# July Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.

Monday, July 10, 2006

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.

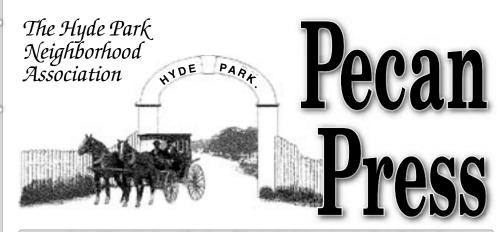
#### HPNA General Meeting Agenda for July 10<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ Scott Harris, Executive Director of TreeFolks will explain the NeighborWoods program that is coming to Hyde Park to canvas each street in the neighborhood, leave small yellow "Free Tree Here" signs in front yards where there is a space for a shade tree and then leave order forms on the property owners' doors. There is no charge to program participants
- Clarissa Moore, In-Kind Services Coordinator for SafePlace (the domestic violence and sexual assault survival center for Travis County), will discuss the many different services SafePlace offers to women, children, and men who have experienced family and/or sexual violence in their lives. See related article on page 2.
- John Paul Moore, Tree Task force member, will ask for HPNA support for a resolution setting forth our options and intent for dealing with the inevitable resumption of Austin Energy's attempts to cut our trees. (Official Notice that a vote may be taken by membership)
- Members will have a chance to vote on matching funds for an Austin Parks Foundation grant to add three trees at Shipe Park to replace the three old patriarch trees there that are dying and that give important shade to the wading pool and areas where kids play — Jill Nokes (Official Notice that a vote may be taken by membership)

See you there!

### 2006 Homes Tour Photo Essay:

See pps. 10 & 11.



July, 2006 · National Register District Neighborhood · Vol. 32, No. 7

### **Homes Tour '06 Reflections**

As "From Ney to Today" Becomes Yesterday: Two Days in the Life of a Homes Tour Chair



Pedicab on patrol past Kopperl House. (photo by Robin Silberling)

#### Saturday June 17

5:30 a.m. My dog Asha awakens me by whimpering and jumping on the bed, in response to the thunderstorm taking place outside. It is four and one-half hours until the Homes Tour begins. I sigh. The one thing I cannot control: the weather. I do not fall asleep again.

**7:45** *a.m.* The face painter calls to find out whether I still want her to come. I cancel her for the day and hope for sun tomorrow.

9:30 a.m. Elaine Meenahan has moved the ticket table to just outside the door of the Elisabet Ney Museum. John Williams is blowing up balloons to hang on the museum fence to attract people. Mary LaTouf has arranged for the first musical act, Quartetto Lyrico, to perform one hour late inside the museum and the second act to perform on the porch of the Hodnette-McKesson house. Despite the rain, I am buoyed up by the competence and resourcefulness of my team.

**10:00** *a.m.* People have already started to arrive, and everyone assures me the rain will pass in a few hours. Maybe the situation can still be salvaged. . . .

**12** *noon*. The museum is full. Mary Collins Blackmon tells me that people were moved by the playing of the Quartetto Lyrico. Tourists at the von Boeckmann-Keeble house are backed up on the porch, so we begin advising people to start the tour at another house. The sky is lightening and the next musical act will perform on the outdoor stage. I have been to each house and left my cell phone number with each house captain, so I can be called in case of emergency. I plan to walk around all weekend with my cell phone in one pocket and my camera in the other.

**1:30** *p.m.* The pedicabs have arrived, but nobody is using them. Alan Marburger is not a happy camper. "We're paying them and they're standing around empty!" He is also not happy that we have been suggesting that people deviate from the tour route. Alan instructs the pedicab drivers to take tourists to whichever houses they want to visit, and the ticket sellers begin explaining to tourists that the pedicabs are part of the tour and don't cost extra. Soon, the pedicabs are busying carrying people. People are still arriving in a steady stream. It looks like things may work out well after all.

*6:00 p.m.* The tour closes for the day. Everything is put up. The few

Continued on page 4

### From the President's Desk:

### The Public Space that Wasn't

Several neighbors have inquired about the status of the "Paseo Project." Last summer Mary Carolyn George presented the idea of closing the 4400 block of Avenue G and turning it into a public space, a "paseo." The members voted to authorize her to explore the idea. A committee was formed, including, among others, Jennifer Vickers, Karen McGraw, Suzee Brooks, Elaine Meenehan, Mary Carolyn George, Carol Burton, and myself. We first met individually with the three members of the City Council who made up the Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee -- Brewster McCracken, Betty Dunkerly, and Lee Leffingwell.

We were surprised at the enthusiastic reception by all three council members. We explained that this idea was proposed for our neighborhood plan, but was deleted when the city's transportation department objected, saying that Avenue G had to remain open because it was one of the few streets that went all the way between 38th and 51st Streets. One of the council members said, "That's precisely the reason why it should be closed." Councilman Leffingwell even sketched a design that would

increase parking for the park.

There were problems to address, of course. For example, Shipe Pool requires street access to the pumps for delivery of chemicals. But we really never got to the design stage. At the January meeting I reported on what we had done, asking that those who opposed the idea of a public space to wait until we had a chance to develop a proposal with neighborhood input, promising that nothing would go forward without approval of the membership.

It was not to be. At a March 20th meeting of the Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee, Karen presented our interest in creating a new public space. But at least four neighbors and a representative of the Ney Museum spoke against the idea of a public space, citing possible adverse effects on traffic.

The subcommittee offered to work with us on before and after traffic counts as a next step. But at the

### **Pecan Press**

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following Steering Committee it was generally agreed that debating the issue in front of council members when we needed unanimity was making us look bad and the group voted to cease further exploration of the project.

So will we ever really know what might have been possible for this unique space in Hyde Park? Perhaps the current stretch of asphalt is the most creative use possible. Then again, perhaps not.

John Kerr451-3931sjfkerr@yahoo.com>

### "Just" a Shelter? Think again!

SafePlace, the domestic violence and sexual assault survival center for Travis County, will have a representative at the July 10th meeting.

We will be collecting some items from SafePlace's "Desperate Needs" list at the July and August general meetings. Here's what you can donate this summer to help this organization carry on their mission:

- Baby wipes
- Full-sized deodorants
- Baby lotion/oil/wash
- Bed pillows (can be gently used)
- Twin-sized sheets (can be gently used)

Please bring these items to the July or August HPNA meetings, or give them to a neighbor who's attending, or contact Denise Girard at 454-6584 or <girard.d@att.net> to arrange pickup.

### **June Meeting Minutes**

A ssociation action and updates marked the June meeting, as several major issues either progressed or were finished.

Vice President Denise Girard called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Homes Tour chair Lorre Weidlich announced that Tour publicity has been issued and placed. The Tour received a write-up in *The Good Life* magazine, and a complimentary quarter-page in the *Austin Chronicle*. Tickets went on sale at both New World Deli and FreshPlus.

Graffiti Task Force liaison Elaine Meenehan has been working with Officer Vargas and the task force on a project to paint murals on walls and other areas liable to tagging. The task force is looking for donations of materials for creating the murals, and of wall space for creating murals in the target area bounded by IH-35, Lamar Boulevard, 29th Street, and Anderson Lane.

HPNA's **Tree Task Force** representative John Paul Moore announced that the tree moratorium has officially ended, and that Austin Energy is proposing to resume its aggressive tree cutting program in coming weeks. John said that the neighborhoods' continuing united opposition is the only reason Asplundh crews aren't already back on

our streets and tagging trees to be taken out. The Tree Task Force report will be presented to City Council at its June 8th meeting. John encouraged everyone to keep communicating with Austin City Council members, voicing opposition to AE's clearance program, asking for three things: (1) forbearance from any cutting until the task force recommendations can be implemented; (2) that Austin Energy approach neighborhood groups such as HPNA with proposals and work with the neighborhoods, rather than issuing diktats; and (3) looking for future funding alternatives that follow the task force recommendations.

Doris Coward reported that speeding traffic has become a big problem on Red River north of 45th Street. City of Austin official traffic counts conducted between 2002 and 2006 show that more than half the vehicles traveling this stretch are breaking speed limits. The street is not eligible for standard traffic calming due to budget restrictions. However, a recently-passed state law allows cities to lower speed limits on narrow

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### Things NOT Seen in Hyde Park



This park in Arezzo, Italy, was one of the ideas put forth as a model for the space between Shipe Park and the Ney Museum. An oval walk path with several cut-throughs, a green central space, a bike lane along one side (on the right, above, next to a busy street), and tree shaded benches along the periphery. Such a space would be ideal for children learning to ride bicycles. The Steering Committee voted to discontinue exploration of the project at its April 27 meeting.



# 



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#### Homes Tour...

#### ...cont'd from page 1

artisans who have turned out despite the rain comment on how much they enjoyed the music. Children have enjoyed the giant chess set. The museum and houses have had a steady stream of visitors. Not a bad day, all things considered.

#### Sunday, July 18

1 p.m. The sun is out. Many more artisans have set up. The ticket table has been moved to just inside the gate of the museum fence. Arvis, the face painter, has laid out her paints. The music is beginning. The pedicabs swing into action. Most important, people are arriving.

*3 p.m.* Elaine tells me that we have only 200 tour booklets left, of the 1000 I had printed. As insurance, I arrange for several of the houses to recycle booklets that tourists don't plan to keep. It's good to have something to do. My team has been so efficient that I have felt almost useless

I have revisited all of the houses, this time for enjoyment. The houses are full of interesting details – the barn and root cellar at the Campbell-Turner house, the baronial upstairs bedroom at the Kopperl house, the Hurt house fish pond, the electric trains at the Hodnette-McKesson house, the period wallpaper at the von Boeckmann-Keeble house, Naranjal's kitchen dome and the bathroom ceiling inspired by the Kimball Museum. Docents at each house are knowledgeably describing the houses, their architecture, and their history to groups of tourists. My vision of a homes tour is being realized.

The museum grounds are full of people, listening to the music, exploring the art and craft booths, drinking lemonade, and eating Miss Ney's ice cream. Children (and a few adults) are playing with the chess set. Again, the artisans comment on how much they like the music. So does the face painter. My vision of a neighborhood fair is being realized.

**4:45** *p.m.* Our friend Taylor Fry, from Grande Communications, brings the jar of entry forms to the stage and Suzanna Choffel, the performer, draws for door prizes. Mary LaTouf's husband wins the gift basket. Sometimes things work out exactly the way they should.

6 p.m. We've repaired to the after-party at NeWorlDeli — Deaton certainly knows how to arrange a party! The food is wonderful, the alcohol is copious, and of course the company couldn't be better. Many people on my team have volunteered for another year. Some people are chanting "One more year" at me. How did they know insanity runs in my family?

7 *p.m.* I sink into a comfortable chair at home. It's all over but the accounting. I have already warned the people at my job that I will be showing up Monday morning exhausted and hung over. I have another glass of wine and pet Asha.

Lorre Weidlich2006 Homes Tour Chair



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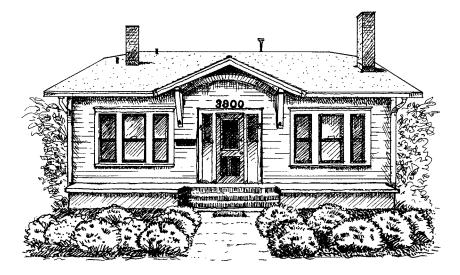
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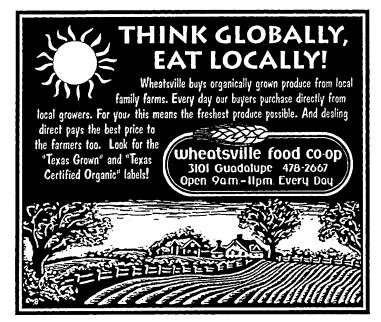
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## Around & About the Avenues

Notable Tours Dept.: The final stats on total attendance and net proceeds were not yet in as we went to press; but whatever the final numbers are, there are multiple non-quantitative indications that this year's Homes Tour was one of the most enjoyable and successful events ever. Part of the reason, of course, is that all kinds of neighbors once again came through in all kinds of ways to provide the necessary volunteer (wo)manpower to bring the thing off. But another and major part was the inspiration and leadership that was provided by Lorre Weidlich -- who, having lived here for some time, knew full well what a relatively thankless and absolutely challenging task it is to chair the Tour, and yet took the task on in skilled and fearless fashion. And so, on behalf of a proud and grateful 'hood, we'd like to say Thank You, Madame Chair!



•• Notable Neighbors Dept.: Congratulations to Mary Carolyn George of 4312 Avenue G, whose book *The Architectural Legacy of Alfred Giles* was recently published by Trinity University Press. The book features photographs by her similarly multitalented husband Eugene, whose El Naranjal was featured on this year's Homes Tour. (To order a copy, you can contact <br/>
books@trinity.edu>, or visit <br/>
www.trinity.edu/tupress>).



Notable Neighborhoods Dept.: You may already know that TRIBEZA is the name of a very snazzy, very glossy, very stylish local magazine, but you may not know that in its annual issue focussing on a distinctive Austin neighborhood, folks at TRIBEZA will be looking at and writing about none other than ours truly. Notes Publisher and Editor Zarghun Dean: "Each year, we highlight an Austin neighborhood that is rich in creativity and energy. In past years, we've selected East Austin, Downtown, and South Austin. Hyde Park, like those neighborhoods, helps to define the character of our city." The issue will be overseen by Assistant Editor (and proud Hyde Park resident!) Lauren Smith Ford, who tells us that among the people/places/things to be featured are Keith Kachtick, the owner of Dharma Yoga; Bick Brown, proprietor of Hyde Park Bar and Grill; former HPNA Prez Ann Graham, Founder and Executive Director of First Night Austin; Hyde Park Theatre; graphic art in Hyde Park; Hyde Park Gym; Daya; Hyde Park wine tour; best desserts in Hyde Park; "and more!"



Trees? Please! Several pieces in this month's issue focus on matters arboreal, including an update on Tree Task Force member John Paul Moore's fiercely resolute ongoing efforts to fend off further Asplundhering of our urban tree canopy; Treefolks of Austin's "neighborwoods" tree planting efforts, and a farsighted challenge that we begin thinking and acting now, not later, to ensure that majestic trees and bountiful shade will continue to be among the major attractions for Shipe Park visitors. It's a timely topic to consider, because we've heard from several residents on Avenue F that in the wake of Asplundh's "trimming" efforts in the alley, the trees there now provide little if any shading from the afternoon summer

Continues on following page

### Around & About the Avenues

sun, and recent utility bills have risen dramatically. Accordingly, neighbors, we urge vigilance and action, or we may find that "made in the shade" has become a wistful and increasingly obsolete expression.



◆ Say Yea, Ney!: A particularly welcome piece of news in this issue is that the city has decided to reinstate the once-pledged, recently-threatened \$500,000 for the Ney Museum Restoration in the 2006 bond ballot. This righteous and happy outcome was decidedly NOT a foregone conclusion, so we'd like to offer our thanks to the many "Neybors" who weighed in on this matter by making their feelings known to local decision makers, and our congratulations to Ney Curator Mary Collins Blackmon for her skilled and caring stewardship of this museum, and this cause.



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### June Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 3

and congested residential streets from 30 to 25 miles per hour, for as many as ten neighborhoods per year. Doris asked for HPNA to send a letter supporting a request that alternative **traffic calming** be implemented for the narrower Hyde Park streets, especially Red River. John Moore moved the Secretary draft and send such a letter, seconded by Kitty Clark. The motion passed on a show of hands.

Ben Heimsath presented a redevelopment plan for a property on Caswell north of 47th Street, now occupied by four dilapidated 1960s-era duplexes. The property currently has eight units in the four buildings, and the redevelopment will have the same number of units and buildings, which will be built in a bungalow style compatible with their context. Originally planned as two smaller units in front with larger ones behind, the development will instead have four buildings of equal size, developed as a mews with a central access/alleyway, which allows preservation of street-side amenities. The proposed development meets or exceeds NCCD requirements. Ben said the developer is asking for a variance from the Board of Adjustment to allow 61% impervious cover in the front units, but leaving cover in the back low enough to meet the overall 45% impervious cover limit, but was not asking HPNA for support of the variance

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# Realty Reality Ask the Experts!



Mark Strub is a proud Hyde Park resident and HPNA member. Mark enjoys spending time close to his home on Avenue C. Luckily, his profession as a licensed Realtor® cooperates. You see, besides hanging out at Shipe Park with his family, devouring a tasty Gelato or homemade sandwich in the neighborhood, you'll find Mark out researching a comparative market analysis or enjoying frequent home previews in an effort to stay always on the edge of the ever-changing and fast-paced business of Residential Real Estate Sales.

Let Mark put his knowledge and experience to work for you! Next time you see him around, please don't hesitate to stop and ask that realty-related question that's been on your mind. After all- it's not just his job... It's his pleasure! Of course, your phone calls and emails are always welcome.



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## Looking Back, Looking Good:



The side porch of the von Boeckmann-Keeble house

Architect Eugene George and

George and docent Lindsay Nakashima



es

The Hodnette-McKesson porch



Owner Bill Barbee and friends at Naranjal

The Campbell-Turner porch

### The Museum



Perfect accomodations

Grant Thomas chats with Taylor Fry and Libby Malone of Grande Communications

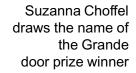


Mary LaTouf consults with



John Paul Moore, Catherine Moore, and Elaine Meenahan sell tickets



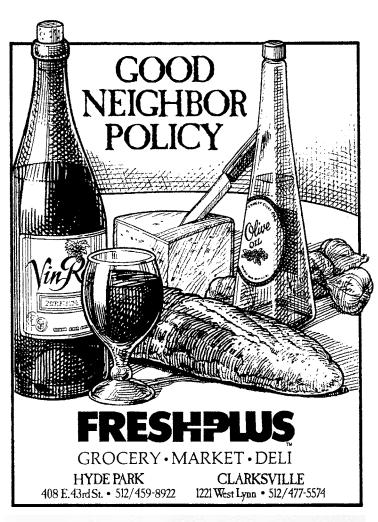


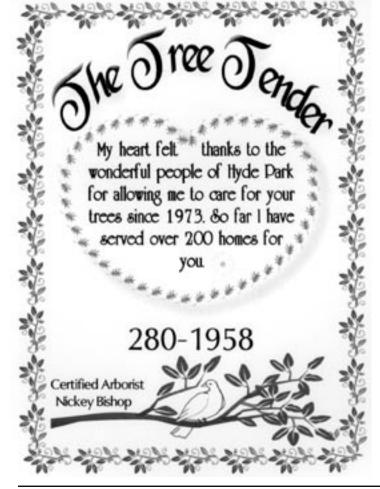


### The 2006 Homes Tour



Photos by Sue Marriott, Robin Silberling, and Lorre Weidlich





### June Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 8

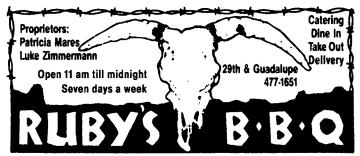
request. The units will be run as a condominium development, governed by condominium association rules, and cannot be sold away from the development as individual properties. Pam Whittington, who has met with the developer as a representative of nearby neighbors, added that many hours of negotiation and research had gone into the agreement. They were able to negotiate the original development plan from five to four buildings, saving several trees on the perimeter of the property, and to adjust setbacks to alleviate building loom from street level. She said there are still some tweaks to be worked out, but that the neighbors and the development had agreement in principle on the major points.

McMansion Ordinance Task Force representative Karen McGraw reported that the ordinance was being presented for first reading to City Council on June 15th. The draft ordinance was a very hard-fought compromise between neighborhoods and development interests. Karen said that on one of the most contentious issues, floor-to-area ratio (FAR), 97% of Austin homes meet the proposed 0.4:1 FAR standard. One issue not resolved is occupancy limits, which continue to drive construction of many slab-sided structures in neighborhoods with high student populations. Karen presented computer renderings to help neighbors see the practical impact of terms such as "building envelope" and "billboard" frontages. Sharon Majors moved that HPNA support the ordinance as drafted by the task force, seconded by Pam Whittington. The motion passed unanimously on a show of hands.

Bylaws Revision Committee chair Catherine Moore presented the draft bylaws for adoption. She noted the principal changes involved membership of the Steering Committee (current officers, the past president, and six elected neighborhood members), term limits for officers, and providing notice for issues up for vote before the Association. There are already a few issues the committee will bring back to the membership as amendments in a month or two. Sam Waring moved and Elaine Meenehan seconded to accept the bylaws as presented. The motion passed unanimously on a show of hands. Denise thanked the committee for their work in developing new bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Sam WaringHPNA Secretary4610 Ave. H



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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30-11:00	Hatha	Vinyasa	Cardiac	Mixed	Vinyasa	Mixed	Hatha
11:30-1:00						Basics	Vinyasa
5:00-6:30	Mixed	Hatha	Mixed	Vinyasa	Mixed		
7:00-8:30	Vinyasa	Mixed	Basics	Hatha			

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### Elisabet Ney Museum Restoration Included on 2006 Bond Ballot

The Elisabet Ney Museum Restoration was includlacktriangle ed for \$500,000 on the ballot for the 2006 City of Austin Bond. The reinstatement of the Nev Restoration, initially included in the bond, was due in great part to the generous advocacy provided by residents of Hyde Park together with advocacy from the Elisabet Ney Museum Save America's Treasures Restoration Campaign Committee, the Heritage Society of Austin, the Texas Association of Museums and members of CANPAC, Preservation Texas, and Preserve Austin. If approved by Austin voters on November 7, 2006, the bond issue will significantly help to restore and preserve Elisabet Ney's Formosa, established in Hyde Park in 1892. The museum is continuing to raise the balance of the funding needed for the estimated \$2 million restoration.

The museum would like to thank the residents of Hyde Park who provided support for the inclusion of the Elisabet Ney Museum Restoration on the 2006 Bond Election – Proposition 3. This effort has proven to be a critical step toward achieving the restoration capital campaign goals, and ultimately the restoration and preservation of the museum.

Mary Collins Blackmon
 Curator, Elisabet Ney Museum

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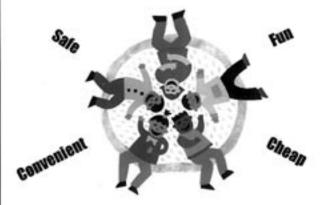
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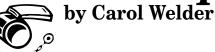
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# Crime Report



Summer has arrived, and that means that some of Our neighbors will be going away on vacation. I encourage all of you to look out for one another and, if you are going away, that you ask your neighbors to keep an eye on your property. Sometimes preventing crime can be as simple as awareness.

Officer Rick Vargas, Hyde Park's District Representative, reports that home burglaries have decreased, but that doesn't mean that we should let our guard down. Keep your doors and windows locked. The "Tire Slasher" has returned with several incidents having been reported. It appears that Avenues A & B are hit the hardest. Officer Vargas believes that it may be the same homeless person as before, so please report any suspicious behavior that you may see. He also reports that we had one serious rape on East 55 1/2 St. He says that this case was the first in which the perpetrator was a total stranger and no alcohol was involved. The suspect entered through a window, so as already mentioned, please make sure that your doors and windows are kept locked. There have been a number of calls on a Peeping Tom in the Hyde Park area. The suspect is a Hispanic male, 24-30 years old, and reportedly drives a green pick-up.

As always, auto vandalism and burglary continue to be a challenge for our area. If at all possible, park your cars in a driveway or cover them at night with a tarp. As a reminder, a Courtesy Office with officer presence is located at 4719 Harmon, or you can contact Officer Rick Vargas at 974-5801.

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars on the first Tuesday in August as National Night Out. And as a longer-term followup to that event, if you are interested in helping with a Neighborhood Watch Program, please contact me. Have a safe summer and remember to Be Alert.

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



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# Hyde Park Presbyterian Church



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# Planting the Next Generation of Trees for Shipe Park

An informal and totally unscientific survey conducted separately by my neighbor Michael Horowitz and myself suggests that we are having somewhat of a baby boom in our neighborhood. At least it seems that way if you have been by Shipe Park any time recently. In the evenings and most weekends the park is full of young families enjoying the simple pleasures of play and commiseration that are so much a part of that stage of life. To me, it's also a joyful sign of a healthy, diverse neighborhood.

Unfortunately, some of the old patriarch trees closest to the wading pool, cabin, and north playground side are not in such good health. An old post oak recently had a major limb amputated by a windstorm, and near by, an old granddaddy live oak has a thinning and skimpy canopy indicative of old age and decline. A third tree, an American elm by Ave. F, is also elderly and we can expect to lose some of the over-extended branches over the next several years.

It's important to start thinking about leaving a legacy of trees at Shipe Park, and we may get help with this by applying for a matching grant from the Austin Parks Foundation. I propose that we ask for \$750.00 from APF, and raise the other from the neighborhood so that next winter we can have three really large (four inch caliper, twelve to fifteen feet boxed or balled and burlapped trees) planted to replace these older specimens. I would like to diversify the selection of trees at the park to include native trees like Cedar elm, Chinquapin oak, and Monterrey White oak. Really big trees cost about \$500.00 to install, and come with a one-year guarantee.

To qualify for this grant, the neighborhood must provide, along with monetary support, some "sweat equity" investment and commitment. We will need to recruit a team of neighbors who will rotate responsibility of watering and protecting the trees during the year or so when they are becoming established. It's my hope that the garden hose can be passed from one family to another.

I will be making this presentation to the HPNA Steering Committee meeting on July 7th. If you have any ideas, questions, or comments, please call me at 450-0776 or email to <jill@nokeslandsca pedesign.com> Deadline for the grant is July 14th, and awardees will be announced in September. For more information on the grant, see the APF website: <www.austinparks.org>

Jill Nokes 4200 Ave. F



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Address: 1520 West 29th

Listed For: **\$535,000** 

Gracious Bryker Woods Home. 75 X 93 Corner lot. Stylishly remodeled, with private gardens, and a fully fenced yard. Hardwood flooring, period detailing, and a four bedroom configuration. An amazing family home.

Address: **4701 Evans** Listed For: **\$309,000** 

Charming remodel on amazing 75 X 135 corner lot. Open floorplan. Hardwood floors. Original tile bath. Private deck area, garage and a white picket fence.

Address: **4212 Avenue D** Listed For: **\$369,000** 

Classic Arts and Crafts house on one of the best blocks in Hyde Park. 3Bed/2Bath with additional living/study off master bedroom. Large traditional front porch, 2 Car Garage, fabulous long leaf pine floors, period detailing and accents. Great family floorplan.

Address: 4104 Burnet Rd.

Price: **\$279,000** 

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Address: **5305 Avenue H** 

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