

November Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 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 November 2nd

- ❖ H1N1 and its vaccine in Austin, Linda Aronovsky Cox, M.A., Program Coordinator, Pandemic Flu Preparedness
- ❖ Update on Heritage Tree Ordinance and possible vote on a resolution regarding elements the ordinance should contain.

Letters Dept.

Your Austin Address and Lifestyle Magazine to Hyde Park: More Power!

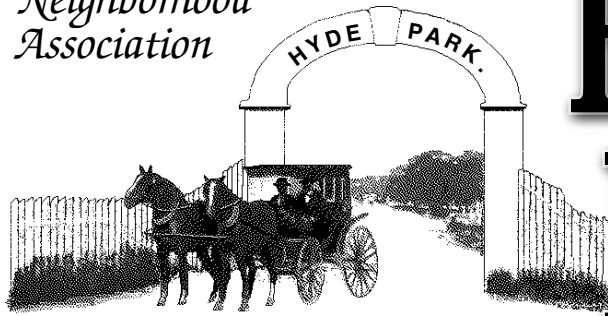
Dear Hyde Park Neighbors,

It has been such a pleasure getting to know your neighborhood the past few weeks! I've been working on an article for Your Austin Address & Lifestyle Magazine featuring Hyde Park. I was lucky to have enlisted the help of Grant Thomas in getting to know some of the, what I like to call, "movers and shakers" of your community. With each interview, they had me wanting to know more. Soon enough, I started referring to history, stories, and businesses in your neighborhood as if it was general knowledge. (In my line of work, I learn a vast amount of random things, so I am often asked, "How in the world do you know that?") There were many interesting stories of colorful characters and inspiring accounts of community

Continued on page 3

**35th Annual Fire
Station Festival a
Rousing Success!**
(see photo essay, page 10)

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

November, 2009 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 35, No. 11

Restore Hyde Park Receives Preservation Award

The letter to the Restore Hyde Park group of neighbors began with, "We are pleased to inform you that the Schenken-Oatman House at 311 W. 41st St. has been chosen to receive a Heritage Society Merit Award for Preservation." And... we were pleased to receive it!

The Heritage Society of Austin's mission promotes the preservation of historic treasures. Our reward thus far has been in preserving this 1909 house to be a home again instead of being demolished. To be recognized by the Heritage Society focused on an even more important purpose for our work – namely, inspiring similar efforts elsewhere.



Heritage Society Executive Director Jacqui Schraad also noted that "The Heritage Society is pleased to honor Restore Hyde Park's lovely restoration of this jewel of Hyde Park. We hope that by bringing recognition to their creative approach to saving this home, they will inspire other groups to do the same."

Prior to its restoration, the house was featured on the 2007 Homes Tour. Many wondered how the place could ever be livable again, much less described as "lovely." Nonetheless, the popularity of this dilapidated house as a tour stop was evident. Fast forward to the 2009 Homes Tour, when the painstakingly and fully restored home was featured again, this time showcasing the success of efforts to save the house. This charming bungalow is now a home for a caring owner and long-time neighbor, Wanda Penn. Moral of the story? During a discussion

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311 W 41st: Before (left)
311 W 41st: After (below)
photos by Carol Burton



From the President's Desk:

Hello Neighbors! I am delighted to report that on October 19th at 2:00 pm, the Hyde Park Local Historic District documentation was delivered to the City of Austin Preservation Office. This was a momentous occasion for all the neighbors, volunteers, consultants and LHD committee members.

We still need to obtain items such as the homeowner support forms, which are being collected now, and the city staff will need to verify the information. So, on behalf of the Hyde Park Steering Committee members, we thank all the neighbors who have contributed their time and effort. Since this is neighborhood history in the making, I began a neighborhood research project to identify all the past presidents of the HPNA. I plan to send out a survey

of some sort to them to identify the most significant events in their tenure, good and bad. This is to document a historical perspective for future HPNA Presidents and to accumulate a past record of their activities. More to come!

I need to mention that the Pecan Press distribution and mechanics are being reviewed by the HPNA Steering Committee. As everyone knows, the Pecan Press generates a significant source of funds for the neighborhood. The HPNA Steering Committee will be looking at increasing the Pecan Press distribution and to assess where distribution in the neighborhood

is currently lacking. If you would like to become a block distributor or know where the Pecan Press distribution needs are, please contact any Steering Committee member. We have increased our web-hosting coverage, but reading the Pecan Press in hard copy is something we all enjoy. See you at the next general neighborhood meeting!

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

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 15th of month preceding publication.

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment 2009-10 Membership

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All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

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Letters Dept. cont'd — from page 1

activism that the interviewees had to share. Each had a very different perspective, but the unifying theme was the overall sense of excitement and eagerness to help an outsider get to know all about their community. I found that Hyde Park is a community that people aspire to live in, not in the materialistic sense of the word, but because it is an opportunity to be a part of something larger than themselves. If there was one thing I took from this experience it would be to put faith in the power of people, and that collectively, any goal can be accomplished. Whether it's rescuing a historic home from demolition, saving a fire station from closure or just bringing neighbors together to get to know one another for a pot luck dinner, Hyde Park does it all, and does it well — together! This made me wonder, if Hyde Park had a motto, what would it be? Perhaps it's Grant Thomas's suggestion, "Love your neighbor, however weird (s)he might be"; or David Conner's idea, "Never get complacent: Always stay active!" Or maybe it's Deaton Bednar's that takes the cake, "Hyde Park — where the past and future join together in a real neighborhood." Whichever it is, take pride in your enchanting neighborhood; I know I would!

Copies of the "Home for the Holidays" issue of Your Austin Address and Lifestyle Magazine will be distributed November 7th to Avenue B Grocery, NeWorldDeli, and ASTI Trattoria.

Cheers,

Dana Reinart

Associate Editor

Your Austin Address & Lifestyle Magazine

<www.youraustinflifestyle.com>

An Invitation:

Mark your calendars for the **Hyde Park Holidays Party, Friday, December 12th at 4201 Speedway, 6:00 p.m.** HPNA officers and leaders and the gracious owners of this lovely home, **Rich MacKinnon and John Rebok**, will be on hand to greet you. Please come and share your own special holiday spirit and dessert with other neighbors. **Children are welcome until 7:30.** More details to come, including a wish list from the Helping Hands Home of gifts for the boys and girls staying there for the holidays.



Milestones Dept.: Thirty Years

In October of 1979, then-editor Merle Franke approached me and asked if I'd consider taking over for him as editor of the Pecan Press. Inherently cautious about any volunteer proposition that might take much time or involve much work, I finally agreed to do it "for a few months."

Well, those few months have now turned into thirty years, and I find that I'm still doing it. Thanks to the efforts of my editorial predecessors Merle and, before him, John Kerr (aka Squirrel Nutkin), the newsletter had already been in publication for almost six years when I took over; and as far as I know, in all those years we've never missed an issue — which, for what is essentially an all-volunteer operation, ain't too shabby a record.

I remain persuaded that, like every other aspect of HPNA's operations, the newsletter would profit from new energy and fresh perspectives, so I remain quite ready to pass the editorial baton on to someone(s) else. But if the Association so desires, I am prepared to continue serving at least "for a few months" more; and in the meantime, I would like to express my appreciation to all the folks who -- whether by contributing articles, letters, poems and/or photos; helping out with distribution; buying ad space; or just reading the damn thing -- have helped to make the Pecan Press an integral element of life here in our very special neighborhood. To you all, many thanks, and here's to many more years of uninterrupted publication!

— Grant Thomas



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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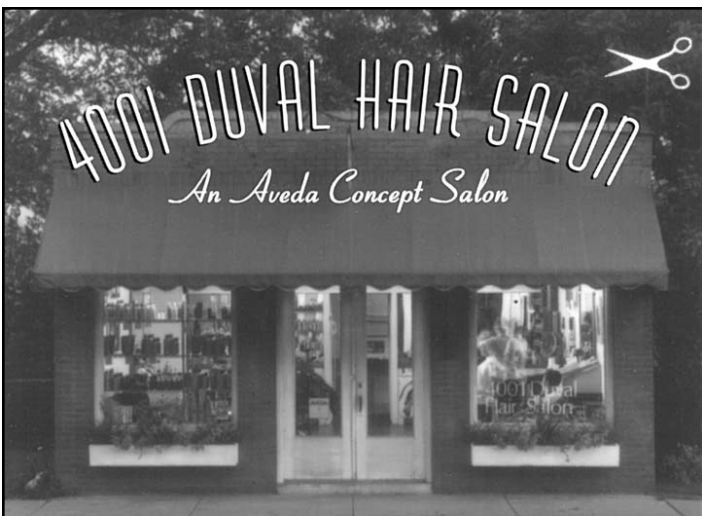
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Untold Stories of the Ney

A number of neighbors have shared what they know about the improvements to the Ney Museum grounds. Together with our research, these living memories reveal a fascinating story involving, among others:

- **Jane Yelvington McCallum**, Ney's protege, noted Texas suffragist, Texas Secretary of State and wife of Austin public school's longest-serving Superintendent, Arthur Newell McCallum. *Jane McCallum was called upon by the Texas Fine Arts Association in 1932 to assist in the improvement of the Ney grounds in preparation for the Texas Centennial in 1936 and Austin Centennial in 1939;*

- **Jacobus "Jac" Gubbels**, who restored the landscape of the San Jacinto Battlefield and Sam Houston's home in Huntsville, became the first landscape architect of the Texas Highway Commission and designed hundreds of depression era roadside parks in Texas constructed by the National Youth Administration. *Gubbels was almost certainly the designer of the Centennial wall that has framed and protected the Ney Museum for at least 70 years;*

- **Clara Driscoll (Sevier)**, Savior of the Alamo, benefactor of Laguna Gloria, wife of Hal Sevier, founding publisher of the *Austin American* newspaper. *Clara Driscoll was the founder and first president of the Violet Crown Garden Club, credited with the gift of the Centennial wall;*

- **William Sidney Porter**, more popularly known by his pen name, **O. Henry**, widely credited for first referring to Austin as the City of the Violet Crown, in a story published in his *Rolling Stone* newspaper in 1894;

- **Fortunat Weigl** (and son, Lee), creators of ironwork gracing numerous historic Texas structures, *including the still fully-functioning hand-wrought iron gate in the Centennial wall* and of the protective ironwork around the Texas Declaration of Independence discovered by McCallum and displayed in the Texas capitol;

- **Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.**, the statewide federation of women's garden clubs in Texas that chose the beautification of the Ney Grounds as *their first state-wide beautification project, including the Centennial rock wall;*

- **Frank T. Ramsey**, pioneer Texas nurseryman and close personal friend of Ney who donated the crepe myrtles on the Ney grounds. Given his relationship with Ney when she was alive, Ramsey would very likely have been closely involved in their planting. Together with the Centennial wall, these plantings have served the very practical purpose of protecting the museum grounds from vehicle traffic and creating the pedestrian sanctuary we fear would be lost unless they are both preserved in place;

- **Austin Mayor Tom Miller** and National Youth Administration director and then Congressman and later **President Lyndon B. Johnson**, who were instrumental in providing depression relief program workers to the Ney

Continued on following page

grounds, as well as numerous other Depression-era structures throughout Texas, including the Shipe Park pool and pavilion immediately west of the Ney grounds and most of the Gubbels-designed roadside parks across the state.

We have compiled and documented this research in a pdf file downloadable at <<http://tinyurl.com/yfdzx63>>

A Partial bibliography (also a pdf) can be found at <<http://tinyurl.com/yfge9je>>.

This story is still unfolding.

— John Paul and Catherine Moore

Letters Dept.

Ney "Aye"

Dear Neighbors,

For 25 years I've lived two blocks from the Ney Museum, and have been a regular visitor to the property. And as an architectural historian involved with a great many privately and publicly owned historic sites, I have my own take on some of the issues involved in the current discussions about the Ney grounds.

The Ney grounds can be looked at as either an Evolutionary Landscape with many changes over time, or it could be a Restored Landscape, reflecting its historic appearance at a particular point in time. The case is made that Evolutionary is better, that the later changes are associated with significant people, and so forth. In particular, landscape architect Jacobus Gubbels, Texas Secretary of State Jane Yelvington McCallum and philanthropist Clara Driscoll Sevier have been cited.

I would argue that, at the end of the day, while the persons referenced above had minor visible effects on the Ney landscape, it is Elisabet Ney who is the person of transcendent significance associated with the site. One can better learn of Gubbels at the San Jacinto Monument and other parks, of Mrs. McCallum at the house she designed on 32nd St., and of Mrs. Sevier at her beloved Laguna Gloria.

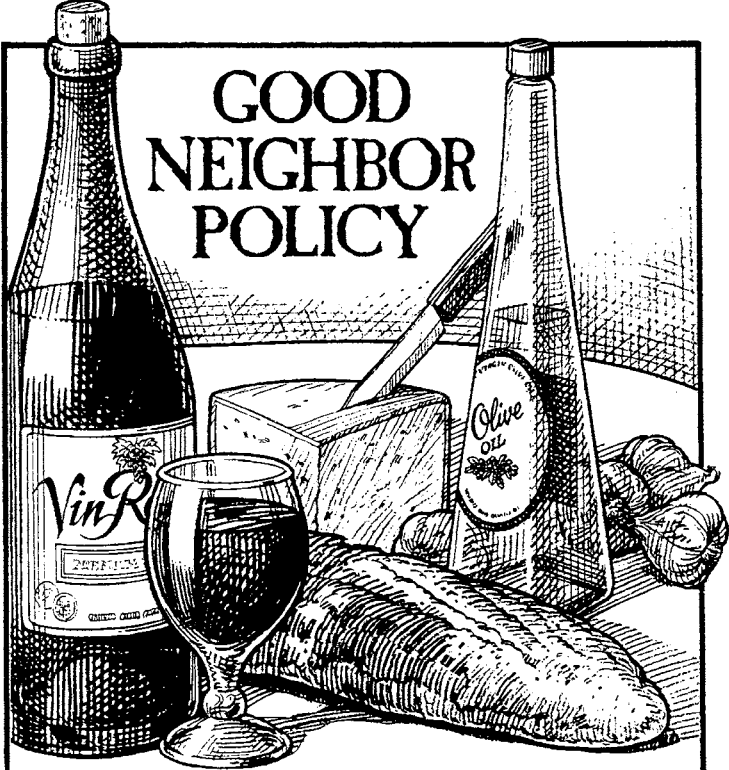
But sculptor Elisabet Ney was an internationally renowned artist, one of the most prominent Texans of her day, whose rich legacy remains for thousands to enjoy every year. Yet I wonder if Miss Ney were to return from the dead, what she would recognize of the grounds of her remarkable home? The house has the strongest associations with her productive career in the United States. The grounds are not a particular source of pride today, and the opportunity to interpret the property as she knew it I find very exciting.

Historic landscapes are generally not always understood. Often owners of historic properties will meticulously restore buildings, yet surround them by modern landscapes. Plant materials and landscape techniques go in and out of fashion the way cars or clothes or architectural styles do. There are very few restored landscapes in Austin, and much to learn from them. The Ney grounds are unusually well documented, and this is an opportunity to provide an extraordinary, very personal insight into the life and times of one of the great women of Texas.

While I would advocate retention of the stone south wall, in other respects I believe that the museum's interpretive program could teach the great contributions made by accomplished women and men to the property over the last 100 years in other ways. But acknowledge and respect the aesthetics of one of the world's most noted artists of a century ago through the landscape she so thoughtfully developed.

Thanks for listening.

— Peter Flagg Maxson



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What Good Are Leaf Blowers ?

A number of Pecan Press articles over the past year have advocated the need to eliminate leaf blower use, because of the health risks and disruption to everyday life that they cause. There has also been commentary in many parts of the country to the same effect. Still, some people make arguments in favor of blower use.

Here are some of the arguments we've heard: (1) People want their yard, sidewalk, driveway, and curb to look neat and clean. Brooms and rakes take too long. In fact (and this from a City employee), without leaf blowers, people walking on sidewalks and parking lots might trip over the leaves. There would be a lot of slip-and-fall lawsuits. (2) Hired blower users like the blowers and would be out of work without them. If we eliminated leaf blowers, unemployment would rise. (Statement from City employee.) (3) Blowers are sold "legally" and are now used everywhere, so they must be okay. (City employee explaining why the noise is okay.) Many of us think that none of these arguments makes sense.

Take the first two arguments – clean pavement is good, brooms and rakes take too long, etc. The "blowed off look," in fact, is weirdly unnatural. It creates a pristine eyesore in the middle of a natural-looking neighborhood where, just the other day, looking down one of our streets, I saw a typical, old-fashioned view: cars and bikes, some leaves and small stones, twigs where kids had been playing something on a sidewalk marked with colored chalk. Come morning, someone's mom will find the green socks on the feet of the stick-figure chalked on cement. This is what life and living look like. Are we better off with sidewalks and curbs that look like a postcard? The pristine look lasts about two hours, and thus has to be repeated, which is why we suffer with the noise and air pollution of these machines week after week, day after day. A neighborhood should not look like an office park in suburbia. About that "liability" – Can we not walk over a few leaves? How did we make it across the pavement a few years ago, before there were leaf blowers?

What about the hired workers – that they like or need to use these machines? I doubt the hired workers like the hearing loss and respiratory consequences they sustain. Masks and ear plugs are poor protection, but are rarely used anyway. More likely, hired workers are unaware of the danger or they don't think they have a

Continued on following page

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choice. It is sometimes said that blower-free lawn care will cost a lot more than the old-fashioned, "green" brooms and rakes. Even assuming it costs more (it doesn't necessarily), should we ask hired workers to sustain health deficits so that we save a few bucks on having a clean driveway?

As to the last argument — that blowers are legally sold and not outlawed by the EPA, so they must be safe: experience shows that we should not bet our health on the wisdom of government bureaucrats. Even when government is well meaning, it usually follows rather than leads the people. This why government finally instituted cigarette warnings, seat belts, and drunk driving enforcement only after public outcry, and even then each of those took decades. As to leaf blowers, environmental agencies have, at least, advised us about the dangers of particulate matter inhalation and how we can avoid it: stay indoors, close the windows, and avoid strenuous exercise, they say — measures that few of us welcome and see as the proper solution. In addition, about 100 cities around the country have banned, restricted, or attached fines to leaf blower use.

The bottom line is that there is a better alternative: Use a broom and a rake and live with a few leaves around. Or use a mower that either mulches the leaves on your lawn (certain leaves could replenishes the soil), or use a mower that sucks the leaves into a bag. That would leave only a small amount of raking for any beds where you don't want the leaves to remain (as mulch), but instead want a bed free of leaves. Avoiding blower use in beds would also protect fragile plants and prevent blowing top soil and fertilizer into the air, the street, or elsewhere where it shouldn't be.

Several of us have started working on eliminating blower use as a way to return to the peace and quiet that has long characterized Hyde Park. To join the effort, please contact Mary Lou Serafine <sonata0516@yahoo.com> or 220-5452 or John Kerr <JFK@grandecom.net> or 451-3931.

— Mary Lou Serafine

Ooops! Dept.:

In our October issue, we incorrectly characterized Jack Nokes as the first-ever chair of It's My Park! Day events at Shipe, when actually it was Betsy Clubine of the 4300 Block of Avenue F who coordinated the inaugural event. Our apologies for the error, and our thanks to Betsy for getting the ball rolling!

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The Local Historic District Corner

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

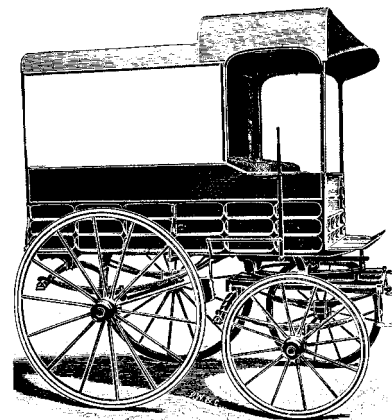
The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter. On October 19, at approximately 2 pm, HPNA President David Conner delivered our nomination form to Susan Villareal in the Historic Preservation Office of the City of Austin. Our nomination consisted of three binders of material, somewhere between 1,000 and 2,000 pages.

I missed my projected delivery date by 19 days, for several reasons. First, our application was finished on October 14, but nobody was available at the Historic Preservation Office to accept it until October 19. Second, the process of merging our individual property data into a Word document proved to be more cumbersome than I anticipated. Anyone who loves Word as much as I do will understand that. Terri Myers and Kristen Brown, both of Preservation Central, and I spent several weekends working on all the individual forms.

Many dedicated people entered survey data and legal data. I thank everyone who contributed to the data entry effort. I also thank Lloyd Cates, who generated the map of contributing structures that became part of the application. And I especially thank Catherine Moore, who spent at least 100 hours looking up data on TCAD.

The box on my front porch is still available for you to deposit your signed Statements of Support. I would like to have them all in by November 30, 2009.

– Lorre Weidlich
Chair, HPNA Local Historic
District Committee



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Restore Hyde Park Receives Preservation Award...

...cont'd from page 1

about stewardship of historic homes in Hyde Park, Michele Grieshaber of 42nd and Avenue H commented that we don't own these historic homes really, we just take care of them for a time.

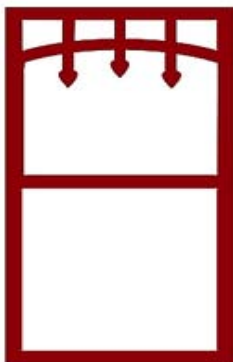
In that context, the home at 311 W. 41st is there for all of us. When asked what she found most rewarding about being a part of the work to preserve the home, Wanda responded, "There have been many neighborhood people over the past decades who were interested in this house and who kept a watchful eye on it, knowing that sooner or later a time would come when it might be possible to see it restored. I was able to participate in this endeavor and to actually turn the house into a home. The watchful neighbors did not disappear after the restoration was complete; people are still stopping by, stopping their cars in the street, leaving notes at the house, all of which are thanking the neighbors who participated in the restoration effort. All of this lets us know that the effort was definitely worth it."

Pursuant to Ms. Schraad's suggestion, Restore Hyde Park would welcome the opportunity to encourage and assist with similar efforts. So if you feel inspired to join with others to save a house in our neighborhood and make it a home, and if you have questions on how to begin or need more information about our "creative approach," please email us at <restorehydepark@gmail.com>. We learned a lot in the course of our efforts at 311 W. 41st, and would be pleased to share those lessons with others.

— Deaton Bednar

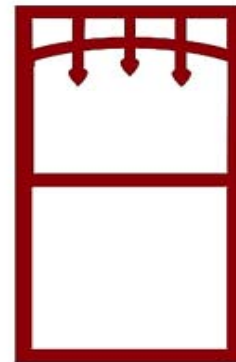
(Deaton is a member of the Restore Hyde Park group that purchased and restored the home. Other members include Carolyn Grimes, Carolyn McFarland, Peter Flagg Maxson and Jack Taylor, Susan Moffat and Nick Barbaro, Catherine and John Paul Moore, Terri Myers, and Wanda Penn.).

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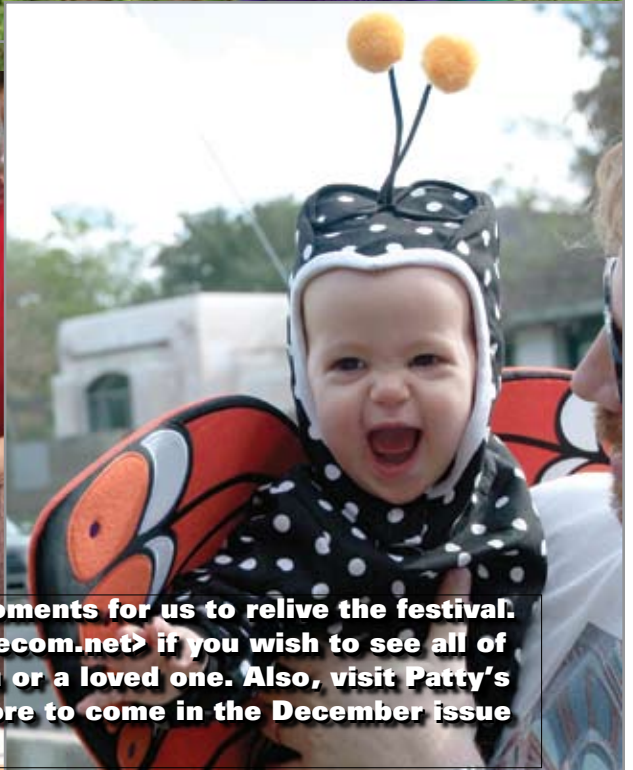
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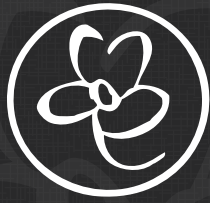
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Picture This! HPNA's 35th Annual Fire Station Festival



Hyde Park's Patty Mora captured special moments for us to relive the festival. Here are a few. Email <deatonbednar@grandecom.net> if you wish to see all of Patty's photos. There may be a photo of you or a loved one. Also, visit Patty's website at <www.pattymoraphoto.com>. More to come in the December issue of the Pecan Press. Stay tuned.



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Letters Dept.

Have we forgotten how to be neighbors?

At one point during the weekend of October 10-11, I took a moment for a brief walk between moments of rain at my home in Hyde Park. I live on Eilers Avenue, a beautiful area of Hyde Park. My good friend Gregg has owned this home since the 80s, and in my opinion is quite a lucky sort for having the foresight to acquire his home in this great neighborhood long before the housing market escalated in Austin. Our neighborhood, while on the quiet side, has its share of beautiful homes, wonderful small businesses and warm residents.

Or so I thought . . .

As I sat outside on our front stoop, I noticed a hand-written sign across the street from our home. It read, "No AIA Parking" and was attached to a telephone pole located at the corner of Eilers Ave and 48th St. It grabbed my attention in that 1) I didn't think it was legal to attach postings to city property and 2) it warned travelers not to park in an area of Eilers & 48th streets which I know for a fact (as someone who works at home) has no cars parked on it . . . not during the week . . . not during the weekend . . . no, not ever. Aside from the occasional landscaper's truck, this area is void of cars. As I looked at the sign I became not only concerned, but clearly upset that a neighbor had taken such steps to be of all things . . . simply un-neighborly.



photo by Jeff Lewis

You see, just down the street and around the corner, one of the more unique homes in our "hood" at 605 Fairfield Lane had been chosen for inclusion in this year's American Institute of Architects' Austin Home Tour. . . and in my mind, quite an honor for the homeowner. I had noticed a larger than usual number of cars and people walking around the neighborhood yesterday, and it made me glad to see some actual "life" had found its way to our corner. Today was the last day of their 2-day tour of homes, and not only did those wishing to enjoy the tour have to fight the rain, they found themselves having to search for parking elsewhere because one resident took it upon him/herself to speak for the rest of us.

Granted, I too am concerned over the number of events Austin crams into any given calendar year, and the steps (or lack of steps) taken by the event creators as well as our officials to ensure safety and enjoyment for resident and visitors alike. But, when an event of this caliber finds its way to our neighborhood, why not simply enjoy it with everyone else? AIA attracts visitors who in my mind, would be the least likely type to stray off sidewalks and onto yards or damage landscaping. After all, it's their business to create beautiful living spaces. Each month, Hyde Park touts itself as a warm and welcoming community in its local newsletter the Pecan Press and if this really is the case, then why must such efforts be made by residents in order to hinder a fellow Austinian's brief stay while enjoying their own city? Instead of welcoming visitors for a

Continued on following page



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20 minute stay at our beautiful neighborhood and into one of its award-winning homes, I was witness to an act based in nothing short of plain selfishness.

I think it is time that we rethink things here in Austin. I moved to this city nearly 20 years ago because of its friendly uniqueness, and have paid witness to a steady decline of what made us different from other cities in the US . . . from land-grabs to higher walls and fences, to “keep out” signs and landmarks leveled in the name of progress . . . the list of “what we can’t do” continues to grow each day.

We call ourselves neighbors and we call the places we live neighborhoods . . . and it honestly saddens me to see that some of us may have forgotten what that truly means.

— Jeff Lewis
4709 Eilers Ave
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512-454-2363

And Another One Gone...

Adding Insult to Injury – A bulldozer in the employ of David Weekley Homes fells a 34-inch diameter American Elm tree at 44th and Avenue F.



photo by Sally Robey

Weekley, a mass-production home building firm, purchased the lot and demolished the tree to make room for its standard house footprint, rather than designing a home to fit the lot with the tree, rejecting the pleas of some Hyde Park neighbor to save the tree. Without stronger protections in a now-proposed new Heritage Tree ordinance, or the design standards proposed for the Hyde Park Local Historical District, neighbors seem powerless to prevent this and future destruction of mature shade trees and the historic fabric of Hyde Park.

— John Paul Moore



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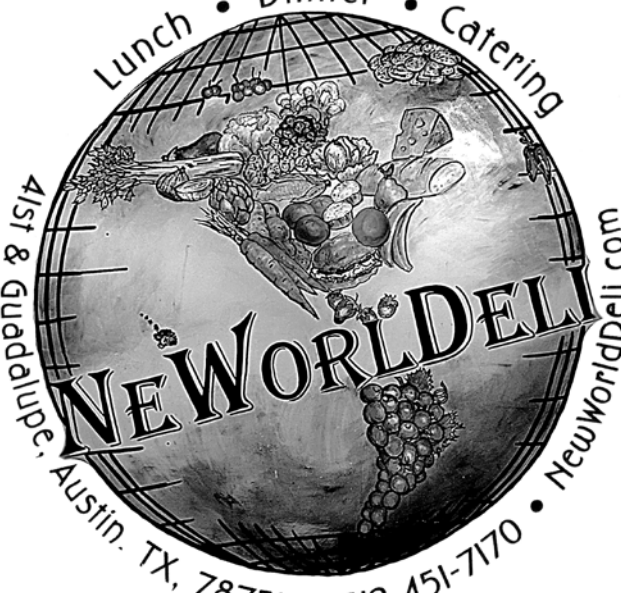
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HPNA October 2009 Meeting Minutes

The October 2009 HPNA meeting was called to order at 7 pm on October 5th by HPNA President David Conner.

First on the agenda was an election for the approval of the full slate of **HPNA Officers and HPNA Steering Committee** members. The vote passed unanimously. The 2009-2010 HPNA Officers are as follows: *David Conner – President; Lisa Harris and Cynthia Majors – Co-Vice Presidents; Denise Girard and Sally Robey – Co-Secretaries; I. Jay Aarons and Carol Jackson – Co-Treasurers.* The 2009-2010 HPNA Steering Committee members will be: Stan Kozinsky, Wanda Penn, Paula Rhodes, Dorothy Richter, Kent Risovi, John Paul Moore, and Mark Fishman.

Next on the agenda was a vote for the **2009 HPNA Budget Amendments and Reallocations.** HPNA Co-Treasurer I. Jay Aarons spoke on the different line items in the budget that were proposed for an adjustment. These line items include the Pecan Press expenses, legal fees, and expenses for the Local Historic District. The budget amendments passed with a unanimous vote. Next on the agenda was an update on the **Fire Station Festival** by Deaton Bednar, HPNA Social Committee Chair. Deaton reminded us of the date of the festival (**Sunday, October 25th**) and mentioned many of the activities associated with the festival – among them the children's parade, food and beverages at the fire station, and booths with activities for the children. The last item on the agenda was an update on the **2010 Hyde Park Homes Tour.** Barbara Gibson will be the Chairperson of the event again this upcoming year, and is in the process of picking the homes that will be on the tour over Father's Day weekend in 2010 (Saturday, June 19th and Sunday, June 20th). As is the case each and every year, volunteers will be needed for the success of the Homes Tour.

That concluded the October 2009 HPNA meeting. See you all on Monday, November 2nd for the next HPNA meeting!

– John A. Williams,
(now former) Co-Secretary



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Hyde Park Prof. Wins Major NIAA Award

Thanks to the University of Texas News for providing a living example among us of its motto, "What starts here changes the world." Ruben Gonzales, professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Texas — and long-time resident of Avenue H with his wife Cathy Watson — has been recognized with a \$2.8 MERIT Award from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. The award provides continued long-term stable funding for his research on the effects of the brain chemical dopamine on alcohol drinking. NIAA gives the MERIT Award based on superior competence and outstanding productivity in research.

"We know that dopamine does play a role in the urge to drink," says Dr. Gonzales. "What we're trying to determine in our lab is exactly when the dopamine response occurs. This will help answer the basic question of how the dopamine response may guide the individual to select drinking over other behaviors."

— Catherine Moore

Blower-free Lawn Care

The following is a list of service providers we've contacted or have heard about who have indicated a willingness to provide blower-free lawn service, who understand the concerns of Hyde Park residents on the issue, and/or who expressed an openness to customer concerns about blower use. If you are currently using a lawn care company, you may wish to start with them, asking what options are available.

Please note that the companies and individuals listed below are listed solely on the basis of their willingness to provide blower-free service, and they have not been researched as to insurances, licenses, BBB membership, prices, or any other compliances or customer service aspects. So, no specific endorsements or recommendations are implied.

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Debi Rivier-Harris & Edward Harris,
diwimama@gmail.com

Eugene Esquivel, 844-9790

Mr. Green Glove, 903-6959,

kevin@mrgreenglove.com

ABC Services, 837-9500 (see yellow pages ad)

A Perfect Service, (Charles) 480-9771

Sacred Soil (Maria Mabra), 633-0717

Alex's Lawn Care (call Alex Urquidi), 459-1962

Note: If you are a service provider, or know of a service provider, who can provide blower-free service, please contact Mary Lou Serafine (<sonata0516@yahoo.com> or 220-5452) or John Kerr (<JFK@grandecom.net> or 451-3931) to be included in future editions of this list.



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4013 Avenue F: (Land)Lord, Hear Our Plea!

This recent photo illustrates the deplorable conditions at the rent house at 4013 Avenue F, which is owned by the Hyde Park Baptist Church. A group of nearby neighbors is currently working with church officials to encourage them to exercise more responsible and effective stewardship of the rental properties that they own in the neighborhood. It is hoped that these efforts will help to ensure that such an unsightly scene is not repeated.



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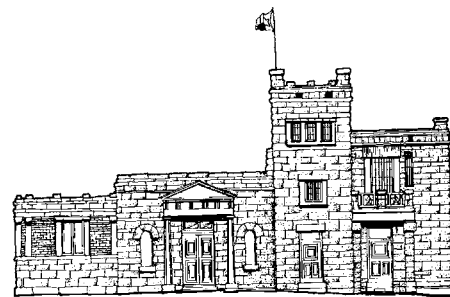
Long-time HPNA and Violet Crown Garden Club Member Voices Concern about Proposed Changes at Ney Museum

Sept. 23, 2009

Sir,

I live at 3810 Avenue G, and I have been a resident of Hyde Park since 1950, when we finished building our home. Also, I am a long-time (50 years) member of the Violet Crown Garden Club. We have given financial aid and volunteer hours in keeping up the Ney Museum, and that is my reason for writing. I am astonished that anyone would want to demolish the stone wall that we donated to the Ney many years ago. It is a beautiful piece of artwork — you take one glance and admire the handiwork of fitting the stones. Any chicken wire fence (heaven forbid) would be a disaster on this estate. Is there anyone on that committee with any good common sense?! I think we need some neighbors in our area to write some letters to let the committee know that we do not approve of their choices.

— Martha Pennock,
3810 Avenue G



Re Leaf Blowers: Amen!

I just read the Pecan Press and I want to thank Mary Lou Serafine for her work combatting leaf blowers in Hyde Park. I live just south of Hyde Park on 37th Street and I cannot tell you how much I HATE the leaf blowers around here. I am a grad student at UT and I moved to this neighborhood because I heard it was quieter than West Campus. My neighbor upstairs—another student—hates the leaf blowers too. What ever happened to a good old-fashioned rake? When I was growing up we used a rake: it was easy, fast, and quiet.

I don't have a lot of free time right now but if you need help, let me know and I will see what I can do. I'll tell my neighbor about it too.

Thanks again for working to make this a nicer place to live.

Best wishes,

— Ryan Owens

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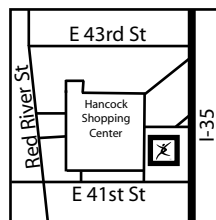


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Scorpions

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The most common scorpion in Central Texas is the striped bark scorpion. This species is yellowish-tan with two dark stripes that run along the back. Striped bark scorpions get up to 2 ½" in length.

Striped bark scorpions are capable of stinging, but they only cause moderate reactions to most people. Ice packs can be placed on the sting area to reduce pain and swelling. A person stung by a scorpion should be watched closely for several hours following the incident to ensure that an allergic reaction does not manifest. If breathing difficulties or hives occur, seek immediate medical attention.

To keep scorpions from moving into the home, the following techniques may be helpful:

- Remove debris (including firewood) away from the home
- Prune any trees or shrubs that touch or overhang the house
- Replace weather stripping as needed around doors or windows
- Stuff weepholes with steel wool or copper mesh
- Seal cracks & crevices and/ or pipe penetrations with caulk or expanding foam
- Treat the foundation of the home with a pesticide, Look for active ingredients such as permethrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, carbaryl, propoxur

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



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Hyde Park Poets —

January 4, 2008

Dark and clear. Do we speak of liquor, of a lover's eyes? Greater than anything personal, this darkness, the sky, moon waning, a meteor shower perched at the edge of the universe ready to dive, synchronized swimming event, pre-judged as a ten, none better this year. Inside the puddle of street light, I wait, safe from neighborhood mischief, hoping these particles, phosphorous bright, create a visible routine. Once again facing a sea greater than dreams, wanting that which is special to reveal itself.

— Nancy Taylor Day

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Who is my teacher du jour? The Writer's Almanac arrives, a poem today by Robert Frost. He is a worthy and solid source of life observed and written. Who will it be today, though? You, at a distance, your kind peaceful soul? A Haiku master, his compact form copied from shelved collection? My voice as a chameleon may be the way of my truth. But from where did this voice emerge? I am not the inventor of words, inventor of form, inventor of life that is mirrored in art. Should it matter whether I have invented my voice? I have insisted so. I have accepted a unique and recognizable voice as the goal, the challenge, the definition of me as poet, writer. I have heard and believe that I must find this voice, to use it, to express boldly and consistently what senses tell me exists. The most I can promise is that whatever voice you hear will be the voice of today, of the moment, acknowledging my teacher.

— Nancy Taylor Day

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January 10, 2008

I'll return to you. That is the farewell every day of the week, leaving for one thing or another. A walk to dump garbage, a drive to buy ice, a trek in-out the labyrinth. I'll return. And to the poem, the words, the images of landscapes psychological, spiritual, real. The poem, these poems mirrors or hideaways. And I return, daily, often more times in a day, to these and the books stacked upon each other, slipped under the lip of my computer desk. It doesn't seem to matter whose eye or ear or pen recorded. I just have to return.

— Nancy Taylor Day



HybridRealtor@Stanberry.com

Hyde Park Resident & Neighborhood REALTOR®



Address: **4102 Peck Avenue**

Listed For: **\$399,000**

SOLD

www.Hancockview.com

Stylish remodel across from Hancock Golf Course. Features include NEW electrical and plumbing/roof/siding with insulated exterior and most interior walls/energy efficient low-E Pella windows/slab granite counters in kitchen and baths/wood floors throughout/stainless appliances/HVAC system.



Address: **1200 Norwood Road**

Listed For: **\$209,000**

FOR SALE

1200Norwood.com

Cute 2/1 home (1426 sf) on a huge tree-covered .28 acre lot. Just north of Airport Blvd and adjoining the Mueller development hike and bike trail. (trail actually enters neighborhood via an easement on the west edge of the property) Close to everything, great investment potential, and at a bargain price.



Address: **506 Texas Avenue**

Listed For: **\$650,000**

SOLD

www.506TexasAve.com

One of the great historic homes in Austin is now available. This 1914 grand estate features a .37 acre lot, 3252 sf main house and 482 sf guest house. Original stained wood trim, high open ceilings, period detailing & hardware, amazing wood flooring, & a classic front porch overlooking one of the best streets in Austin.



Address: **113 West 33rd Street**

Listed For: **\$775,000**

SOLD

www.33StClassic.com

Classic Aldridge Place estate. 3081sf 4 or 5 bedroom/3 bath main house and 236 sf garage apt. Traditional brick construction, slate roof, original long leaf pine wood trim, beautiful hardwoods, amazing period tile work, stunning master bath, and antique lighting.



Address: **3512 Clarkson Ave**

Listed For: **\$183,000**

FOR SALE

CENTRAL AUSTIN AT A BARGAIN PRICE, Cute 2/1 home on private tree covered lot that backs to a creek. Close to downtown, UT, the new Mueller district with it's extensive hike and bike trail system and new retail development, and an amazing collection of local restaurants. Well maintained and updated and features hardwood flooring and central heat and air conditioning.



Address: **4812 Caswell Avenue**

Listed For: **\$269,900**

SOLD

Perfect owner occupy - let side B be pay for ± 100K of your mortgage. Expansion possibilities - adding bedrooms at \$500-\$600/month per bedroom could make this a huge money maker. These units are super tasteful, rock solid and in an amazing location.



Jeff Baker 619-7421

ABOR, REALTOR®, Former State Licensed Appraiser

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HYDE PARK HOMES GALLERY



3910 Avenue H

Arts & Crafts bungalow plus guest house in historic district
4BR, 3BA, 2Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$699,000



1206 West 22½ Street

Quality renovation with period detailing and stained glass
4BR, 3BA, 2Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$925,000



608 East 48th Street

One-story modern Craftsman with open floor plan, large yard
3BR, 2.5BA and 2Liv
Listed at \$499,000



804 East 45½ Street

New "Green" Craftsman by David Weekley Homes
4BR, 4BA, 3Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$799,990



4605 Eilers Avenue

Renovated Hyde Park bungalow with master addition
3BR, 2BA, 2Liv and carport
Listed at \$519,000

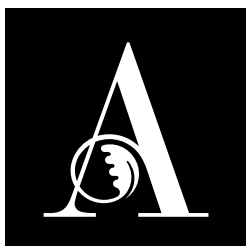


4402 & 4404 Avenue F

Rare opportunity - two vacant residential lots across from Shipe Park & Pool
Listed at \$310,000 & \$299,000

Your Hyde Park Real Estate Expert

Call Suzanne today for a free market analysis on your home or investment property. Suzanne has over 17 years' experience marketing and selling Hyde Park.



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