds and facilities. As users and citizens, it is the responsibility of us all to care for it and keep it clean. You can help by:

- Keeping Shipe Park clean: pick up trash whenever you see it.
- Report maintenance needs to the Parks and Recreation Department (contact Jimmy Cone at: 927-8363).
- Join Friends of Shipe Pool.
- Get involved in the HPNA Beautification Committee (contact Mark Fishman at m.fishman@yahoo.com).
- Let members of the City Council know that parks are important to you and need more funding (in case you are not aware, the City of Austin spends around \$60 per capita on parks, whereas the national average is around \$60).
- Thank the Parks and Recreation Department staff whenever you see them working on our park.
- Get involved in the Austin Parks Foundation.
- Plan on participating in It's My Park! Day in spring of 2009.

Thanks to the 98 volunteers who made the April 12th event such a success. Special thanks are also due to Libby Malone and our other colleagues and friends at Grande Communications (including their five volunteer workers who donated their time and toil on Saturday), Jimmy Cone and the PARD staff, and Hyde Park neighbor and PARD Acting Director Stuart Strong, who attended the Shipe Park clean-up.

— Jack Nokes, Chair, 2008 Shipe Park
It's My Park! Day



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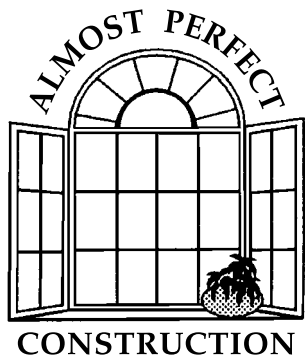
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Minutes of the April 2008 HPNA General Meeting

The April 7, 2008 HPNA Meeting was called to order by President Elaine Meenehan at 7:00 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was a reminder of **It's My Park! Day**, Saturday April 12 from 1-5 p.m. (See related items in this issue.)

Elaine gave a brief update on the properties at **Avenue F and 44th Street**. Emrobrai Homes, LLC has hired Hyde Park architects William Barbee and Eugene George to develop designs that will be more compatible with the neighborhood.

Ann Graham reminded the group of the **"flood-lines"** performance event on April 20.

Roger Temme, the Outreach Coordinator for the **Care Communities** presented information about the group which was formed in 1991 as the Interfaith Care Alliance to provide practical and compassionate support to those living with AIDS in the Austin area. In 1997, Care Communities expanded their focus to include other serious illnesses, such as cancer. The organization uses Care Teams to provide non-medical assistance such as light housekeeping, shopping, transportation, meal preparation, supportive child services, and yard work. Roger hopes that there will be enough interest in the program to start a team or teams in the Hyde Park area. You can learn more about the Care Communities at <www.thecarecommunities.org>. Roger can be contacted in the following ways: Phone 459-5883 or email <roger@thecarecommunities.org>. (see related article on page 8 of this issue)

David Kies from the University Federal Credit Union made an announcement about the **Earth Day/ Shred Day** event to be held April 26 at the branch office at 4611 Guadalupe. The Hyde Men were one of the groups who were scheduled to perform during the event.

Lisa Harris, HPNA representative to the Austin Neighborhoods Council, spoke to the group about the importance of voting in the **upcoming City Council Election**. She stressed that it is important to have a large neighborhood voter turnout on May 10. Toward that end, HPNA is challenging the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association to see which area has the largest percentage of registered voters who vote on May 10. Early voting is April 28-May 6. The Hyde Park precincts are 136, 137, and 275.

– Celeste Cromack, HPNA Co-Secretary
<ccro@io.com>





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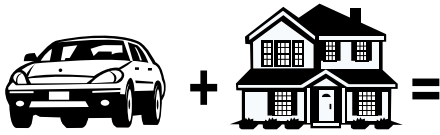
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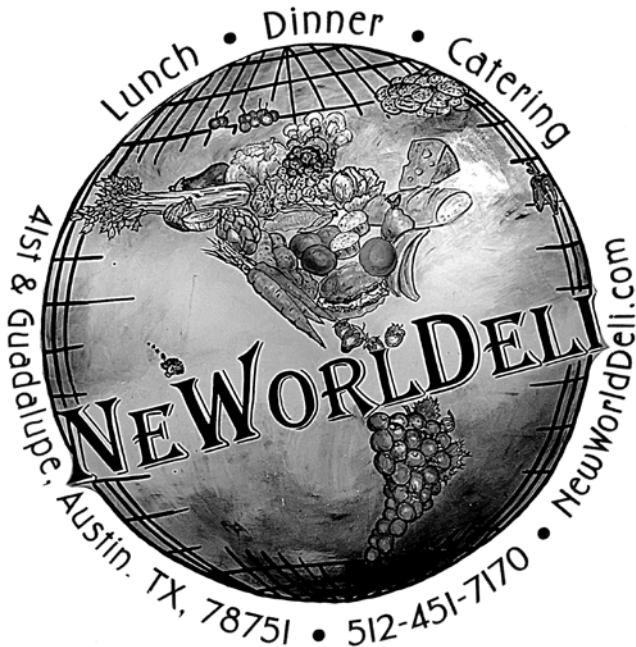
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The Care Communities

The Care Communities provides practical and compassionate support, through care teams, for people living with serious illness, particularly AIDS and cancer. Our vision is a caring community where no one will face a serious illness alone. The care teams provide things like light housekeeping, shopping, meal preparation, yard work, child support and pet care. We ask each volunteer to provide 4 hours a month for their care partner (the one seriously ill). One of our Care Partners, Joe, says this about his Care Team, "I have been a client for just over a year, I would not be here if it had not been for my Care Team - When my Care Team met me for the first time, I was in Stage 3 cancer - my appearance was shocking due to weight loss and chemo during radiation. My Care Team did not even notice. They quickly organized duties and became my friends. I have no family, so I am grateful for bringing these brave souls into my life." Before his death, Joe told those who visited him that his Care Team were his best friends and he loved them dearly.

The Care Communities has a vision that no one will go through their illness alone. They provide care unconditionally.

Another Care Partner, Sandra, is living with HIV/AIDS. She has family in the area but does not want them to know her status for fear that they will judge her positive status. She feels secure with the Care Team knowing they will respect her confidentiality. Sandra has come to find that, with help from her Care Team, she can provide a loving and safe household for herself and her children.

If you want to know more about the mission of The Care Communities, look at their website at www.thecarecommunities.org. If you might be interested in helping to form a Hyde Park Care Team, contact Roger Temme, Outreach Coordinator, at 459-5883 or e-mail him at roger@thecarecommunities.org.

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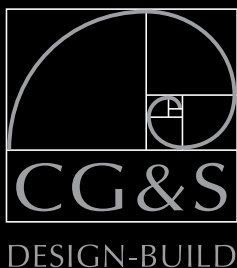
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Rainforest Partnership: The View from Peru

(The latest in an ongoing series of reports by former HPMA Co-President Niyanta Spelman about her and her family's eco-adventures in points considerably south of their home on Avenue F.)

Trying not to be strangers in a strange land...

Our boat, little more than a canoe with a motor, is taking us up one of the tributaries of the Amazon in southeastern Peru. On all sides, we are surrounded by primary forest, only sparsely populated by hunter-gatherers before it became a protected reserve a few years ago. The forest is thick, dark, complex, unfathomable -- the "infierno verde" of the Conquistadors.

Everyone who comes here to the Tambopata Reserve is prepared for the birds: Macaws, parrots, parakeets, toucanets of every imaginable color, each of the myriad species subtly different. And it's easy, even for non-birders like us, to participate in the sport. One stares through binoculars and states, with as much authority as one can muster, "It's a Scarlet! I saw a yellow stripe on the wing." Your companions see it differently. "I didn't see that stripe, and I still think it's a Red and Green." Or hear it differently. "It can't be a Scarlet. Didn't you hear the call?" And so on. The field guides fill hundreds of pages with color plates and very, very careful descriptions of bird markings, ranges, and behaviors -- all to fuel the binocular arguments.

We were ready for the birds, but the really surprising thing is the mammals. Protected from hunting, the capybaras, the peccaries, and the monkeys roam freely, sometimes in groups of 100 or more. In a few hours' walk, we triggered two wild boar stampedes (nervously looking for the nearest tree in case the boars miscalculated and headed our way); we watched several troupes of spider, squirrel, howler, Capuchin, and dusky titi monkeys make moves that would put Tarzan to shame; we tracked an ocelot as it was hunting. The Reserve is hard-to-reach even by the stiff standards of the Peruvian Amazon. Few visitors crash through the brush, as we do with our guide, a former hunter himself. So the wildlife is actually wild -- easy to say, but astonishing when you are surrounded by it.

Our guide, Silverio, grew up in the forest, and is incredibly experienced for a man of 37 years. Watching, following, and talking with him, we get a sense for what it must be like to live with this forest every day. Nevertheless, we are conscious that we are just visitors. Silverio will be back upriver tomorrow; we're going back to Cusco.

We try hard not to live like tourists, but our plans make it difficult. And, this is the only time that my husband Bill and son Ronan are accompanying me

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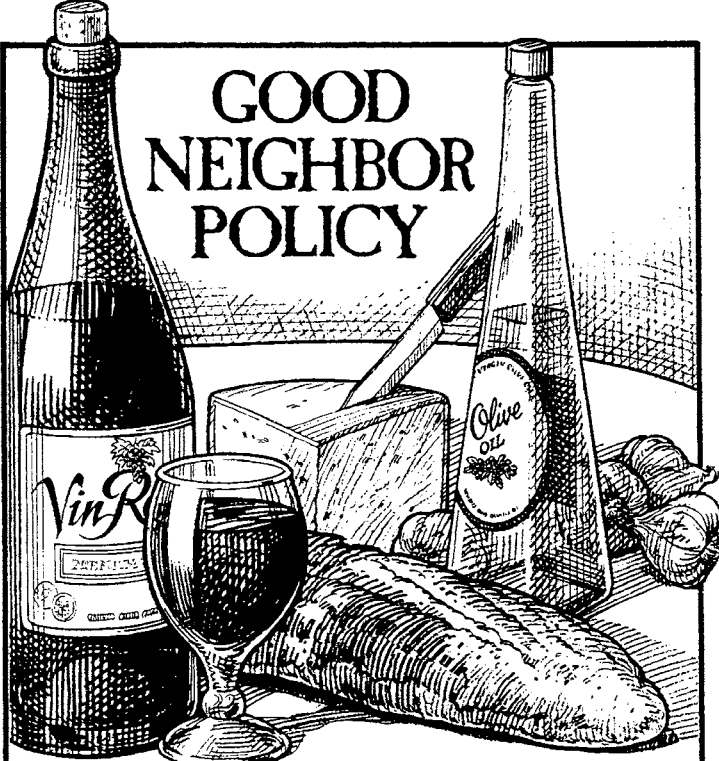
to the jungle, but I have come to think of us as travelers in this instance! Finding potential partners for my emerging nonprofit the Rainforest Partnership means that I need to spend a substantial amount of time here in Peru in either Lima or Cusco. It is hard to find two cities more different. Lima is a desert on the sea, one of the driest places on earth with just .02 inches in annual rain. The wind and fog off the cold Humboldt Current keep Lima from burning up, but this is still sea level near the Equator. Cusco, on the other hand, lies in the middle of the Andes, at 12,000 feet, where the winds dump all that Pacific moisture. It rarely snows, but you always need a sweater and your waterproof overcoat is never far away.

Now add the jungle to the mix: Drenched and sweltering during the rainy season, with mud so thick you could lose your knees in it (we managed to barely miss the rainy season). Finally, even in casual Peru one needs to look good for a business meeting. Between sporty and professional, hot and cold, dry and wet, we had a lot to pack. All in one bag for each of us!

It is strange to see so much of the country and from such very different aspects. To be almost living and participating in local life, to have Ronan go to school, as he will for more than a month in Lima. Actual school is from 9 to 12:30. Then all the kids come home for lunch, the main meal of the day. Perhaps due to some arcane government decree, all restaurants have good, cheap lunch menus. For \$2 to \$4, you get three courses, including gorgeous ceviches or soups, fresh fish, and tasty choices of desserts. It's hardly worth cooking, and we rarely do. Then Ronan goes back to school from 3 to 7 (yes, really, and I can't manage to get a single meeting before 3 p.m. here in Peru), and Bill and I each go on to our respective workplaces. Bill finds an outdoor café with a wireless connection and decent coffee (hard to find in a country so casual about its major cash crop). I take a taxi to my afternoon meetings, typically far from the tourist traps and sometimes far from one another -- a serious undertaking in a city of 11 million or so.

In Cusco, for the first time since we left Austin, we experienced what we've been missing by attempting to really live here. We went to Machu Picchu last weekend and were surrounded by tourists from all over the world. The guidebooks say that Machu Picchu is the biggest tourist attraction in all South America, and it attracts exactly the traffic you'd expect. Tourists come in on the train from Cusco, often in a big group who all speak the same language, walk around the site for a few hours with a guide who knows exactly what they want to hear, then turn around and go back. In our train car, a tour group from the Midwest belted out Elvis and Sinatra -- badly -- most of the way back to Cusco. Their contact with local culture was limited to the Pisco Sours they bought on the train.

Continued on page 12




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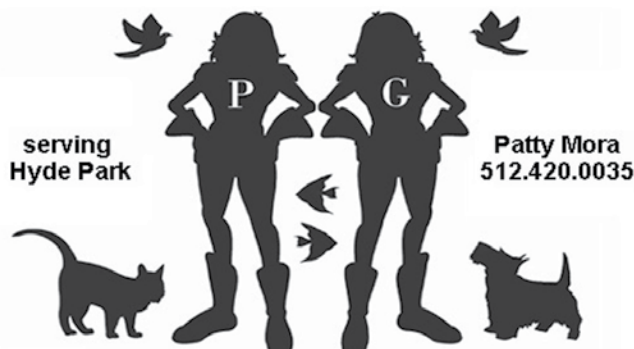
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The View From Peru...

...cont'd from page 11

In a different time and place -- on a different vacation -- that might have been us. But as folks who are living here, even for only a few weeks, it is easy to see how much the typical tourists miss. Mark Twain once said of women cursing, "They know the words, but not the music." I think this is true of the "If this is Tuesday, this must be Machu Picchu" crowd. The sights and sounds and smells of the monuments and cathedrals and plazas -- and even the fast-food lunch joints -- all have a meaning to the people who live with them every day. Our measly few weeks in Peru isn't nearly enough to understand this meaning, but it is long enough to recognize that there is a meaning, and that filtering the sights and sounds through our North American eyes and expectations largely misses the point.

I still have a lot of travel left. My board chair, Hazel Barbour, arrives here in a few days, and we'll be going to parts of Peru not usually visited by tourists. I'm looking forward to it. Most guide books tell you to avoid Lima -- too noisy, polluted, and generic. But over this last week, I have come to the conclusion that I like Lima, the people, the culture, the gorgeous food. (I do wonder how this desert city will provide water to its increasing population as the climate changes and the Andean glaciers melt). I loved Cusco, too, and cherish the friends I have made and that I have been working with.

I keep thinking of how strange it is that we're so scattered. We have left most of our belongings at home in Austin, but left a bag in our apartment in Lima, another bag in our apartment in Cusco, and are traveling with an even smaller subset of clothes, books, and shoes. There must be some meaning to all this, but for now I just muse on it. And wonder where on earth I left my favorite hairband.

— Niyanta Spelman

Hyde Park Poets —

Magpie Poem I

I hear a magpie cry
a haunting lullaby
appealing to me for a spark of beauty to
adorn the sky.

— Genève Gil

Crime Report



by Carol Welder

Sadly, the tire slashings have continued to be a problem in our neighborhood. There has been much discussion on the ListServ and speculation of who might be committing these mindless acts of vandalism. Until someone actually sees the crime being committed, the police cannot do anything. It has been suggested that neighbors call 911 if they see any suspicious activity. With probable cause or with a witness, the police can then intervene. In the meantime, park your cars in driveways or in well-lit areas.

On another note, Officer A.J. Rodriguez reports that residential burglaries are down, but that vehicle burglary is up. Living in Hyde Park does present the challenge of many cars on the street presenting an opportunity for crime. Officer Rodriguez reminds us to remove any valuables from sight and to lock your doors. It may be a little more hassle, but if you could cover your car at night, it could deter a passing vandal.

In the past, I have addressed ways in which we can be better neighbors by not parking cars in front of your neighbor's house and by minimizing barking dogs by either keeping them inside of your house or walking them more often. Many times, dogs bark because they are bored. So, help your pet and your neighbors by interacting with your pets. Another way in which we can be better neighbors is to make sure that outdoor lighting is not shining in your neighbor's windows. These small considerations can lead to a very positive neighborly environment.

Stay vigilant and if you have any questions or concerns for the police, contact our District Representative, Officer A.J. Rodriguez, at 974-4527.

— Carol Welder
HPNA Crime and Safety Chair
<cjwelder@msn.com>

Hyde Park Poets —

Magpie Poem II

I hear the magpie sigh,
her song of love
a warbling cry,
wingtips nestled deep into her breast, her beak
audacious high.

— Genève Gil

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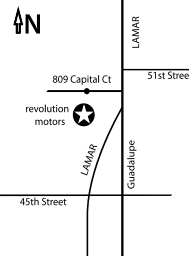
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Around & About the Avenues

⇒ **It's Our Park! Dept.:** Receiving justifiably prominent attention in this issue is news from and about recent goings-on at Shipe Park in connection with the 2008 edition of the citywide It's My Park! Day initiative. As event chair/not-so-cub reporter Jack Nokes proudly points out, nearly 100 volunteers showed up on the afternoon of April 12th, and four hours later left the park in demonstrably better shape than they found it. It was only a year or so ago that Betsy Clubine and Michael Horowitz were instrumental in getting this ball rolling in the first place, so it is nothing short of remarkable how quickly it has evolved into such a popular and engaging event. Indeed, a strong case can be made that It's My Park! Day has joined the Fire Station Festival, Christmas/Holiday Party, and Homes Tour* as annual highlights on the HPNA calendar, both reflecting and contributing to the communitarian spirit that makes this neighborhood so special. So, to all who showed that spirit on the 12th, many thanks, and see you next year!

(*OK, OK, we're not having a Homes Tour this year -- but after 30+ years in a row, maybe we deserved a little break!)



⇒ **Local Historic District Dept.:** Likewise deserving of thanks, and profiled in LHD Chair Lorre Weidlich's piece this month, are the fine folks and good neighbors who are donating their time and talents to help realize the neighborhood's aspirations for Local Historic District designation -- among them, Thad Avery, Carol Burton, David Conner, Carolyn Grimes, Lynn Osgood, Michelle Paris-White, Paula Rhodes, and Kelly Schaub. We appreciate their efforts, and look forward to their recommendations.



⇒ **Tree Magnifique Dept.:** Folks at Blue Sky Realty have launched an effort to find and celebrate "Austin's Prettiest Tree," and intend to award a \$100 gift card (to The Great Outdoors) to the nominator of said tree. So, if you have (or at least know of) a tree that deserves such recognition, just shoot a photo and email it to blueskyaustin@sbcglobal.net, including your name, # and address. Deadline is July 1, so get with it, neighbors -- it's time to up your arboreal aesthetics periscopes!



⇒ **Know Your Neighbors Dept.:** Our friend and neighbor Carol Welder not only serves as Chair of HPNA's Crime and Safety Committee, but is also captain of Neighborhood Watch efforts for the 4200 block of Avenue F. And in that latter capacity, she has recently provided a very simple but most valuable service -- namely, compiling a list of the names, addresses, and phone #'s of every resident on the block, and then distributing the list to everyone on the list. It's a great idea, doesn't involve much time or effort, and can serve as a valuable crime prevention and community-building strategy; thus we encourage other Neighborhood Watch Block Captains to consider providing a similar service. Meanwhile, many thanks, Captain Welder!

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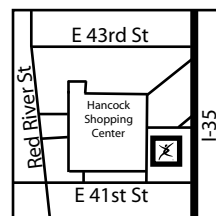
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Hyde Park Poets —

Wings

torn from the menu turn from
the heart;
call an angelfly, tell
her open, give me wings, they feel
to grow like potato spuds between
my shoulders and there's aching there
where they should be
should I be free.

open
wings of fine feather swan,
bead of a black hard eye upon my
shoulder cold and steady
am I ready?
can I sing?

open
wings
of fire sweeping rush
waters over boulders wild
and screaming
can I breathe?

open your mouth
let the lozenge burn your tongue
close your eyes and be surprised
it isn't gone
rock
and rock
and cradle your aching breast
swing into rest
and swoon
am I too soon?

open
wings of flame
a fiery breath of spirit, spit, blood
curdling cry
talons razor embers
scarring blindly outraged
in every way, globally, a sphere of
lightening white hot, bolting blinding
charring and unfolding
wings
of black to black
out the night
in flight.

— Genève Gil

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Hyde Park Poets —

My Altar

My altar is small, of thick rough boards, made by hand, a friend's hands. It's an altar to an unknown God, a force, a spirit. On it sit things of beauty, gifts from friends, a candle, an incense burner, the perfume box my mother kept her jewelry in and, inside it, my father's watch and an antique turquoise ring I bought in Flagstaff years ago and finally small mementos of women I've loved. Above it, hangs an oil pastel I drew of the Goddess dreaming the universe. This small table is the home of my spirit, the abode of the Goddess, the keeper of rituals. This is not my first altar. That was made forty years ago by a woman I loved when we were living together. It was just a board with a mirror behind it and small, clear objects scattered on its surface. We used to put flowers on it and light candles and incense. After we separated, I continued to have an altar wherever I went down to this very day. Sometimes I forget about it for days, weeks even, and then one day I'll look up and it's there. I think it's my hope, built of rough wood and gifts from friends, things of beauty, mementos of women I've loved, looked down on from above by the Goddess.

— Albert Huffstickler
10.19.2000

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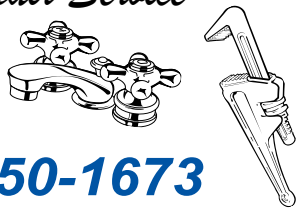
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Reflections: floodlines 2008

The brides are absent, the violins are quiet, the salt is poured, the Volvos are dispersed, the processional is over...for now. *floodlines 2008*, the performance installation created by Austin artist Jaclyn Pryor, lingers in the memories of the performers, the audience, and for Hyde Parkers, the visual images of the passing processional and the poignancy of the moment. Sunday, April 20th was the fifth performance in a seven year cycle and notable for how it had expanded from an intimate, almost private event, to one that many neighbors anticipated with keen interest and curiosity. For those who were engaged in the project or even caught a serendipitous glimpse, their memories of a given street corner, the lawn of HPPresbyterian Church, the 4200 block of Avenue D, the lawn of the Shipe House, have been affected by brief moments of theater and altered reality.

This event would not have been possible without a network of support from Hyde Parkers - both individuals and area businesses who helped make it a success. You can check out a complete list of the cast ("The Ensemble") and those who made inkind and monetary contributions, at the *floodlines* web site <www.jaclynpryor.com>, but I'd like to extend a particular thank you to Hyde Parkers whose generosity and participation made a difference:

Performers and Volvo purveyors: Jacqui Woolley, Rich MacMath, Arlen Johnson, Tony Kotecki, Madeline Marabella, Jack Steiner, Derek Young, Gwen Lewis, Doug Simmer, Sam Schonzeit, Julia M. Smith, Trevor Brooks, Justin Gray, Meg Hardick, Isak Kotecki, Jessie Woolley-MacMath, Gabriella Walker, Giulia Walker, Clara Gibbs, Nancy Mims, Jennifer Vickers and the York family; along with donors of venues or materials: Ted and Chris Huston, Hyde Park Presbyterian Church, the residents of 4200 block Avenue D, Liljestrang-McClelland family, Alan Marburger, Austin Group for the Elderly, Fresh Plus, Double Dave's Pizza, and EcoClean.

In addition, special thanks to everyone who helped make the floodlines garden party & benefit a success: The Hydmen, Greg Bontempo and NeWorlDeli, Julia Smith, Cynthia Janis, the Texas Juggling Society, Nancy Mims & Rodney Gibbs, Elizabeth & Bruce Malone, Jennifer Vickers & Lee Walker, Sam & Patty Griswold, Ann S. Graham & Arlen Johnson, and Nick Barbaro & Susan Moffat.

Last, but not least, special thanks to the area businesses who contributed to the floodlines live auction: arrowhead custom framing, Bat City Awards, Blue Dahlia Bistro, Blue Moon Glassworks, Boomerangs, City of Austin - Water Utility, Dharma Yoga, Hazy Fairless and Rayna Matthews, Judge Nancy Hohengarten, Hyde Park Bar & Grill, Jerry's ArtARama, Laurterstein-Conway Massage School, Little City, McGuire's Clocks, Mother's Café & Garden, People's Pharmacy, Pete Reed-the Hyde Park Handyman, Jaclyn Pryor, Theatre Action Project, VinoVino, Woodburn House Bed & Breakfast, Leanne Zacharias!

We couldn't have done it without you! See you in April 2009!

- Ann S. Graham, floodlines Production
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AISD Bond Election, May 10: Why Hyde Parkers Should Vote YES

On May 10, Austin voters will have the chance to approve three school bond propositions for the Austin Independent School District. Should you vote for the school bonds? If you live in Hyde Park, the answer is a resounding YES!

These bonds will fund needed improvements for many Austin schools, but their passage is critically important for McCallum High School, the public school for the Hyde Park neighborhood. Of course, Hyde Park families want a good school for their kids. But even if you never use it, the quality of this school still has a big effect on your property values. As any realtor can tell you, good schools are a good investment — and investment in McCallum is long overdue.

Built in 1953, McCallum is one of the district's two oldest high schools still operating in its original building and the only one to be doing so without major upgrades to its physical plant. Many of its most-used facilities are failing, outdated or woefully inadequate for its current programs. The majority of its restrooms have not been updated in 50 years. Its theater is 200 seats short of the minimum recommended by AISD for its high schools and is not fully ADA-compliant. The math wing does not have central air conditioning, leaving teachers straining to be heard over loud inefficient window units. Lockers are broken. Science labs are crammed.

Yet despite these aging facilities, McCallum is a remarkable place. It has been nationally recognized by Newsweek Magazine as one of "America's Best High Schools," ranking in the top three percent based on the ratio of students passing Advanced Placement exams. Its music department and recording arts program earned a 2005 Grammy Signature School award - one of only 33 schools nationwide to gain this recognition. Last summer, its acclaimed theater program performed by invitation at the international Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. This June, its wind ensemble will play for the fourth time at Carnegie Hall in New York and its choir and orchestra are already scheduled for a joint performance there in 2009. McCallum graduates are regularly accepted to some of the nation's most prestigious colleges and universities, many having earned substantial scholarships.

While other Austin high schools reflect decades of segregated housing patterns, McCallum remains one of the district's most successful ethnically and ec-

Continued on page 22



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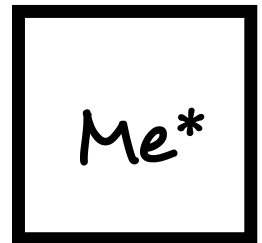
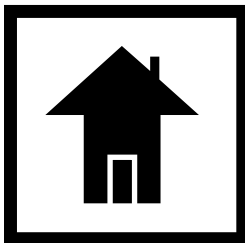
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AISS Bonds — Vote YES...

...cont'd from page 20

onomically diverse campuses. Of its 1700+ students, 46 percent are white, 22 percent are African-American and 30 percent are Hispanic. Over one-third of McCallum's students are identified as economically disadvantaged and more than half as "at-risk." Yet the school's TAKS scores for the past five years reflect solid academic achievement across a variety of demographic groups. The students, faculty and administration are committed to maintaining a welcoming, inclusive school environment for all.

McCallum is also home to the district's Fine Arts Academy, which draws highly motivated students from across the city to major in Music, Visual Arts, Dance and Theater Arts. Approximately 465 students, about one-fourth of the larger McCallum student body, are currently working within an accelerated Academy track. Hundreds of McCallum's regular students are also enrolled in a wide range of Fine Arts classes. This open-door policy gives every interested student the chance to work with an outstanding faculty and staff in a creative and stimulating environment.

What will McCallum gain from the current bond proposal? If passed, the bonds will provide additional science classrooms to meet new state curriculum requirements, refurbished restrooms throughout school, new bleachers for the gymnasium, a new HVAC system for math wing, energy-efficient replacement windows for school corridors, and new lockers to replace broken ones.

The bonds will also enable McCallum to build a new full-size theater, finally bringing its facilities up to the district's Educational Specifications for high schools. With over 35 productions each year and the most active performing arts student population in the district, McCallum has desperately needed an adequate theater for years. These bonds will make that dream a reality.

McCallum is a wonderful public high school with a dedicated faculty, great students and outstanding academic and extra-curricular programs, but it needs your help. Please invest in your neighborhood school and help our kids get the decent facilities they deserve. Vote YES on the school bonds May 10th!

— Susan Moffat, 4112 Speedway

Note: McCallum's bond items will be contained in Propositions 1 and 2 on the May ballot. Many McCallum families also strongly support Proposition 3, which contains funding for a long-awaited district Performing Arts Center that will be available for use by every school in AISD, including those that serve our neighborhood.

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Address: **3713 Robinson**

PENDING

Listed For: **\$279,900**

French Place classic. Tastefully remodeled home in the heart of French Place features fully updated kitchen and bathroom, beautiful hardwoods, designers colors, versatile 3rd bedroom or 2nd living rm, standing seam metal roof, and private backyard with deck.



Address: **4833 Red River**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$259,000**

Charming Bungalow remodel in the Hyde Park area. Fully updated kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counters, Large inviting front porch, long leaf pine flooring, designer colors, updated bath with a claw-foot tub and a great fenced yard and garage.



Address: **708 Harris Avenue**

FOR SALE

Listed For: **\$449,000**

Classic Arts and Crafts home on a 50' X 141' corner lot. Large 3/1.5 floor-plan with an additional 500sf+ of large attic space waiting to be finished out. Recent exterior paint, roof and electrical upgrading. Separate 2 car garage with a fenced yard only a block from award winning Lee Elementary.



Address: **912 East 37th Street**

PENDING

Listed For: **\$411,000**

Charming bungalow w/bright 1/1 garage apt. Just remodeled. Features custom kitchen cabs., granite counters, new appliances, hrdwd flooring, recent int. paint, lrg dining & laundry, lrg 50' X 150' lot, 2 car garage. Apt has sep. laundry room/hardwood flooring/central heat and AC. Very private.



Address: **4102 Burnet Road**

PENDING

Listed For: **\$295,000**

Rosedale Bargain! Quiet residential part of Burnet Rd. (1/2 Block South of Ramsey Park.) Interesting Rosedale Cottage ready or remodeling. Large 50' X 135' lot. Award winning Bryker Elementary. Priced at ± lot cost.



Address: **620 West 35th Street**

FOR SALE

Listed For: **\$464,500**

Sophisticated remodel 1 block west of Guadalupe. Stunning architecture, large corner lot, separate guest bedroom and garage. Totally remodeled kitchen and bathrooms with modern flairs and period detailing.



Jeff Baker 619-7421
ABOR, REALTOR®, Former State Licensed Appraiser

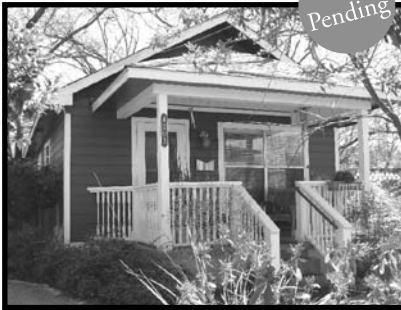
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HYDE PARK HOMES GALLERY



4500 Avenue H

Two houses on one lot, 3BR, 2BA & 1BR, 1BA. Great investment property.
Listed at \$375,000



4203 Avenue A

1928 Home recently updated. 2BR, 2BA, 2Liv & screened porch. Beautiful gardens.
Listed at \$375,000



4602 Avenue G

New Arts & Crafts home, ±3,400 sq ft per builder. 4BR, 3BA & 3Liv.
Listed at \$899,000



5312 Evans Avenue

Two rentals on one lot, both 2BR, 1BA with wood floors.
Listed at \$335,000



5509 Avenue G

New home in North Hyde Park with vintage finishes. 4BR, 3.5BA.
Listed at \$599,000

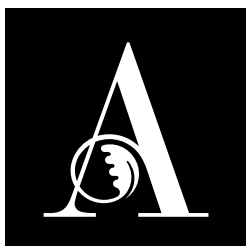


606 West 31½ Street

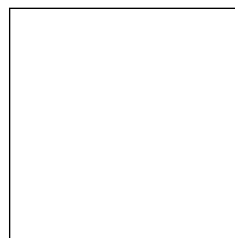
Restored 1927 bungalow near Guadalupe. 2BR, 2BA.
Listed at \$399,000

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