

# November Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, November 1, 2010

**Where: New Location**  
Austin Groups for the Elderly  
cafeteria  
3710 Cedar Street

**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 1<sup>st</sup>

- ❖ Trinity United Methodist Church - update on move to their new property on 40th and Speedway
- ❖ HP Baptist Church - presentation on church's long-range development plans
- ❖ Alan Marburger - Guadalupe vision and plans
- ❖ Update on proposed pocket park for 3801 Duval St.
- ❖ Local Historic District Update

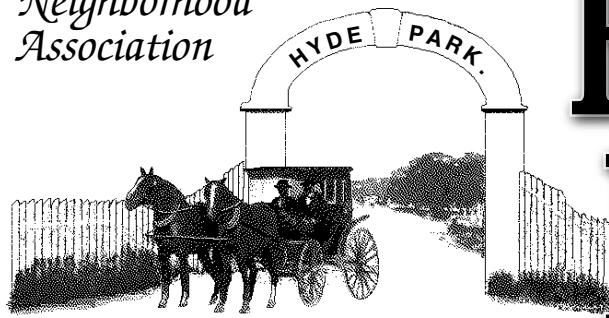


**A Kid's-Eye-View of Hyde Park's Fire Station Festival** by our 10 year-old "cub" photographer, Jackson Brooks. See **Photo Essay** on page 11

## Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the **Hyde Park Holidays Party, Saturday, December 11th at 213 W. 41st Street, 6:00 p.m.** HPNA leaders and the gracious owners of this lovely home, Linda and Nick van Bavel, will be on hand to greet you. Children are welcome until 7:30. Details to come including information about what you may bring for the boys and girls at the Helping Hand Home.

*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

November, 2010 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 36, No. 11

## Letters Dept.

### Concerns about Ney Museum Restoration Project

Dear Editor,

As many of our neighbors are well aware, my wife Catherine and I have curtailed our involvement in the neighborhood to face some very serious health challenges. For months I have been promising to write a fuller piece for the Pecan Press on the remarkable Jac Gubbels, the nationally significant landscape architect whose 1932-1934 work at the Ney represents the prototype design for what would later become hundreds of parks across Texas.

There is a very real reason why so many of us feel such a strong bond to the irreplaceable historic artifact that is Gubbels' Centennial Violet Crown Wall: It so much resembles the sustainably rustic landscape of the roadside parks and overlooks of our Texas youth, built during the Great Depression to Gubbels' designs and specifications. Near as I have been able to tell in three years of research, this is the one remaining, documented original. All the rest are copies.

A fuller account of the remarkable Mr. Gubbels, a man who everyone seemed to want on their team, will need to wait until another brighter day, after today's challenges are met and overcome. But I am writing this because it is important for our neighbors to realize that this wall, as well as the hand-wrought Weigl Ironworks gate, and other trees and historic plantings that survive on the Ney grounds today remain in jeopardy because of a 13-year-old "restoration plan" that was assembled in ignorance of Gubbels' contribution or significance and has not been changed despite major objections raised by Austinians in Hyde Park and beyond.

The plan was proposed by Heritage Landscapes, a Vermont consultancy, in 1997 and has not been changed meaningfully since. Although the plan was still officially a draft when neighbors were alerted to the proposed destruction and began objecting strenuously in 2007, these objections were disregarded despite the plan's failure to recognize the significance of Gubbels' contribution, indeed even to identify him correctly. Although the city's representatives gave numerous public briefings and presentations, the intended destruction of the Centennial VG Wall was not ever explicitly mentioned until it was discovered by the museum's neighbors in Hyde Park. And once it was discovered, the neighbors were told that that this plan could not be changed. Ever.

Through open records requests, we have since learned that representatives of the federal agency that matched the city bond funds we had been led to believe were to go to restoration of the Ney studio itself, offered to compromise with neighborhood concerns, but the museum's curator refused.

We have also discovered that the Texas Historical Commission also overlooked the significance of Gubbels at the Ney despite the fact that the agency insisted on a review of a Texas Department of Transportation project in 2008, at least in part because of its possible association with Gubbels.

**Continued on page 3**

# From the President's Desk:

## Our New President: Getting Down to Business

Hi, Neighbors! I appreciate the confidence you have shown in me by electing me HPNA President, and I hope never to disappoint. As many of you know, I'm a relative newcomer to the neighborhood, though not to Austin. My husband Bruce and I moved to our house in Hyde Park when we got married in 2005. I started participating in HPNA pretty soon after we moved here so I could start getting to know some of our neighbors. I have enjoyed serving on the bylaws committee; serving as Hyde Park's Austin Neighborhoods Council representative; participating in the neighborhood watch program and several It's My Park days; and, most recently, serving as co-Vice President with Cynthia Lyons.

This June we submitted a "notice of intent to apply" to the city's new Neighborhood Partnership Program for the pocket park effort at 3801 Duval that Joel Cryer in Hancock and our own John Paul Moore started some time ago, and I am pleased to report

that in mid-October Eric Dusza at the City contacted me to let me know that we were being invited to submit an application for it. The application is currently in progress; by the time you read this we should have already submitted it.

When we revised the bylaws a few years ago we standardized the membership year, so the new year for everyone just started. I am happy that as the new HPNA year starts we are returning to a more central meeting location, well within Hyde Park -- the new location of Trinity United Methodist Church, which we all know as the former location of Hyde Park United Methodist Church at 40th and Speedway.

One other change we made when we revised the bylaws was to the methods of sending out official notice of meetings. In addition to posting a printed copy of the agenda on the bulletin board at FreshPlus, we send out electronic notification through the HPNA-Notice google group. We post agendas on the Yahoo group as well, but HPNA members should make sure to join the announcement-only HPNA-Notice google group to make sure to get prompt electronic notice of all meetings.

Please email me at <ljharrisus@yahoo.com> if you would like me to invite you to join the HPNA-Notice group and to share your ideas and concerns for the neighborhood. I can also be reached by telephone at 467-2504, but emailing me will generally get the fastest response. I look forward to working with you.

— Lisa Harris  
HPNA President  
<Ljharrisus@yahoo.com>

### Pecan Press

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Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of month preceding publication.

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### Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhypark.org>

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• John Williams • Paula Rhodes

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# Letters Dept. cont'd



It is only human to turn our eyes away from what has become of the Ney grounds today, to try not to remember the serene sanctuary where once children played and families picnicked in shade now gone, on grass that has been replaced by waist-high phony "native prairie." We still mourn the Ney we remember, but it is important also to look at what we, the Ney's neighbors, have saved, at least for the moment:

- The remaining mature post oaks along 44th Street were dying until the neighbors got permission from the parks director to water them properly and nurse them through last year's drought. For the mature pecan directly in front of the museum tower, these efforts were too late and the pecan succumbed to years of neglect.
- The Ney "restoration plan" also intended to remove the mature cedar trees just inside the hand-wrought Weigl Ironworks gate in the Centennial wall. These trees were likely planted by Ney herself, but the "plan" intended to replace them with cedar saplings until the neighbors stepped in.
- The Ramsey Crepe Myrtles, donated by Frank T. "Fruit Tree" Ramsey, Ney's friend and Hyde Park pioneer, were also to be removed, in ignorance of their very real historic significance.
- The relatively young, healthy lone live oak just northwest of the studio was also to be felled simply because it was near another tree that was touching the museum roof. The Texas Historical Commission agreed with neighbors that there was no reason to fell this tree and it remains in place today.

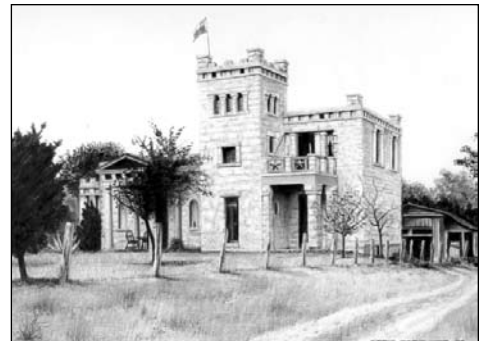
Unfortunately, the heedless implementation of this "plan" has already felled 52 other trees on the southern half of the Ney grounds, under a blanket exemption from the rules that normally protect Austin trees. Eventually, unless this "plan" is altered, the City of Austin now seems bound to lay similar waste to the northern part of the grounds, further limiting the use and enjoyment of what is, after all, a public facility. Plans for the boarded-up building near 45th are for "youth programming." It is unclear how this relates to the "youth programming" that the Austin Sculpture Center was told they must make room for when they were told to vacate the building in 2001, nor where funding for such programming might come from.

The position of the officialdom involved is that all of these features remain in jeopardy in the future unless this plan is changed. The official status of the Centennial Wall and other historic saved features remaining on the southern part of the museum grounds is "to be determined."

A number of neighbors with formidable preservation expertise and experience have identified ways this plan can be revisited and at this writing are planning an education session for the October national convention of the National Historic Trust here in Austin. I hope this session will lead to a fully informed, more enlightened approach to the future appropriate preservation of the Ney Museum and grounds, for the Ney to maybe one day again begin to welcome and listen to its neighbors instead of pushing us away.

Sincerely,  
— John Paul Moore  
Avenue H

Note: More on the historic figures associated with the Ney grounds but overlooked in the "plan" is available in pdf form at <http://tinyurl.com/yfdzx63> and bibliography (also a pdf) at <http://tinyurl.com/yfge9je>



Courtesy of Craig Farquhar

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment		2010-11 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
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<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.		Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to:  <b>HPNA Membership</b> P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765	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.
Email _____			
<b>Dues (per person)</b>		Make checks payable to HPNA.	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.
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## 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:

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**<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>**

\*Send your poems to:

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**4001 Duval**  
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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 and phone number for identification and verification purposes.

# Letters Dept.

## Problems with the Hyde Park Local Historic District Plan

Dear Neighbors,

I am for the creation of a Hyde Park Local Historic District (“LHD”), but I can’t, at this point, support the plan proposed by our neighborhood association. First, the plan that was voted out of the city’s Planning Commission and currently set for a vote by the City Council on November 18, 2010, is not the same plan 51% of our neighbors initially supported when backers of the LHD circulated their petition seeking support. Changes to the plan were made after input from the City’s legal department, and the revised plan was only recently posted on the neighborhood association’s web site in early October. Further, the plan posted on the web site is likely to be further revised as it moves towards a vote at City Hall. Home owners need to read the revised plan(s) and make sure they know exactly what their neighborhood association is going to propose to the City Council. And neighbors need to let their voices be heard at November’s Neighborhood Association meeting, when the LHD plan will be discussed and further amended. If neighbors have concerns they should also contact the LHD chair, Lorre Weidlich, so that she can try to address them. Lorre’s contact information is available on page 2 of this publication and on the neighborhood web site.

I am concerned that the LHD plan, in its current form, places too many unnecessary burdens and restrictions on a home owner. If your home was built before 1960, and the LHD plan is implemented, then you will have to obtain a city permit to change the style and location of your home’s exterior light fixtures (Sec. 2.4 of the LHD Plan), the design and material of your front door (Sec. 2.1), and the type of material and glass in your home’s windows. (Sec. 2.2) In all cases, first floor front and side screened porches will not be allowed. (Sec. 2.3) Second floor additions will be forbidden unless they are set back 15 feet from the front wall of the house. (Sec. 3.2) Thus a successful addition such as the second floor on the restored home at 4006 Ave. G might no longer be allowed under the proposed plan.

Under the LHD plan, garages must retain their original materials, roof pitch, and “historic” siding. (Sec. 2.7) Newly constructed garage apartments would have to have their front doors and windows facing the street (Sec. 3.5), even though many garage apartments in the neighborhood have their front doors on a side not facing the street. As for new home construction, while the LHD Plan does make allowances for new architecture, it would be allowed only “as long as it fits the architectural patterns of the neighborhood and its immediately surrounding structures.” (Sec. 3.1) This language, if it had been in place a decade ago, would have prevented the building of Dr. and Mrs. George’s marvelous modern home across from the Shipe Park pool.

**Continued on following page**



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HYDE PARK

Those neighbors who want to get the LHD passed and enacted into law as soon as possible have put in many hours developing the LHD plan and deserve our gratitude. However, I think the LHD plan, as it is currently proposed, needs additional work and additional input from those of us who think the plan places too many unnecessary and expensive burdens on home owners in the name of "historic preservation." Some of the language of the LHD plan needs to be changed in order to give the City, which will enforce the plan, and the home owner, who will have to live under it, opportunities to work out compromises—compromises that will not in any way distract us from the goal of protecting Hyde Park's historic beauty.

Whether you agree with me or not, please read the most recent draft of the LHD plan. You may want to join me in sharing your own ideas on how the plan can be improved. Or you may, like me, want the neighborhood association to postpone presenting the plan to the City Council until some of our questions are addressed. Once it becomes law, we will all have to live under the LHD plan for a long time.

— Kevin Heyburn, 3811 Avenue H  
<kmheyburn@gmail.com>, 475-4203

## The Local Historic District Corner

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

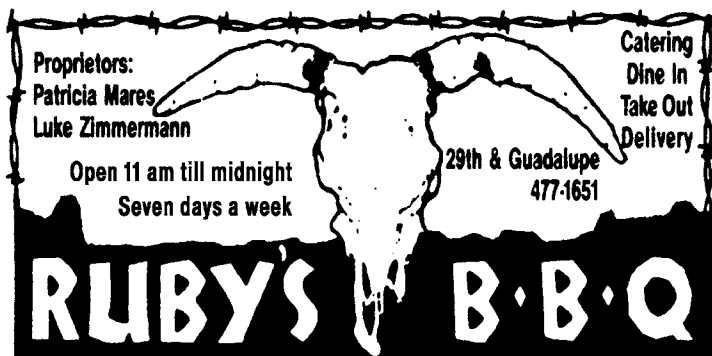
### Thank you, Planning Commission! City Council, Here We Come!

Our October 12 date with the Planning Commission ended with a 6 to 1 vote in our favor. Preservation Officer Steve Sadowsky requested a consent motion, but because there were two people who wanted to speak in opposition (one to the district, the other to the process), the Planning Commission required a public hearing instead. We offered a shortened version of our presentation to the Historic Landmark Commission.

Our official appearance at City Council is on November 18. We urge all of you to attend and to send support letters and emails to City Council members.

In the meantime, our revised Preservation Plan was reviewed by the city Historic Preservation staff and the city Legal staff. They have requested yet more changes, so we'll be voting on the final revisions at our November 1 Hyde Park Neighbor Association meeting.

— Lorre Weidlich  
Chair, Hyde Park Local Historic District



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# Crime Report



by Carol Welder

On October 5th, Hyde Park hosted a National Night Out event at Shipe Park in order to generate support and participation in crime and safety efforts. It was very well attended and was a great opportunity for neighbors to socialize with one another and with law enforcement representatives. We had visits from APD, EMS, Code Compliance and the Fire Department. The kids really enjoyed climbing into the fire truck, seeing the lights and talking with the fire fighters.

An event like this does not just happen. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to several neighbors for pitching in: Helping with the food were Cynthia Janis and LaDonne Lloyd. Carol Jackson supplied the drinks, Lisa Harris manned the Neighborhood Watch table, and Lynne Wooldridge and Lisa Messana helped the kids at the fingerprinting table. In line with the goal of keeping the neighborhood fit, Charlotte Herzele played mini tennis with the parents and kids, and Jackie Burniske manned the hula hoops. I also want to thank SafePlace and Cothron's for setting up information tables and want to recognize Melancholy Ramblers for performing some wonderful bluegrass/folk music. In brief, a good time was had by all!

No resolution on the tire slashings yet, but APD assures me that the issue is on their radar and that they plan to allocate funds toward catching the person responsible. In the meantime, several neighbors are talking about installing surveillance cameras. Office Metteauer said that some sporting goods stores, where hunting equipment is sold, sell motion detection cameras.

Please remember to keep your doors and windows locked, valuables out of sight, and call 911 if you see anything suspicious. Now that the holidays are upon us, thieves may be roaming the streets, so protect your belongings. Most property crimes are Crimes of Opportunity. My plan is to host a Neighborhood Watch block captains' meeting soon with our new DR, Officer Josh Metteauer, to discuss the tire slashings and any other crime-related issues. If you are interested in knowing more about Neighborhood Watch, please contact me at <cjwelder@msn.com>.

— Carol Welder Chair,  
HPHA Crime and Safety Committee  
459-6205  
<cjwelder@msn.com>



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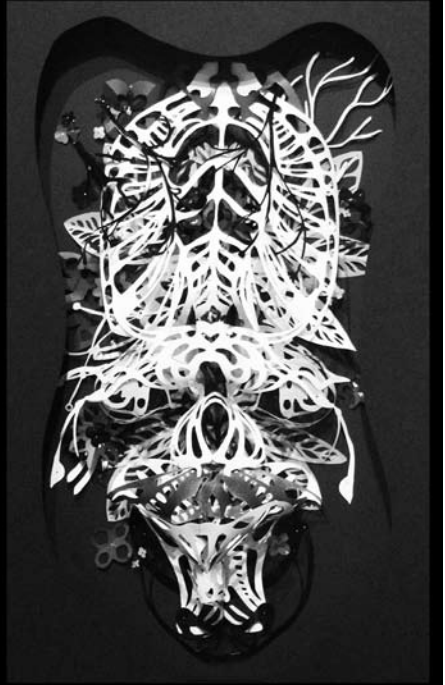
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# Letters Dept.

## Introducing the Austin Documentary Collaborative

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Emily Visher and I'm a part of a group called the Austin Documentary Collaborative (ADC). Our group is currently working on a full-length documentary called The Road to Livingston. This film is about a woman whose brother has been on death row for 13 years and the effect his confinement has had on her and her family.

ADC consists of four founding members with close ties to Hyde Park. We love the Hyde Park community and wanted to introduce our group and share our project with you. I live on Avenue F with my husband, a grad student at UT and my silly, two-year-old boy. I work at a small production company downtown and love taking walks in this beautiful neighborhood. As for my ADC colleagues: Sally Bergom lives on 50th St. and is in the master's program for screenwriting at UT. Chelsea Hernandez recently graduated from UT with a film degree and grew up in Hyde Park. Erik Mauck screened his first feature length narrative, Straight to the Bone, at last year's Austin Film Festival; and his first feature length doc, Zombie Girl: The Movie won the Spirit Award at the 2009 Slamdance Film Festival. In brief, we come from a diverse set of backgrounds with complementary realms of experience.

The Road to Livingston follows Delia Perez Meyers' struggle to exonerate her brother, Louis, of a crime she believes he did not commit. Maintaining his innocence, Louis blames the murder of two women and a little girl on the infamous "Texas Railroad Killer," who admitted to killing them. Over twelve years Delia has formed lasting relationships with people she has met on the lonely, 224-mile trek to Livingston, whether it be at gas stations or the Mexican restaurant where she stops for lunch. Being the only family member able to regularly visit her brother, she's had to create a new family.

The Road to Livingston shows the life-long ramifications dealt to families, friends, and lovers of those on death row. Seen by society as already as good as dead, these people are suspended in time, trying to beat the clock and free their loved ones from the land of the walking dead. Most prisoners only live on death row for ten years. Delia, with as many years of trips behind her, races to save her brother on The Road to Livingston. As our film nears completion we are feeling the need for community support. We would love to hear from you! To find more about The Road to Livingston you can find us on Facebook (The Road to Livingston) or on IndieGoGo <[www.indiegogo.com/The-Road-to-Livingston](http://www.indiegogo.com/The-Road-to-Livingston)>.

— Emily Visher  
The Austin Documentary Collaborative



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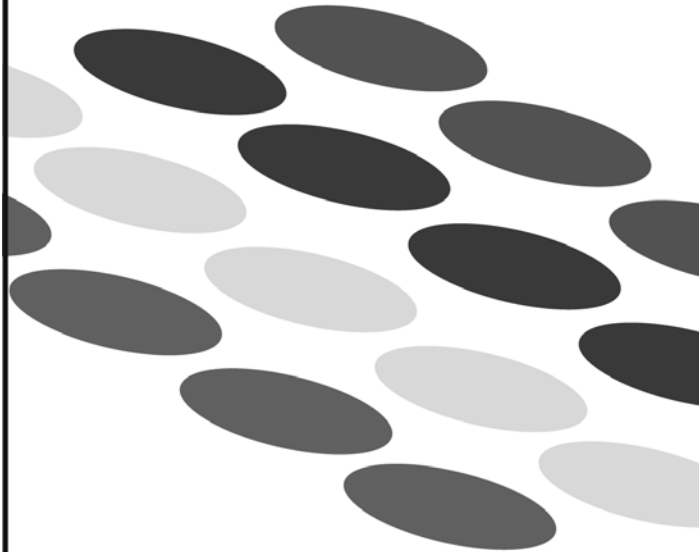
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## Introducing: 2010-11 HPNA Officers

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association voted at its October meeting on the following for new HPNA Officers and Steering Committee members.

### They are:

President	Lisa Harris
Co-Vice President	John Williams
Co-Vice President	Cynthia Lyon
Co-Vice President	Paula Rhodes
Co-Secretary	Sam Waring
Co-Secretary	Rich MacKinnon
Co-Treasurer	IJ Aarons
Co-Treasurer	Carol Jackson

### Steering Committee Members:

Wanda Penn  
Mark Fishman  
Stan Kozinsky  
Dorothy Richter  
Eric Stumberg  
John Moore  
David Conner, ex-President

Congratulations and thanks to all!

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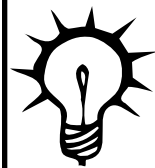


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# A Kid's-Eye-View of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Station Festival

More details in our next issue, but as these photos suggest, this year's Fire Station Festival was the biggest and best ever! Many thanks to Festival Chair Deaton Bednar and her crackerjack team, including Frank Wilde, Carol Jackson, Lucy Frost, Joan Yamini, Amanda Carrola, Mary La Touf, Nadia Yamini Freeman, Carolyn Grimes, Robin Silberling, and Matthew Ott. Thanks as well to Jackson Brooks, the bespectacled Scout who appears on this page, for kindly providing us with these photos.



# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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## HPNA October Meeting Minutes

Ways of getting there and back again, and a new chapter in the often-stormy relationship between the neighborhood and Hyde Park Baptist Church dominated the October meeting. Outgoing president David Conner called the meeting to order at 7:10.

The first item of business was to hear presentations both for and against the mobility bond election, **Proposition 1** on the 2010 election ballot. Speaking first for Get Austin Moving, a group supporting Prop. 1, Griffin Davis, former president of The Trail Foundation, outlined projects the \$90 million in bonds would provide funding for: improving existing roads and building sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails in Austin, including the final section of the trail around Lady Bird Lake. Projects that could have an impact on our neighbors include resurfacing bike lanes on Guadalupe from 24th to 45th Streets, sidewalk improvements including ones that will conform to the "Safe to School" design standards and ADA improvements, and a preliminary study of a new design for the Airport Boulevard corridor to relieve congestion. (The 51st/Clarkson and 45th/Duval traffic lights, then not on the horizon, weren't discussed.) Davis said that unlike previous bond issues, where up to ninety percent of funding went to roadways, Prop. 1 was split 53/47 between road projects and other transportation modes. Mayor Leffingwell particularly looked for "shovel-ready" projects when assembling this package, and it was also assembled in a way that will not require a tax increase to pay for the bonds.

Continued on page 14



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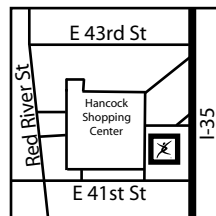
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## October Meeting Minutes...


...cont'd from page 12

Following him, Jim Skaggs, former CEO of Tracor, spoke against passage of the bonds. He said that proponents' claims for "alternative transportation" and "environmental stewardship" were all very well, but without considering cost-effectiveness of the proposed projects, Austin could find itself saddled with more projects like the MetroRail line to Leander, which he said is currently subsidizing ridership at a cost of \$40,000 per commuter per year. He also took issue with the Third Street re-design project, which he said was too heavily weighted toward aesthetics over improving mobility. Mr. Skaggs ended by saying that passing this bond package, in a time when economic distress is so widespread, was the opposite of fiscal responsibility.

After the presentations, President Conner read over the list of nominees for **2011 HPNA officers**: president, Lisa Harris; co-vice presidents, Cynthia Lyon and John Williams; co-secretaries, Sam Waring and Rich MacKinnon; co-treasurers, I J Aarons and Carol Jackson; and steering committee members, Wanda Penn, Mark Fishman, Stan Kozinsky, Paula Rhodes, Dorothy Richter, John Moore, Rich MacKinnon, Eric Stumberg, and David Conner ex officio as the immediate past president. A motion was made by Kitty Clark and seconded by Lorre Weidlich to accept the nominees as presented. The motion carried on a show of hands.

Jessie Gill, a community organizer for the **SafePlace** shelter for victims of domestic violence, spoke about the center and its needs. She is starting a "Safe Neighborhoods and Places" initiative, and hoped that Hyde Park would be an early partner with SafePlace in this effort. She is looking for community engagement events, public awareness campaigns, and in learning what the neighbors want to have in this direction. As the last item of business, church/neighborhood liaison Niyanta Spelman introduced Bob Liverman of **Hyde Park Baptist Church**, who presented a new strategic plan for the church that in part came from several years of discussions between HPBC and HPNA. The current City Council-brokered agreement is due to expire at the end of this year, and Mr. Liverman presented a new strategic plan the church has proposed, that is significantly less hostile in tone than previous plans have been. He explained that the church membership had undergone a large change since 2000, and that the current membership is not as invested in expansion in the neighborhood as previously.

Continued on page 16



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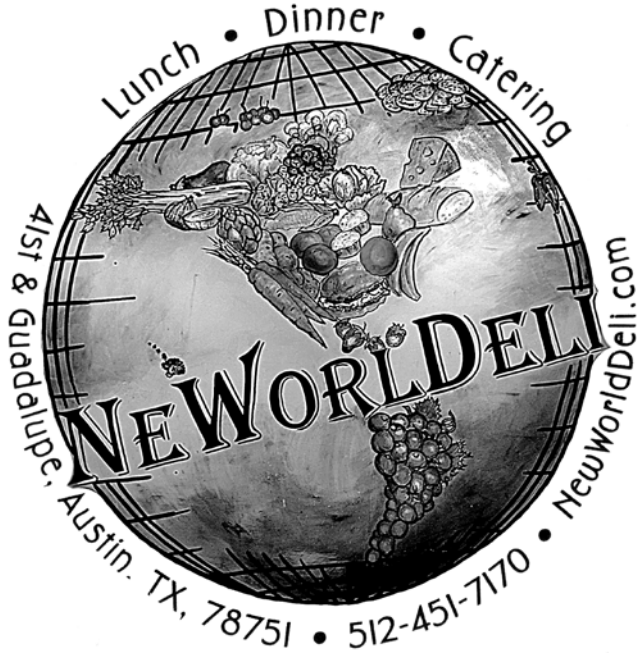
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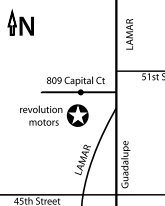
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# Hyde Park Poets —

Dear Folks,

Many of you know Charlotte Herzele, your neighbor at 40th and Ave H. Perhaps you did not know that Charlotte is a Hyde Park Poet who writes evocative and beautiful poetry. Beginning in the January 2011 issue of Pecan Press, Charlotte will be your poetry page editor. For any poems you would like to send for the January issue, please email to Charlotte at <herzele@gmail.com>.

— Nancy Taylor Day

## October Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 14

Under the new plan, the church started a second mission church at The Quarries off MoPac and Braker Lane, rather than adding roughly 150 new members to the main congregation, and moved the high school to that location as well. They have already sold all their residential properties on Avenue F north of the 40th street playground, as part of a larger agreement between the church and school, and are advertising for buyers for the houses they own on the west side of Avenue D above 39th Street. This would return most of two blocks' worth of houses to private ownership in the south end of the neighborhood.

The church's plan also proposes building a three-story educational building on the current site of the Jacksonian apartments, which they already own, and constructing a three-story educational building on the east side of Speedway between 38th and 39th Streets, where a surface parking lot exists today. A parking structure would be constructed on the site of the current surface parking at 39th and Avenue D. Finally, they would convert the "grassy space" on the west side of Speedway between 38th and 39th Streets into a landscaped parking lot, and would rehab the commercial building at 38th Street and Speedway. Mr. Liverman added he personally thought a coffeehouse would be nice in that location, once the rehab is complete. The church is working to get agreement from all stakeholders and non-conditional support for the plan from the church's membership before going before the Planning Commission. They hope to accomplish this within the next several months. Ms. Spelman added that she believes this plan is much better than any previous one, and that it deserved our favorable consideration. The neighbors thanked Mr. Liverman for courageously bringing the new plan to present to "the enemy," and appreciated his expression of the church's intent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

— Sam Waring  
HPNA Co-Secretary





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# A Fundraiser Was Held in Amon & Carol Burton's Backyard, Sunday October 17th for "Trash Dance, the Movie"



In 2009, Andrew Garrison (award-winning independent filmmaker and UT associate professor of film) and choreographer/dancer Allison Orr (Forklift Danceworks) began a project with employees of Austin's Department of Solid Waste Services: to reimagine their everyday work as dance. The result was stunning.

Garrison's one-hour documentary will show the collaboration between Orr and employees of the Austin Department of Solid Waste Services. The performance, caught brilliantly on film, took place in the rain, and on an abandoned airstrip--16 trucks, 24 dancers, a piano, violin, and cello -- and over 2,000 in attendance. Garrison captures the magic of that performance and weaves in visual enchantment, as only a gifted filmmaker can.

Garrison needs to raise at least \$70,000 in order to bring his documentary film to the big screens. If sufficient funds are raised, it will premier this coming spring.

We all have a chance to help make this happen. If you are interested in becoming one of the team that brings this project to completion, please check out the following links:

For more information on Andrew Garrison:

<<http://rtf.utexas.edu/faculty/agarrison.html>>

For more information on "Trash Dance, the Movie": <<http://thataustingirl.blogspot.com/2010/09/trash-dance-best-money-you-ever-spent.html>> and <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQpznkVLYE>>

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## Good News for an Old House!



4308 Avenue F has new owners! This house, which has stood vacant for some years, causing worry that it might become another tear-down, has been bought by an intrepid couple who plan to restore and enlarge the house and make it their home. Karen Saadeh and David Matthis had been searching for some time for an old house to rescue and when I emailed them about it they called immediately and ran over to see it. They decided that it had such “good bones” that it would work well for them and they made an offer the next day.

Karen and David said this project will “fulfill a life-long dream of living in Hyde Park... We are looking forward to living in this wonderful neighborhood, which is an important part of Austin’s history, and meeting our new neighbors. In the meantime, please excuse the dust.”

The new owners have visited with Seller Fae Conner about the history of the house and want to learn as much about it as possible. So if you have lived here a long time and can add memories, they welcome them.

I love this story, as it illustrates the interest people have in old houses, even when they are in serious disrepair. Hyde Park is full of houses that were once thought beyond saving but are now lovely homes.

We will all enjoy watching this one come to life again and welcoming Karen and David to the neighborhood. I am pleased to have a hand in this happy transition.

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