

# May Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, May 7, 2007

**Where:** Hyde Park United Methodist Church  
4001 Speedway

**Who:** YOU and your neighbors

*Note: HPNA general meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.*

## HPNA General Meeting Agenda for May 7<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ Elisebet Ney Landscape Restoration Update, Mary Collins Blackmon, Curator
- ❖ Homes Tour Update, Lorre Weidlich
- ❖ "floodlines" follow-up
- ❖ Adoption of Resolution to support RG4N, possible vote.

**See you there!**

## Hyde Park: A Shady Sanctuary 2007 Homes Tour

This year's Homes Tour calls attention to the fact that the quality of life in Hyde Park is not only the product of its beautiful vintage houses, it also results from Hyde Park's canopy of mature trees. On the grounds of the Austin State Hospital, along 41st Street, and in the yards of the six featured houses, home tourists can enjoy the sanctuary of that shady covering.

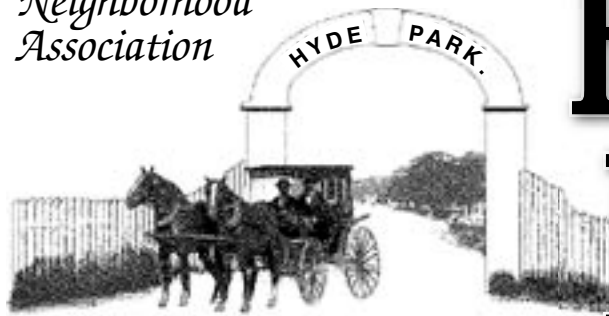
**Continued on page 4**

1 Austin State Hospital  
4110 Guadalupe



All Homes Tour story photos by John Hunt

*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

May, 2007 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 33, No. 5

## "It's My Park! Day" Leaves Shipe Ship-Shape

On Saturday, April 14th, 85 volunteers-ranging in age from 3 to over 73-joined at Shipe Park for a fantastic "It's My Park! Day" landscaping event. With shovels and rakes in hand, they mulched trees, removed invasive plants from the creek area, cleaned out the wading pool, and loosened compacted soil around some of the park's most beloved old trees. We were awestruck by the level of community support for the event and the amazing results of the volunteers' work. Indeed, the creek area went from a tangle of ragweed, mulberry trees, and trash to a visual centerpiece of the park.

Libby Malone, one of a crew of volunteers from Grande Communications, was an active participant in the event. "Grande volunteers felt so welcome", she noted. "We had a great time and enjoyed being part of this tangible way to show our appreciation to the Hyde Park neighborhood". Grande Communications was a key sponsor of the event along with other companies including Organics by Gosh, which provided the mulch, and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, which helped cover incidental costs.



Chris Berry moving mulch. All story photos by Robin Silberling

"It's My Park! Day" is an annual community service day organized by the Austin Parks Foundation <[www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org)> to focus on improvements to Austin's park system.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated at Shipe Park. It was amazing! For those of you who couldn't be there, don't worry. We're hoping that community participation in stewardship and improvement of Shipe Park will continue on an ongoing basis, and not just be limited to a one-day event.

— The 2007 event organizers:  
Betsy Clubine, Jill Nokes, Robin Silberling, and Alison Young

# From the President's Desk: \_\_\_\_\_

I have said this before, and I want to say it again this month: We have wonderful neighbors! I am constantly amazed by their willingness and ability to step up, volunteer for a job and get it done. Since actions speak louder than words, please read the articles in this issue of the Pecan Press about the Shipe Park "It's My Park! Day" cleanup and the Homes Tour. And I would like to extend a personal thank you to Rob-in Siberling, Betsy Clubine, and Jill Nokes for organizing our first-ever "It's My Park! Day" event, as well as Libby Malone and her gracious and hard-working volunteers from Grande Communications and all of the residents who came out to make this day such a success. Also, I'd like to extend a very special thank you to Lorre Weidlich and all of the people working to make the 32nd Hyde Park Homes Tour a great success. And finally to Sharon Majors for all of her work pulling together our local historic district, which seems like a constantly moving target! You guys are all the reason this is such a wonderful place to live. Thank you!

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



# HPNA April Meeting Minutes

President Elaine Meenehan called the April 2, 2007 HPNA general meeting to order at 7 p.m on Monday evening. First up was fellow neighbor Ann Graham along with Sean Jenkins announcing the upcoming play "floodlines." The performance begins on Sunday April 22nd in Eastwoods Park, 3001 Harris Park Avenue. (1/2 block north of Dean Keeton, 1 block east of Duval). Ann also informed everyone of the Garden Party that took place on April 7th to benefit "floodlines."

Then HPNA Tree Preservation Chair John Paul Moore introduced Dr. Bjorn Sletto of the **University of Texas school of Architecture**. Bjorn is teaching a graduate class in Urban Environmental Analysis, and this class is doing a project to develop a model for citizen participation in **urban forest preservation**. They are looking for our help as residents of Hyde Park and fellow tree lovers. Specifically, these five bright young people and their professor, Bjorn, are looking for specific trees and tree-related sites and local knowledge that

Continued on following page

## Pecan Press

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## Hyde Park Spring Picnic

### Shipe Pool Opening

Saturday May 26, 2007  
 4pm to 7pm

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needs to be preserved and to identify issues and priorities important in molding effective policy for dealing with our beloved urban forest. In the meeting Bjorn's students passed out a short but thorough questionnaire that was created to access the knowledge, interests, concern and priorities of the Hyde Park residents. The questionnaire will also be made available online (you can find more information on this on the HPNA list serve).

Reverend Emilee Whitehurst followed with her presentation on the **Austin Inter-Religious Ministries**. AAIM began in 1941 as a gathering of twelve Christian clergy and congregations and is now the most comprehensive inter-religious organization in Central Texas, representing congregations from over 30 distinct faith traditions, including Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Jewish communities, as well as individuals, non-profits and businesses. Austin Inter-Religious ministries has many programs established to better the community ranging from assisting elderly in the maintenance of their homes to a burial fund which assists those who cannot afford the high price of funerals for their loved ones. For more information on the Austin Inter-Religious ministries please visit their website at <www.aaimaustin.org>.

Jason Meeker, Brentwood N.A. Communications Chair and a former resident of Hyde Park, came to speak on behalf of **RG4N (Responsible Growth for Northcross)**. The main mission of RG4N is to "embrace the sustainable redevelopment of the Northcross area considering long-range environmental and neighborhood impact, embodying transit-oriented and pedestrian-friendly land use, and including mixed-use development with community focus." The planned Walmart redevelopment, which consists of a 200,000 square foot 24 hour Wal-Mart, does not embody any of these points. Jason gave a passionate and well-researched presentation outlining his beliefs and findings

in opposition to Wal-Mart. Among his concerns were the increased crime rates, traffic counts, noise and light pollution, and negative effect on surrounding property values typically associated with a Walmart development. After meeting with the developer, Lincoln Property Company, it has become clear that the answer to creating a more responsible development is community action. Although the HPNA has yet to formally vote on whether or not they will show support as a whole for RG4N, the Steering Committee has written a letter to City Council showing their support for the cause. If you would like to find out more about RG4N, please visit their website at <www.rg4n.org>

Finally, special thanks was given to the 11 or so Hyde Parkers who came together to purchase the home at **311 W. 41st Street**. The home dates back to at least 1908, and possibly may go as far back as the 1800's. The home was bought not as a profitable endeavor but rather out of a desire to restore the home, which adds to the historical character and charm of our wonderful neighborhood.

— Wendy Taddia, HPNA Co-Secretary  
<wtaddia@cencorealty.com>

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Dues paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash      Date _____	
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.	

HPNA Membership Info
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
❖
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.
❖
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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Note: The Pecan Press will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.



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## Homes Tour 2007...

...cont'd from page 1

The tour begins at the Austin State Hospital, celebrating the 150th anniversary of its inception. There, tourists can enjoy not only the architecture of the administration building but also historical displays designed to educate viewers about early medical practices.



From there, a short walk or ride down 41st Street takes tourists to the first house on display, the Schenken-Oatman House (311 W. 41st). Its survival results from the efforts of a coalition of neighbors who purchased the house, which was facing demolition. Profit was not the intention of these neighborhood investors; rather, they were motivated by the desire to preserve an important marker of a period of Hyde Park history. Tourists will see the house in the process of restoration.

Less than a block away is the Curl-Crockett House (213 W. 41st), the current home of Nick and Linda van Bavel. This beautifully restored Victorian combines Eastlake and Colonial Revival features. Its significance lies both in its architecture and in its historical associations.



Continued on page 6

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## Homes Tour 2007...

...cont'd from page 4



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After a walk or ride three blocks east on 41st Street and a block south on Avenue G, tourists then encounter the Crutchfield House (4001 Avenue G), named after the family that owned it for more than 50 years. Its present owners, Blinda McClelland and Harold Liljestrand, have expanded the house with a rear addition that includes a back staircase, a master suite, and a family room. Their newly landscaped yard was designed by Hyde Park landscape architect Jill Nokes.



The next house, 4115 Avenue H, known colloquially as "The Green House," is a multiple star - it received a 5-star rating from Austin Energy's Green Building program and it starred in the PBS program, "This Old



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6 4115 Avenue H



A block south on Avenue H brings tourists to the home of Chris Brown and Lindsay Nakashima. Lindsay's artistic sensibility and Oriental taste have given this 1920s bungalow a serene, open feeling. The transformation extends to the landscaping and the two outbuildings that now function as art space and office-guest house. In the back yard stands one of Hyde Park's premier oak trees.

The last house on the tour (4108 Avenue G) belongs to Andrew and Melissa Shea, who devoted a year to

**Continued on page 8**

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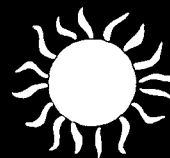
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## Homes Tour 2007...

...cont'd from page 7

modernizing the house, rearranging its space, and restoring its vintage features. From its arts and crafts styling to its spacious upstairs, the Shea house successfully combines the vintage and the modern.



7 4108 Avenue G

After the tour, visitors are invited to return to the tree-shaded grounds of the Austin State Hospital to enjoy a small neighborhood fair, with music, craft booths, and food vendors.

Any of you who want to explore these houses free and enjoy the celebration party after the tour ends can contact either John Williams, Volunteer Coordinator <[jawilli@grandecom.net](mailto:jawilli@grandecom.net)>, or Lorre Weidlich, Homes Tour Chairman <[lweidlich@mail2sevens.com](mailto:lweidlich@mail2sevens.com)>, to volunteer for a 2-hour shift as a docent or a ticket seller. Here's hoping, and predicting, that this will be the best Tour ever!!

— Lorre Weidlich, 2007  
Homes Tour Chair



### More photos from "It's My Park! Day"



(above) Mulched tree and weeded area  
(left) The Weeders.



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# Crime Report



by Carol Welder

There are several updates that I wanted to pass on to you from Officer Vargas. He says that auto thefts are on the rise. A theft ring is targeting Honda Civics and Acura Integras. Several stolen autos were recovered in San Antonio in a chop-shop. He reported that APD is working closely with the San Antonio P.D. to shut them down.

The annual "Warrant Round-Up" begins on March 3rd. If someone has an outstanding warrant, Class C or above, it is possible that APD will be knocking on their door at home or at work. It will continue through the end of that week.

Operation "Homestead" has yielded quite a few arrests, which in turn reduced the number of residential burglaries. It has also had an effect on vehicle burglaries, but Officer Vargas reported that vehicle burglary in the Hyde Park Gym area continues to be a problem, especially in the early morning hours. He recommended removing valuable items from the auto or putting them out of sight.

Several neighbors have reported missing items from their yards and porches, so continue to be vigilant and, if possible, bring things inside your home or garage. Remember to report any crime by calling 311, if the crime has already happened, or 911, if the crime is in progress.

As a friendly reminder, be courteous to your neighbors by parking your vehicles in front of your own home and not your neighbor's. I have heard from neighbors who say that cars are parked in front of their homes for days at a time. Unfortunately, there is no law against parking a vehicle on a public street, but it boils down to respecting your neighbor's space.

If you have a question or concern, you can call Officer Rick Vargas, our area APD representative, at 974-5801.

— Carol Welder  
459-6205 <cjwelder@msn.com>



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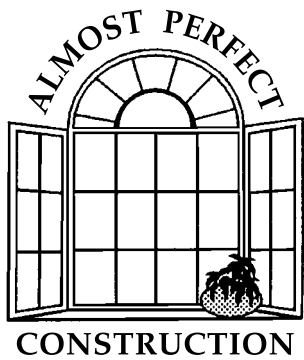
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

## Hyde Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

610 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
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## Farmers' Market Coming to the Triangle!

Starting May 2nd the Austin Farmers' Market opens a weekly Wednesday afternoon market at the Triangle. Opening day there will be a festival that will include food tastings, a chef's demonstration, children's activities, a garden workshop, nutrition demos and multiple live bands it's possible even a city official or two might be spotted.

Dozens of vendors have signed on to set up stands every Wednesday from 4:00 to 8:00 pm in the green lawn area of the Triangle. You can expect to see lots of vegetables, meats, cheeses, eggs, honey and strawberries. Fine craft vendors will sell soaps, jewelry, and clothing. Paw Bakery will satisfy those demanding canine and feline customers with home-made dog and cat treats. Tension Tamers massage crew will be there and might help some folks actually make it to the end of the busy week. Bocce courts are available for those with a thirst for competition, and the interactive fountain could provide amusement, if not needed cooling, for kids as the summer progresses.

The main downtown Austin Farmers' Market will continue to operate year-round on Saturday 9-1pm at its location at Republic Square Park. The expansion to a Wednesday market helps farmers get produce out of the ground and into customers' homes as fresh and fast as possible. The Triangle is centrally located, and surrounded by neighborhoods that are likely supporters of locally grown and locally produced.

One of the many great concerns in the debate over the development of the Triangle was around the influx of chain stores into a decidedly "Keep Austin Weird" kind of environment. The surrounding neighbors wanted the development to become a community in and of itself and reflect as much local character as possible. The Austin Farmers' Market is a step in the right direction toward making that vision real. Cencor, the retail developer of the site, is collaborating with the Sustainable Food Center, the market's nonprofit operator. Cencor will help provide live music in the pavilion, bi-weekly cooking demos, interactive educational programs and critical start-up support in advertising the market's operation.

If you want to help central Texas local farmers and craftspeople and want to continue to help turn the Triangle Park into the real community park that it could be — be there, be involved and help create a vibrant, weekly community gathering.

A complete list of Austin Farmer's Market vendors, additional information about the market and the Sustainable Food Center is available on the Web at [www.austinfarmersmarket.org](http://www.austinfarmersmarket.org).

— Jennifer Vickers



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## Hyde Park Presbyterian Church



*April 1, 10:30 AM*  
 - Palm Sunday Cantata  
*April 8, Easter Sunday*  
 9:15 AM - Limpy the Clown  
 and Easter Egg Hunt  
 10:30 AM - Service of  
 Resurrection  
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## “floodlines garden party & benefit” sleeted into Vino Vino!

The garden was beautiful, but on April 7th the weather was less than so we welcomed the 11th hour invitation from VinoVino, located at 4119 Guadalupe, to move the much heralded “floodlines garden party & benefit” into the warm and comfortable environs of our local, retail wine store. Special thanks to Jerry Reid and Jeff Courington for making the VinoVino available for our special event.



Over 80 friends, family, and folks whose curiosity was piqued by Jaclyn Pryor’s April 22nd “floodlines” the site-specific performance installation which literally moves you through Hyde Park - came out to have fun, listen to music by Hyde Park’s own “The Hydmen” (Zeke Barbaro, Christian and Cameron York, and Lucas Grisham), and DJ Orion; eat delicious victuals by GoGo Gourmet; drink beverages by Whole Foods; and bid on over 20 auction items donated by: Jaclyn Pryor, DJ Orion, Theatre Action Project, LaShelle’s Prints, Judge Nancy Hohengarten, arrowhead custom framing, inc., Bat City Awards, NeWorlDeli, Pete Reed “Hyde Park Handyman”, Celebration, Boomerangs, Vino Vino, Ego Parade USA, Hyde Park Bar and Grill, Dharma Yoga, The Laurterstein Conway Massage School, Blue Moon Glassworks, Woodburn House, and The Hydmen.

Particular thanks to artistic director, Jaclyn Pryor, for her creative vision for “floodlines”; stage manager, Sean Jenkins, for his attention to details; Larry Freilich for facilitating the last minute addition of piping hot chocolate to the menu of ice cold lemonade; and to Zoe Freilich for staffing the lucrative “hot cocoa/lemonade” stand. Lastly, thanks to Hyde Park Neighborhood Association for their curiosity about “floodlines” (we’ll be back next year and the next and the next) and to our funders including benefit attendees, neighbors, the City of Austin through the Cultural

**Continued on page 18**

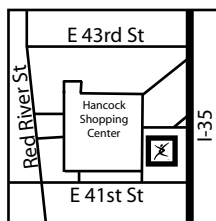




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## Preserve the Neighborhood *You Choose!*

Recently the City of Austin passed a Local Historic District (LHD) ordinance. The ordinance outlines the process and criteria for a neighborhood to establish a LHD, which enables a neighborhood to maintain its historic and traditional character and at the same time accommodates a growing and changing population. The ordinance offers an opportunity for Hyde Park residents and property owners to shape Hyde Park's future.

Because the ordinance is new, many home and property owners may feel uncomfortable with establishing such a district. They may fear losing control of how their property is developed or renovated and fear the guidelines will be too restrictive for them to make changes or additions to their property.

However, the process for establishing a LHD is detailed, has specific criteria that must be met, and is subject to review and approval not only by the neighborhood, but also by the City of Austin's Historic Landmark Commission, Planning Commission, or Zoning and Platting Commission, and finally by the City Council.

The first hurdle to be met is that at least 51% of the principal structures in the district must contribute to its historic character. A survey is underway of the area between 38th and 45th Streets and between Guadalupe and Duval Streets. Contributing properties are at least 50 years old, built during the period of significance of the district, and retain sufficient integrity of materials and design to convey the historic appearance.

If the area meets this requirement, the next step is to substantiate that the area properties do have the qualities to meet the city's criteria for a Local Historic District.

As this research is being done, members of the neighborhood will be working to develop a set of Design Standards which will be used by the Historic Landmark Commission in reviewing new construction as well as additions to existing buildings. This means that you and other home and property owners will be establishing the guidelines. These guidelines will address only changes to a building's exterior, not its interior. In coming issues of the *Pecan Press* there will be more detailed information about the development of the design standards.

You will have opportunities to participate in the process through meetings and surveys. Or you may want to volunteer to be on one of the committees. In addition, the *Pecan Press* will provide progress reports and notice of meetings.

Continued on page 18

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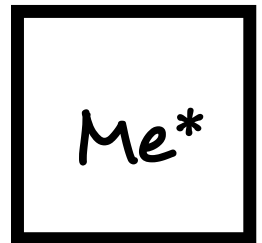
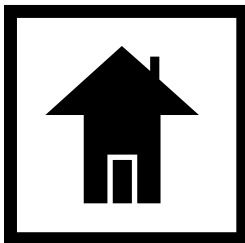
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## Local Historic District...

...cont'd from page 16

Before the nomination/application for Local Historic District can go forward for city review, the neighborhood must secure the written consent of 60% of the property owners within the district. By the time that you receive the letter of consent, you as a property owner should have adequate information to decide if you want to participate in such a district.

It is important that property owners in this area understand the proposed historic district. There are several ways that you can learn more about the proposed Local Historic District: Plan to attend neighborhood meetings; whenever possible, read articles in the *Pecan Press*; complete surveys; read flyers and information that is delivered to your home or mailed to you; ask questions! If you don't understand a process or criterion, let us know. At this time, you can contact Sharon Majors at sharonmajors@grandecom.net.

Remember, only *You* can preserve the neighborhood in which you chose to live!

— Celeste Cromack (Ms. Cromack is a former HPNA President.)

## floodlines at Vino Vino...

...cont'd from page 14

Arts Division, by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts, and by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. And lastly, to Austin Circle of Theaters for their "sponsorship" of "floodlines"! Every player's role is key to the success of this event!

By the time you read this, "floodlines 2007" will be a memory of fleeting images—but you'll have the opportunity to refresh your memory when "floodlines" returns in the spring of 2008, 2009 and 2010!

Thank you all, again!

— Ann S. Graham  
"floodlines" Production Manager,  
Hyde Parker

Next month:

## The Herons of 49th street



## Realty — Reality

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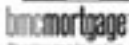


Let Mark put his knowledge and experience to work for you! Next time you see him around the neighborhood, please don't hesitate to stop and ask that realty-related question that's been on your mind. After all- it's not just his job... It's his pleasure! Of course, your phone calls and emails are always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

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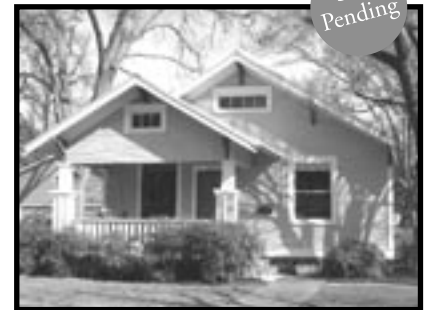
## 4513 Avenue F

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