

October Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 4, 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 October 4th

- ❖ November Mobility Bond:
Pro - Get Austin Moving
Con - Coalition on Sustainable Transportation
- ❖ Jessamine Beal of Safe Place speaks on domestic violence
- ❖ Bob Liverman speaks on Hyde Park Baptist Church conceptual plans
- ❖ Officer and Steering Committee elections

See You There!



36th Annual Fire Station Festival:

Sunday, October 24

3:30-6:00 PM

(see article, page 6)

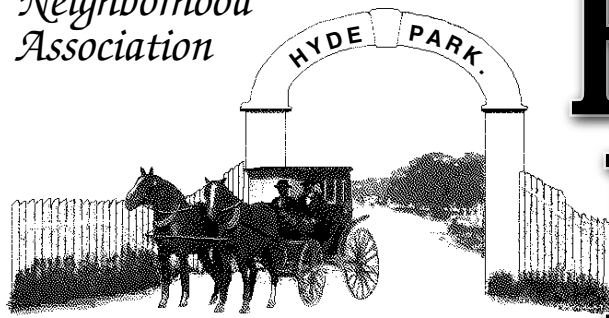
National Night Out:

**Join your Neighbors in
Fighting Crime and
Celebrating Community!**

**Shipe Park, Tuesday,
October 5th, 6-8 p.m.**

Be There!

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

October, 2010 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 36, No. 10

The Story of Station #9, Continued



Fire Station # 9 photographed on July 31, 1930 by Jordon-Ellison Photo Company (Image #CO 3254, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library)

(Note: With the annual Fire Station Festival coming up later this month, it is appropriate that we focus neighbors' attention on the proud and fascinating history of "our" fire station. Last month we recounted in some detail the saga of how the station's closure was averted in the '70s by the determined and near-heroic efforts of Dorothy Richter and other neighbors. This month we delve further into the early history of the station. Thanks again to Mary Carolyn George for her stellar research and reporting!)

Our Hyde Park Fire Station is a proud member of an old Austin family that includes Barton Springs, bridges and all manner of enhancements. Fire Station # 9 – also known as the Speedway Fire Station – opened on August 1, 1929. The photograph on this page, made soon after the station's completion, appeared in a recent exhibit at the Austin History Center entitled, "Relief, Recovery and Progress: The Great Depression and the New Deal in Austin."

Continued on page 8

Stepping Down, Wrapping Up

Hello Neighbors! October will be an active month for the neighborhood. Highlights include our 36th Annual Fire Station Festival, our Local Historic District Application at the Planning Commission and then at the City Council, and the elections of the HPNA's new leaders.

Speaking of whom, HPNA has had many great leaders since the organization originated. Mr. Merle Franke was the first HPNA President. I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Franke when he spoke at the Historic Landmark Commission when the Hyde Park Local Historic District was being presented.

Through the years, each President had to handle situations as they occurred, and each President, along with the active members of the Association, made decisions that helped to make Hyde Park what it is today. Each had to deal with challenging issues during their terms: the potential closing of the Fire Station, demolitions, parking garages, super-duplex boom, zoning issues, tree destruction, Triangle development, NCCD's, local historic districts, and various lawsuits. Personally, I appreciate all the support from the many neighbors during the two years I have served as President. I look forward to taking a back seat for awhile and handing the reins over to Lisa Harris, our estimable new President. And what advice do I give? Don't try to do everything yourself, and do try to rely on your neighbors for assistance. That being said, there are a few loose items that I will be taking care of with the blessing of the new President — namely, completion of the Hyde Park Local Historic District, and a resolution to the Hyde Park Baptist Church 1990 Agreement. With regard to the latter, some old-timers may recall that twenty years ago, in the summer of 1990, HPNA and Hyde Park Baptist Church (HPBC) came to an agreement about land development for the church and

surrounding area. That agreement terminates this year (December 2010) and much has happened since then, so HPNA and HPBC are discussing possible changes to parts of the agreement. So please come to the HPNA General meeting on Monday, October 4, for a brief presentation of these changes by HPBC, with a more in-depth presentation at the HPNA November meeting on November 1.

— *David Conner, soon-to-be former HPNA President, 2009-2010*

Pecan Press

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

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association P. O Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765 <http://www.austinhdepark.org>

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- HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)**
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Hail to the Chief!: The Conner Years

There are lots of good reasons to attend the HPNA's (36th) Annual Fire Station Festival later this month, and one of them will be the opportunity to applaud outgoing HPNA President David Conner as he hands over the leadership reins of the Association to President-elect Lisa Harris.

He's probably happier about the transition than his neighbors are; because HPNA has had many excellent, hard-working presidents in its history, but it's doubtful that any have worked any harder, or been more excellent, than David. Consider, for example, a sampling of the noteworthy events and accomplishments that have occurred during his two-year tenure, such as...

...painstaking crafting of, and eventual Historic Landmark Commission approval of, Hyde Park's Local Historic District application; ...improvement of Hyde Park's aging water and wastewater lines; ...revival and strengthening of our Neighborhood Watch program; ...National Trust for Historic Preservation funding for Elisabet Ney Museum restoration; ...emergence of "It's My Park! Day" as an annual highlight on the HPNA calendar; ...planting of new trees at Shipe Park; ...repeat performances of "floodlines," cementing Hyde Park's well-deserved reputation for exceptional weirdness, even by Austin standards; ...restoration of the Schenken-Oatman House on 41st Street, earning a Historic Society Preservation Award for Restore Hyde Park, the partnership of neighbors who carried out the restoration; ...the closure (sadly) of the H.P. United Methodist Church, and the imminent arrival of Trinity United

Methodist Church at the renovated facility at 41st and Speedway; ...transition of Hyde Park Baptist Church-owned rental properties on the 4000 block of Avenue F to owner-occupied status; ...city passage of the Heritage Tree Ordinance, thanks in no small degree to HPNA leadership; ...a new (and permanent?) office for HPNA, at the AGE facilities on Cedar St.; ...perhaps most important, engagement of new blood, and fresh faces, in HPNA leadership positions; ...and perhaps even more important, the New Orleans Saints' Super Bowl victory last January (since he's a former New Orleanian and still-certified citizen of Who Dat? Nation, we're confident that David would want this singular achievement included on the list of plaudits).

Now, soon-to-be former President Conner can't take sole personal credit for everything in this admirable record, but what he CAN take credit for is setting an example, and helping to create an atmosphere, which made this kind of record possible. Nor is his record of involvement and achievement a thing of the past, as David has already been kind/crazy enough to volunteer to serve as Chair of next year's Homes Tour. And so, on behalf of a neighborhood that he has served and continues to serve so well, we'd like to say, Thank You, Mister President!

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment		2009-10 Membership
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Address _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events.		Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 Make checks payable to HPNA.
Email _____		
Dues (per person)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member		
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<i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i>		

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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 or phone number for identification and verification purposes.

OPEN HOUSE December 9th, 5:30-7:30 (also January 30th, 9-12)



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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

Time to Put an End to Tire Slashing

There continues to be a lot of discussion, concern, anger and frustration over the recent rash of tire slashings. During one recent evening, at least seven cars on one street had two tires each slashed. Some of them are still sitting unfixed in the street.. Given the extended period of time in which these incidents have gone on, this has been a huge burden on our neighbors. Some people have been hit as many as four or five times.

There is a transient named Tommy Kelly who is suspected of these crimes, because he has been apprehended in the past with a sharp object and I believe was seen, on at least one occasion, puncturing a tire. The challenge has been that no one has been seen him committing enough crime to make it a felony. One punctured tire is not enough to keep someone in jail. We must gather evidence over a period of time in order for the illegal pattern to amount to a felony.

Along with many others, I am concerned that this situation is negatively affecting neighbors' peace of mind, and that it also casts a negative light on how people elsewhere view Hyde Park. Thus I have asked the HPNA Steering Committee to address the situation. We are in the process of looking into the costs of hiring a private investigator, although I think this will be an expensive option. Surveillance cameras have been discussed, but (1) where would we put them?; (2) can we get a good picture in the dark?; and (3) who monitors them? Another option that has been discussed is the "Citizens on Patrol" strategy.

In any event, there is a strong and justified consensus that "Enough is enough" with this situation, so we would be open to hearing your thoughts. You can either talk to your Neighborhood Watch block captain, one of the HPNA officers or email me at <cjwelder@msn.com>. I would encourage all neighbors to come out to the **National Night Out event on October 7th, at Shipe Park from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.** We hope to have representatives from APD, Fire, EMS and Code Compliance. This would be a good opportunity to discuss our concerns with the police. We plan to have pizza and drinks, music by Melancholy Ramblers, hula hoops, Quickstart tennis, giveaways and information on crime & safety.

Continued on following page

As always, keep your valuables out of sight in your vehicles and yards, lock your doors and windows, and call 911 if you see anything suspicious. We are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood, so let's help the police by doing our job. The police remind us - Do not hesitate to call 911. Our new District Representative is Josh Metteauer, 974-8124, Joshua.<metteauer@ci.austin.tx.us>.

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

ps: Below is a summary of the date and location of recent tire slashing incidents:

- 9/9/2010 4100 AVENUE A
- 9/9/2010 4105 AVENUE B
- 9/9/2010 4110 AVENUE B
- 9/9/2010 4100 AVENUE A
- 9/9/2010 4111 AVENUE B
- 9/10/2010 4205 AVENUE B
- 9/11/2010 4002 AVENUE D
- 9/11/2010 4109 AVENUE B
- 9/11/2010 4014 AVENUE G
- 9/13/2010 4015 AVENUE D
- 9/13/2010 4000 AVENUE D
- 9/13/2010 4014 AVENUE D
- 9/13/2010 305 W 39TH ST
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36th Annual Fire Station Festival: A Kids'-eye Point of View

Yes! The Fire Station Festival is back! It's right around the corner! We have been going to the Fire Station Festival for about seven years and we have enjoyed every second of it.

Something we have taken pleasure in is the Costume Contest for Pets! If your pet wins the contest, they will win a tasty treat and you will get a pet store gift card. One of our favorite parts of the festival is the kids' activities. There are many things to do in the kids' area, such as the fishing booth where you fish for small toys. Also, you can decorate Halloween bags and picture frames. (An instant photo of you or you and a friend is taken with a Polaroid camera and put in the frame.) Something else at the fire station is the popcorn, cookies, and yummy drinks.

Wow look at that fire truck! At our festival you have a chance to tour our station's fire truck, Engine #9. You can also climb on top of the fire truck and get a great view of the festival. Lots of people enter the optional costume contest (for humans). You can come in your Halloween costume, but caution, IT'S HOT! You will hear Hyde Park citizens give speeches and stories. Awards will be given out for the contest winners at the end of the festival. In between speeches and throughout the festival there will be live family-friendly music to dance to and enjoy!

Last but not least, the Parade!!! The Parade begins at Shipe Park and ends at the Fire Station. You can ride your bike, walk or scooter in the parade. You can decorate your bike, scooter or stroller any way you want. Enter it in the contest and you may win a great prize! I entered my bike in the contest as a horse and won most creative and got a Toy Joy gift card! We are really excited about the festival this year! How about you?

– *Nadia Freeman (right, age 9) and
 Doron Pedahzur (left, age 10)*



(Note: In addition to being excellent cub reporters and seasoned Fire Station Festival-goers, Nadia and Doron are stellar students at Robert E. Lee Elementary.)



Fire Station Festival Mother/Daughter Act: Rebecca and Linda van Bavel Having a Hat Time at Last Year's Festival

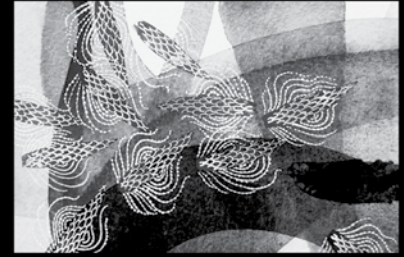


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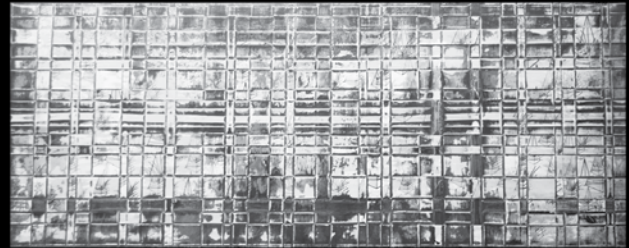
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The Story of Station #9...

...cont'd from page 1

Due in part to the economic benefits of the University of Texas, Austin fared better than most other Texas cities during the Depression years. It also helped that in 1928 voters had approved an ambitious bond program that financed many civic buildings and improvement projects which carried into the first years of the 1930s. Station # 9 was one of three fire stations built with these funds.

Elevations and floor plans for the building as designed by the Austin architectural firm of Giesecke and Harris accompanied this photograph in the exhibit. (A.H. Harris Records, AR 2009.043, Austin History Center.) Economic considerations must have intervened, because what was built bore little relation to the grand Tudor Revival scheme that the architects had originally envisioned. In America beginning in the 1920s, this style was all the rage - reminiscent of late medieval English building practices with faux half-timbered walls, small-paned casement windows and steeply pitched roofs. The Peter and Clotilde Mansbendel house at 3824 Avenue F, built in 1925, which is a variant of this style, is a National and Austin Historic Landmark.

- Mary Carolyn George



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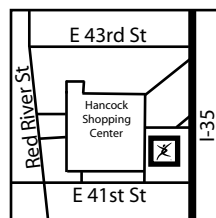
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The Local Historic District Corner

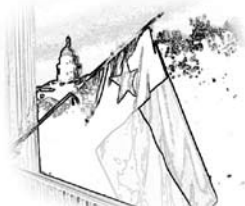
Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local historic districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: <lweidlich@mail2sevensseas.com> or 300-2228.

At the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association meeting on September 13, association members voted unanimously to support the changes to the Hyde Park Preservation Plan required by city zoning, legal, and historic staff. This clears the way for Hyde Park to continue its way through the city process.

Our appearance before the Planning Commission is scheduled for October 12. While we hope that the Planning Commission will approve our nomination on a consent motion, we also realize that is an unlikely scenario. Consequently, we will be prepared to make a presentation just as we made at the Historic Landmark Commission meeting.

We hope to appear at City Council on October 28, but that date is still tentative. Look for the notice from the city in your mailbox, and show up to support our Local Historic District.

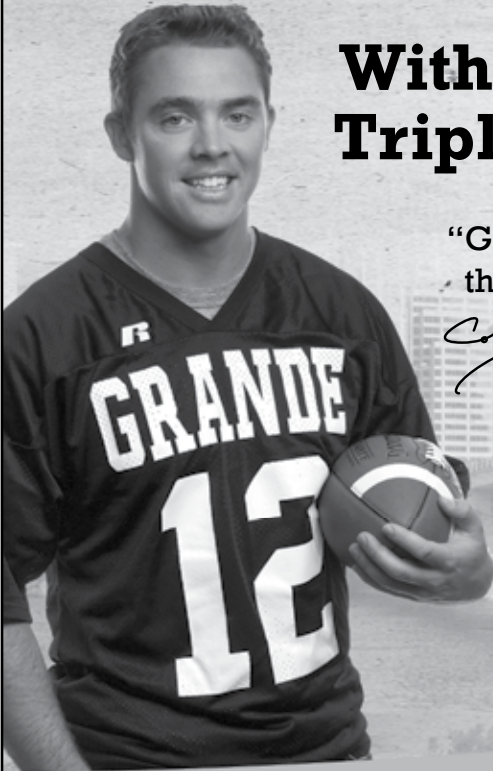
– Lorre Weidlich Chair, Hyde Park Local Historic District



Caswell Local Historic District

– Efforts are underway to designate the area bordered by Caswell Avenue (east and west sides) and the west side of Red River from 45th Street (northside) to 49th Street (southside) as a local historic district. A successful local historic designation will preserve the overall character of the neighborhood while allowing individual property owners the freedom to personalize many aspects of their buildings (such as exterior paint color) in the same manner as the Hyde Park Local Historic District guidelines. Please contact <caswellhistoricdistrict@gmail.com> for more information and/or to get involved in this exciting project!

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4313 Avenue C
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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: September 13, 2010

Especially timely, in view of the recent resurgence of tire slashing incidents in the neighborhood, was the visit of Jack Darby, creator of <www.krimelabb.com>, who started the meeting with an overview of this website that is **a tool for viewing consolidated Austin city-wide crime data** from a variety of perspectives. Data is mined from Austin Police Department (APD) records daily and can be searched many ways such as by zip code, by address, or by type of offense, using APD terminology. With these searches a user can drill down into the data to spot trends. Currently 30 different “lookups” are available on the site, and data is added to the database daily. The database currently has 3 1/2 years of data. Search data can be displayed in a list, a chart, or with Google Maps. The service is free and no registration is required for basic service. This is an effective way to take a look at actual data on crimes around your home or within your zip code.

He encouraged all neighbors to **report suspicious activity to 911**, and gave a quote from APD to emphasize the importance doing so: Don't worry about feeling embarrassed if your suspicions are wrong; think instead about what could happen if your suspicions are right and you don't call. It is the Police Department's job to investigate suspicious matters, and any assistance in spotting suspicious persons or activities is appreciated.” Jack mentioned that if you call 911 or 311 to get the case # from the APD dispatcher so that you can search the database for the actual crime record. David Conner took the floor to announce **Hyde Park's National Night Out Event from 6-8 Tuesday, October 5** at Shipe Park, organized by the Crime & Safety committee. Many activities are planned including live music from the Melancholy Ramblers and crime and safety information. Check the Hyde Park Yahoo group or this edition of the [Pecan Press](#) for more detailed information.

Continued on following page

Finally, Lorre Weidlich, chair of the Hyde Park Local Historic District committee, led a discussion of changes to the **Design Standards** document of the **Hyde Park Local Historic District Application** that HPNA previously approved. These changes were discussed in a meeting with City of Austin staff after their review of the document. For enforceability, the Legal Department wanted standards that included should be changed to a specific action or a recommendation. (For example: You should retain the original front facade of a house was changed to Retain the original front facade of a house. Anything in the Design Standards that was covered by another city ordinance (like sidewalks and trees) was eliminated from the document after the Legal Department review. Austin Energy asked that any standards having to do with green energy be removed because there is no review process in place and the Historic Landmark Commission has no jurisdiction over energy issues. After a brief Q&A period, Wanda Penn moved that the changes to the Design Standards be approved by HPNA. Sharon Brown seconded. The motion passed with all members voting in favor. The meeting was then adjourned and socializing began, with neighbors overheard making lunch dates, offering political yard signs, and catching up.

– Denise Girard, HPNA Co-Secretary,
 <dmgirard@grandecom.net>

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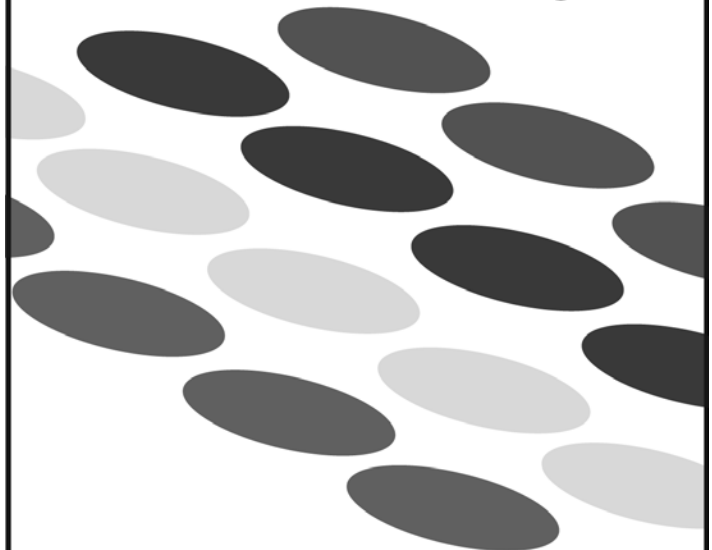


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Woolly Aphids

I've been getting calls about fluffy, white flying things in backyards or falling out of trees. I finally tracked the critters down and identified




them as woolly aphids. These aphids are small, and look like most other aphids but they secrete a waxy covering over their body (this is the "fluff"). Some of the woolly aphids have wings and can fly, but not all of them are winged.

These aphids really do not harm the trees, but they can be very annoying from the large amounts of honeydew that they produce. Honeydew is a sticky substance that can get on plants and lead to sooty mold growth. Honeydew also can get on vehicles or patio furniture and create a mess.

If you find that you are battling these aphids, you can try spraying the tree with high pressure water. Treatment with a pesticide generally is not needed, but if you choose a pesticide option, a professional should be hired to treat large trees.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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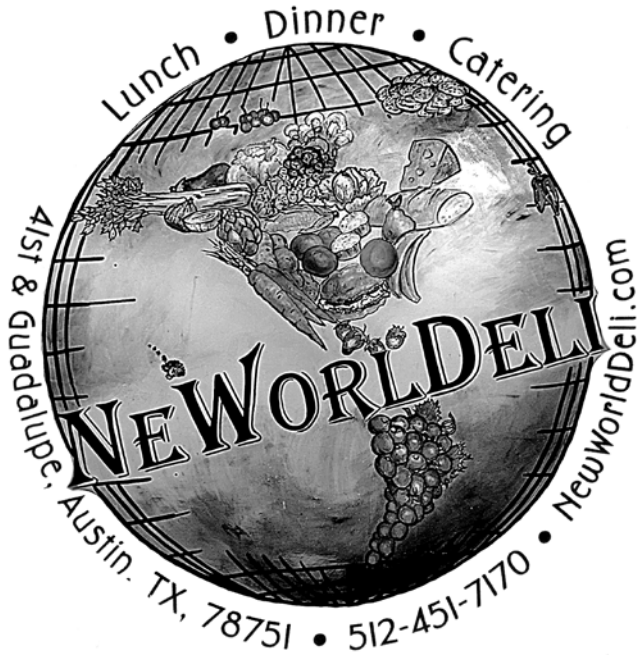
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— Isabelle Mohr, (Age 11, R.E.
Lee Elementary School)
Avenue C.

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Unquenchable;
Brighter than the Sun;
Love passes beyond the grave,
Warming the Earth,
yet unable to melt frozen hearts.

— Sophia Mohr (Age 13,
Keeling Middle School)
Avenue C

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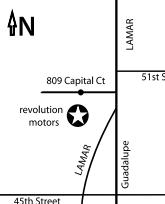
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Remembering

he ran away; left
the little puppy, Rocky
i loved him so

I miss his small voice
and i loved to run with him
he was a great pet

— Kate Dowdy (Age 10, Lee
Elementary)
Avenue C

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I am Heat.

Cold cannot touch me,
although it longs to steal my flame.
Water cannot quench me,
although it longs to steal my vitality.
I am Heat. I am Flame. I am Fire.

— Sophia Mohr (Age 13,
Keeling Middle School)
Avenue C

Letters Dept. —

Avenue D Neighbors Work Together to Address Tire Slashing

September 15, 2010

Dear Editor,

Avenue D in Hyde Park is a wonderful street in the day time. At night, it becomes a crime scene that is costly and dangerous to everyone who drives a car and parks there.

I am at my wits end to remedy this abuse, and fortunately, a neighbor, Doug Simmer and his wife Susan, called the entire street together to brainstorm a solution to our misery. We met this evening and discovered that collectively, we have had tens of thousands of dollars of damage to our cars because of a tire slasher that is unabated in his efforts to kill tires. We know other streets have this problem and we'd like help finding this criminal. Can anyone out there assist us? Many ideas surfaced at our meeting, but we all feel that the neighborhood can rally and support us. Surely in a community as marvelous as ours, we can find a solution to this menacing problem.

Sign me,
Punctured and Pissed.
Cindy Agee
Hyde Park, Texas



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