

# February Meeting

## HPNA General Meeting Agenda for February 6

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Griffin School (5001 Evans Ave) and on Zoom

Meeting Topic: I-35 Expansion

- Vote: Budget Resolution (what dollar amounts may be authorized by an office, which dollar amounts require Steering Committee approval, and which dollar amounts must be authorized by the membership)
- Update: I-35 Expansion
- Vote: Proposed Resolution about I-35 Expansion.
- Speaker: Helping Hand Children's Home
- Update: Membership Software
- Announcements

**Not an HPNA member?**

**You're welcome to join anyway!**

**Join Zoom Meeting at 7 pm:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4738130850?pwd=V3hlKzhLVGxIVTNqVCtVTHVZeVZYUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 473 813 0850

**Passcode:** 728004

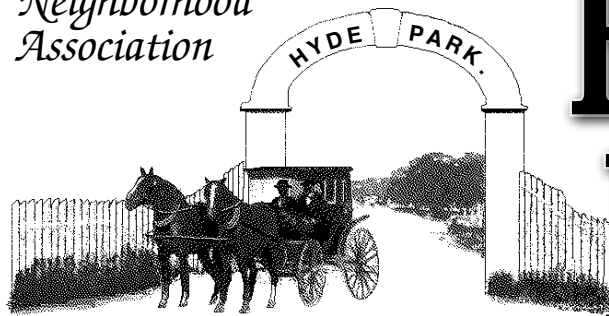
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The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association



# Pecan Press

February 2023 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 49, No. 02

## Plans for I-35 Are Back and They're Bigger Than Ever

This month, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), a federally required assessment of the impacts of its proposed \$4.5 billion I-35 Capital Express Central project that began in late 2020. The DEIS documents the project's anticipated impacts on environmental criteria ranging from displacements and community impacts to air, water, and noise pollution to cultural resources, parkland, induced growth, and construction impacts.

TxDOT has selected its Modified Alternative 3 as its preferred design. Modified Alternative 3 adds two non-tolled high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes in each direction, resulting in the widest cross-section the agency has put forward in over a decade. The design will consume an additional 42 acres of central Austin land for right-of-way and displace over 100 residences and businesses, mostly in the upper decks area between the Cherrywood and Hancock neighborhoods.

Last fall, the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association became the newest member of the North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC), which now includes 13 member neighborhoods; some of them have been working for years to advocate for quality of life improvements for the communities affected by I-35 on a daily basis. This group, which has called for the removal of the reviled upper decks, has asked TxDOT to provide more connections across I-35 to better connect communities and make neighborhoods safer for walking and bicycling. NCINC has also added its voice to the many who have demanded that this project make I-35 "no higher, no wider."

Unfortunately, TxDOT's latest vision for I-35 continues to fall short of making these much-needed improvements to how it connects to neighborhoods, resulting in a project that will bring, by TxDOT's count, over 100 thousand additional vehicles to I-35 every day, encourage dangerous higher speeds on frontage roads, and continue to divide central Austin neighborhoods for a generation to come.

## Save the Date: It's My Park Day is March 4 at Shipe Park

Please plan to join your friends and neighbors for the annual family-friendly cleanup and landscape maintenance of Shipe Park.

**Continued on page 14**



**Continued on page 11**

# From the Desk of the President



This month's HPNA General Meeting will look at the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) proposed expansion of Interstate 35 (I-35). TxDOT's Central Segment project (part of a three-part expansion spanning from SH45 to the north and south) will expand I-35 from Ben White Boulevard to U.S. 290 East in Austin and will include two new non-tolled high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes in each direction. The expansion will expropriate almost 42 acres and displace 107 homes and businesses. With an estimated price tag of approximately \$4.5 billion dollars, construction is slated to start in late 2025.

HPNA's meeting will focus specifically on the impact of I-35's expansion on central Austin neighborhoods. HPNA recently joined the North Central Austin I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC) ([www.ncinc.org](http://www.ncinc.org)), an organization of central Austin neighborhoods that is offering recommendations to TxDOT and the City of Austin to mitigate the damage an expanded

I-35 could have on Austin's natural and human environments. HPNA is fortunate that HPNA Steering Committee member Brendan Wittstruck is also the Chair of NCINC.

Brendan, with HPNA's NCINC representatives Kathy Jackson and Duncan Meisel, has drafted a resolution on the I-35 expansion that you will find printed in this issue of the *Pecan Press*. Their proposed resolution outlines HPNA's position on the I-35 expansion and recommends that TxDOT increase the number of accessible east-west crossing opportunities and cover or cap more of the freeway than TxDOT proposes to reduce noise and pollution. It also asks TxDOT

to incorporate into the project tree-lined surface streets with designs that are compatible with urban neighborhoods.

Please read the proposed resolution. At this month's General Meeting we will have folks there to answer your questions about the I-35 expansion and you will be asked to vote on the resolution.

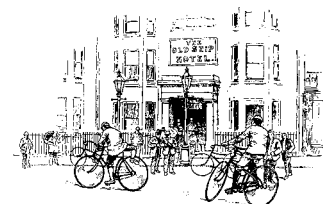
If you would like to make your own comments on the I-35 project, you have until March 7, 2023. More information about TxDOT's comment process is at <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings/austin/i35-capital-express-central-project-02-09-22.html>.

Also at this month's meeting, you will be asked to vote to authorize the Steering Committee and HPNA officers to spend HPN funds up to a certain level; you will get an update on HPNA's new membership software; and you will hear a speaker from Helping Hand Home for Children, a very special place located in Hyde Park.

If you have any ideas for topics for future meetings, please let me know. Also, we are looking for someone to serve as one of HPNA's co-Secretaries and need additional folks on our membership committee. If you or someone you know is interested in helping us out, please get in touch with me.

See you at this month's meeting, and have a wonderful February.

— Kevin Heyburn  
HPNA President



## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765  
[www.austinhdepark.org](http://www.austinhdepark.org)

— HPNA Officers & Steering Committee

### President

• Kevin Heyburn.....kmheyburn@gmail.com

### Co-Vice Presidents

• Kathy Jackson  
• Paul Smith

### Co-Secretaries

• Katie Vignery.....vigneryk@gmail.com  
• Vacant

### Co-Treasurers • PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

• Susanna Walker.....suzwalkercpa@gmail.com  
• Lorre Weidlich.....lweidlich@mail2sevens.com

### Additional Steering Committee Members:

• Stephen Gonzalez • Lisa Harris • Nik Krishna • Marsha Riti  
• Katie Turner • Brendan Wittstruck • Chris Wooster

— HPNA Committees & Task Forces —

### ASH (joint HPNA-CT committee)

• John Williams .....jawilli@grandecom.net

### Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep.

• Lorre Weidlich.....lweidlich@mail2sevens.com

### Church-Neighborhood Liaison

• Phil Seibert, phil.seibert@gmail.com

### Crime & Safety • Kristen Remeza, kremeza@yahoo.com

### Development Review • David Conner, daypaycon@yahoo.com

### Finance • David Conner, daypaycon@yahoo.com

### Flooding • Kevin Heyburn, kmheyburn@gmail.com

### Graffiti Patrol • Lisa Harris, ljharrisus@yahoo.com

### Historic Preservation • Joan Burnham, jgiburnham@gmail.com

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• Chad Crow, chad@secondlabelwine.com

### Membership • Karen Saadeh, kdmatthis@gmail.com

• John Williams, jawilli@grandecom.net

### Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, mcgrawka@earthlink.net

### Nominating • Adam Wilson adam@griffinschool.org

### Parks & Public Space • Mark Fishman, mlfishman@gmail.com

### Social Events Coordinators • Marsha Riti, marshariti@gmail.com

• Stephen Gonzalez, stephen.gonzalez.sd@gmail.com

• Katie Turner, katie.turner050@gmail.com

### Social Media Coordinator • Ellie Hanlon, ellie.hanlon@gmail.com

### Tree Preservation • John Walewski, jwalewski@civil.tamu.edu

### Website • Graham Kunze, grahamkunze@gmail.com



## Pecan Press

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

Advertising deadline: 15th of the month preceding publication.

Editorial deadline: 10th of the month preceding publication.

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• Betsy Clubine.....betsyclubine@gmail.com

S of 45th/E of Speedway

• Martha Campbell.....452-2815

## APD District Representative for Hyde Park

James Hyatt.....512-974-6894  
james.hyatt@austintexas.gov

## Monthly Calendar

### February

- 4 — Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Meeting
- 6 — Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
- 7 — It's My Park Day Signup Begins
- 10 — Recycling Pickup
- 13 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 14 — Happy Valentine's Day
- 24 — Recycling Pickup

### March

- 4 — Sunshine Community Gardens Spring Sale
- 4 — It's My Park Day
- 4 — Artist's Talk with Annie May Johnston at the Ney Museum

## Budget Resolution

At the February meeting, membership will vote on the following resolution:

The HPNA membership authorizes each designated person listed below to pay expenses on behalf of the HPNA. Each designated person can approve any single expense up to the amount indicated in Column 1, until the accumulative spending reaches the budgeted amount for its category. After the budget is reached, each designated person can approve any single expense up to the amount indicated in Column 1, until the accumulative amount is over the budget by the amount indicated in Column 2.

The HPNA Treasurer shall not pay any expense unless approved in writing or by email by a designated person, according to the table below. Only the HPNA Treasurer is authorized to pay expenses on behalf of the HPNA.

Approval Levels	Column 1 Any One Item within Budget	Column 2 Accumulative out of Budget
President	\$7,500	\$750
Vice President	\$3,750	\$375
Homes Tour Chair if Homes Tour related	\$3,750	\$0
Treasurer	\$200	\$0
Committee Chair	\$50	\$0
Steering Committee	Unlimited	\$2,000

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### Membership Information

- Membership in HPNA is open to all residents 18 years or older residing within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of its boundaries.
- University students are free.
- All memberships expire on December 31st of each year.
- 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.
- Membership dues can be paid in several ways: By signing up at an HPNA meeting or event, by mailing in the membership form, or by joining online using PayPal. To pay online, go to [www.austinhypark.org](http://www.austinhypark.org) and click on the **Join Now** button. Dues paid online are \$6.

### Submission Information

- Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at [lweidlich@mail2sevens.com](mailto:lweidlich@mail2sevens.com).  
*Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.*
- Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at [herzele@gmail.com](mailto:herzele@gmail.com).  
*All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.*

### Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Notify me by email of HPNA meetings & events \_\_\_\_\_

Dues per Person  Standard - \$5/yr.  Check

Senior - \$1/yr.  Cash

Student - Free

New Member Date \_\_\_\_\_

Renewing Member Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

HPNA Membership

P.O. Box 49427

Austin, Texas 78765

Make checks payable to HPNA.

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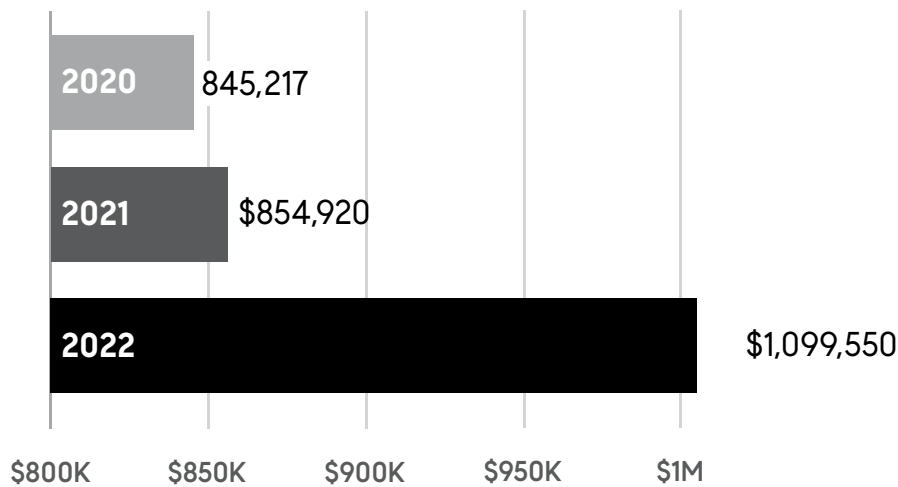
# Central Austin Specialist

Sam Archer, Juice Real Estate Group  
512.633.4650 | [sam.archer@compass.com](mailto:sam.archer@compass.com)

As a Central Austin REALTOR and resident, I have keen insight into what makes this neighborhood special and how to communicate that value to buyers and sellers. I love this neighborhood and that connection makes a difference. Whether you are buying or selling, I will help you with incomparable professional experience and personal commitment that goes beyond the transaction.



## Average Sales Price: 2020—2022



For more detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker Associate.

All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family homes

Compass is a licensed real estate broker. All material is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description or measurements (including square footage). This is not intended to solicit property already listed. No financial or legal advice provided. Equal Housing Opportunity. Photos may be virtually staged or digitally enhanced and may not reflect actual property conditions.

# Hyde Park Contact Team February 4 Special Called Meeting: Historical Building Survey Report

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team will hold a special called meeting this month to present and discuss the City of Austin's Historic Building Survey Report. The survey was recently conducted in Hyde Park and several other central Austin neighborhoods.

When: Saturday, February 4, 3 to 5pm

Where: Church of Christ in Hyde Park, West 43rd Street at Avenue B (Please enter from parking lot; many thanks to the church for the use of their space.)

Emily Thompson Payne, president of Hardy Heck Moore and the city's consultant for the project, will present the survey's findings, which include a recommendation for a Local Historic District in North Hyde Park above 45th Street. The Contact Team will also discuss possible next steps to consider any new local historic districts and/or landmark designations.

The survey and report encompass several Central Austin neighborhoods, but only the area within the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan will be discussed

at the February 4 meeting. Neighborhood Plan boundaries are as follows:

North: 51st Street

South: 38th Street

East: Duval from 38th to 45th; Red River from 45th Street to 51st Street

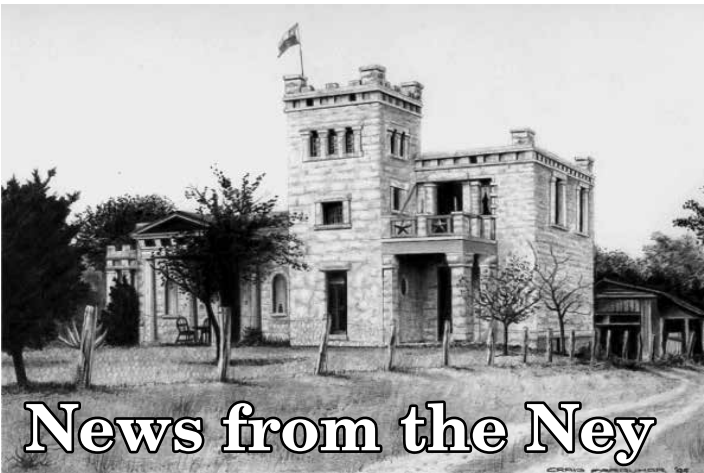
West: Guadalupe from 38th Street to 47th Street; Rowena from 47th Street to 51st Street

The entire survey report, which is quite lengthy, is available at the following link: [https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Housing\\_%20Planning/Historic%20Preservation/Historic%20Surveys/2021\\_NCA\\_WestCampus\\_NUni\\_Heritage\\_BrykerWoods\\_NHydePark/\\_Historic-Bldg-Survey\\_North-Central-Austin\\_FINAL\\_2021-01-08.pdf](https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Housing_%20Planning/Historic%20Preservation/Historic%20Surveys/2021_NCA_WestCampus_NUni_Heritage_BrykerWoods_NHydePark/_Historic-Bldg-Survey_North-Central-Austin_FINAL_2021-01-08.pdf).

Hope to see you on February 4 for what promises to be an interesting discussion.

— Barbara Gibson  
Chair, Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team

*The Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team is established under Austin Land Development Code Section 25-1-805 and serves as designated steward of the area's city-approved Neighborhood Plan.*



Come experience the new exhibition at the Elisabet Ney Museum, *the Mother the Witch the Hysterical*, by Annie May Johnston! The Museum continues to present local contemporary female-identifying artists within the walls of Miss Ney's former studio, Formosa. This spring, the Ney welcomes Johnston as she works in collaboration with Elisabet Ney's striking sculpture of Lady Macbeth. Johnston's unique printmaking practice employs new technologies alongside traditional processes. Considering gendered traits, the supernatural, and pseudo-science, her new artwork combines images and interpretations of Lady Macbeth, Elisabet Ney, and herself. This exhibition is in partnership with PrintAustin, an artist-led nonprofit organization working to showcase traditional and

contemporary approaches in printmaking.

Johnston is an artist and mother holding a position as Assistant Professor at The University of Texas at Austin. She received her MFA in Print from The University of Texas at Austin and holds undergraduate degrees in Classics and Psychology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Johnston has shown internationally and nationally, including shows in Basel, New York, Houston, and London. Visit the museum and experience her spring solo exhibition displayed from January 25 to March 5 and join us for her artist talk on March 4 from 2 to 4pm.

You can find out more about the Elisabet Ney Museum and the artists on our website at <https://www.theney.org/>.

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# HPNA General Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2023

## Meeting Topic: Crime Prevention

President Kevin Heyburn opened the meeting at 7:05 pm. He reminded attendees of volunteer opportunities as co-Secretary and on the Membership Committee.

**Vote on Proposed HPNA 2023 Budget.** David Conner presented the proposed budget based on Finance Committee estimates for 2023. Estimated income is \$42,000; expenses are estimated at \$60,000. David noted that the \$18,000 deficit is a bookkeeping line, as expenses typically come in under estimate. He also noted that there is money in the association's bank account to cover expenses should they be higher than usual.

Big budget items for 2023 include new membership software, storage facility rental, and a Preservation and Development allowance. Volunteer Appreciation is a new line item. Katie Turner explained that HPNA must pay \$5000 to the city for Fire Station Festival permits, along with occasional unanticipated expenses. Though an Egg Scramble, another line item, is not planned, there might be an Easter Bunny Parade.

David explained that the Huffstickler line item reflects possible future maintenance costs for the pocket park at 38th Street and Duval. He also noted that Kevin will coordinate a meeting with the co-Treasurers and Steering Committee member Stephen Gonzalez to explore strategies for increasing interest income.

Kevin called the question and the budget passed with none opposed. Another vote will be called at the February meeting to authorize the Steering Committee and HPNA officers' spending authority.

**Crime Prevention Presentation by APD Officer James Hyatt, Hyde Park's APD District Representative.** Officer Hyatt, who has been with the Austin Police Department for 22 years, is one of two officers assigned as a District Representative (DR) to the Hyde Park area. He explained that the District Representative program is designed to deal with ongoing issues, with the goal of responding promptly to residents' calls and concerns.

With a current focus on the homeless, DRs are currently assisting in the cleanup of approximately 400 camps. In response to a question, Officer Hyatt noted that camping is a Class C misdemeanor, and that individuals who are charged generally return to their former camping site. The city has provided 80 spots for homeless camps. The state in turn has sponsored Camp Esperanza, which has filled up quickly. The perception is that state support is not sufficient to

Continued on page 9

## Words of William, Bard of Avon

by der Brat

S H A K E S P E A R E W O R D S  
H O W A B O U T Y O U E A T N C  
A P R O L O G U E G U A C F O R  
P R E E N I N G U G M U C H C I  
E A R N P U T O N B U N S O A P  
U P O N A U F O I L O I N N E T  
P U T I N A T T H I S S H E B U  
S O H O W O I A T T I C S S W R  
S I G N T O I A T E V E N T R E  
E X U D N O T C N I G H T Y I C  
N I O B E C I C I D O N U T N R  
D A H W E R E I N P E N S I K E  
L E T P K I N D N E S S I V L I  
O R X U N D O N E P O U T E E F  
B E X A R G L I S T E R S R S O  
T R E S S E N D A M R P I B B S

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

- The devil can cite ?\_? for his purpose. (9)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- No legacy is so rich as ?\_ (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- Though she be but little, she is ?\_ (6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What is past is ?\_ (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- One touch of ?\_? make the whole world kin. (6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? should be made of sterner stuff. (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Modest doubt is called the ?\_? of the wise. (6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- With mirth's laughter let old ?\_? come. (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? be my friend. (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? is an idle and most false imposition. (10)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- All that ?\_? is not gold. (8) \_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? is the root of all heartache. (11)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- My ?\_? will tell the anger of my heart. (6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? is the soul of wit. (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? doth make cowards of us all. (10)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? always haunts the guilty mind. (9)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? is free. (7) \_\_\_\_\_
- ?\_? in women ... shall win my love. (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Love is merely a ?\_?. (7) \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 14



5108 Woodview Ave. • \$2,495,000  
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SOLD



505 E 40th St. • \$1,650,000  
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SOLD



5514 Evans Ave. • \$1,190,000  
Duplex • 6 beds • 4 baths • 2,516 sq. ft



604 E 42nd St. • \$995,000  
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,515 sq. ft.



9707 Vista View Dr. • \$855,000  
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,980 sq. ft.

SOLD



4521 Speedway • \$795,000  
3 beds • 2 bath • 1,224 sq. ft.

SOLD



3008 East 16th St. • \$795,000  
3 beds • 2 baths • 1,592 sq. ft.

SOLD



4410 Hank Avenue. • \$795,000  
2 beds • 2.5 baths • 1,616 sq. ft.

SOLD



## Tammy Young

Owner, Broker, Realtor®, GRI,  
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## REAL ESTATE BY THE NUMBERS

Austin Board of Realtors, MLS data shown is for Austin area addresses December, 2022



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# January Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 7

meet Austin's needs. In response to another question, Officer Hyatt said that overnight camping at Austin public parks is not allowed. He said he would look into the issue at Shipe Park.

Officer Hyatt stressed the current APD staffing crisis, noting that 350 officers are currently eligible for retirement. The APD eight-month Academy, which trains 40 officers every year (and is shifting its focus to more community policing), cannot make up the shortfall; the city needs two academy classes a year just to maintain current staff levels. Officer Hyatt also noted that recruiting is difficult now, with competitive pay being a critical factor; the Department is now working with the city on a contract.

After noting that vehicle and residential burglaries are the most common crimes committed in Hyde Park, Officer Hyatt provided these safety tips:

- Be alert to jugging, a practice where individuals sitting outside banks follow and rob their victims.
- Be aware of your surroundings; when you're in a public place pay attention to who comes and who goes.
- Remove from your vehicles – or hide – all items of value.

- Walk around your residence looking for ways to "harden the target," that is, make your home uninviting to burglars: Make sure curtains close completely and that the exterior is well lit. Remember that burglaries tend to happen in the day, when many people are at work. Make it appear that someone is inside when you are gone: Turn the radio on, use automatic timers, try to suggest activity.
- Dogs are effective deterrents.
- Watch out for one another! Keep an eye on your neighbors' homes and report any suspicious activity.

In response to a question about calling 911, Officer Hyatt noted that staff refer calls as appropriate. He also noted that 311 contacts have up to five days to respond to calls. After that, individuals can call the department and speak to a supervisor. (District Representatives do not investigate crimes.)

Officer Hyatt's contact info will be on the HPN website and Facebook. Kevin also recognized Kristen Remeza as the neighborhood's Crime and Safety liaison; her contact information is on the website and page 2 of this newsletter.

Continued on page 12

## Around & About the Avenues

**Sunshine Community Gardens Spring Sale.** Time to plan your spring veggie garden! On Saturday, March 4, Sunshine Community Gardens — Austin's urban oasis that partners with the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and where organic food and flowers have flourished since 1979 — will host its Annual Plant Sale. Gates open at 9am with a musical parade. Learn from knowledgeable gardeners while you choose from dozens of organic tomato, pepper, and herb varieties; teach your child to pull a fresh carrot from the ground; and visit the booths of local vendors. There will be 20,000 plants at 4814 Sunshine Drive! For more information, visit: [sunshinecommunitygardens.org](http://sunshinecommunitygardens.org).



**Thank You from Ridgetop Girl Scout Troop.** Girl Scout Troop 1387, who marched in the Hyde Park Holiday Parade, sent the HPNA a Thank You for hosting the parade. Thank you, Ridgetop Girl Scouts, for your participation!





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# I-35 Expansion Plans...

## ...cont'd from page 1

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Concerned that this project will burden central Austin neighborhoods with nearly a decade of construction for a design that will neither help ease the frustration of congestion or improve the quality of life in surrounding neighborhoods, the HPNA Steering Committee, along with HPNA's NCINC representatives Kathy Jackson and Duncan Meisel, have crafted a letter to deliver to TxDOT during its public comment period, which ends on March 7.

This public comment period is a critical window for submitting feedback to TxDOT on this once-in-a-lifetime project and is the last chance for public input prior to TxDOT's final design, anticipated this summer. The HPNA Steering Committee strongly recommends that all Hyde Park residents provide their feedback directly to TxDOT at <https://my35capex.com/draft-eis/>.

At our February General Meeting, Hyde Park residents will take up a vote on whether to endorse the Steering Committee's letter to TxDOT. The full text of the draft letter is as follows:

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) submits the following feedback on the Texas Department of Transportation's I-35 Capital Express Central Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Decades of uncertainty over the future of Interregional Highway 35 (I-35) have blighted and disconnected neighborhoods along it; impeded east-west travel and imperiled the safety of people traveling on foot, by bicycle, and in cars; and left residents concerned for the long-term health of their families and communities. A renovation is long overdue.

But expanding the Central Segment of I-35 is not the answer. We can reasonably agree that improvements to I-35 are badly needed, but we also recognize that when TxDOT expands capacity on our roadways, more vehicle traffic follows congestion worsens, and the roadways become more dangerous. Neighborhoods through which TxDOT has chosen to expand highways disproportionately bear the brunt of increased pollution, negative financial impacts and years of construction disruption.

As a pragmatic response to the DEIS, HPNA recognizes that TxDOT possesses the directive and funding to expand the physical footprint of I-35 as part of its Capital Express Central project; and, despite growing concerns that previous community comments are not sufficiently reflected in current design alternatives, we accept the need to work with TxDOT in this current project to minimize the many negative outcomes for human health and vibrancy in central Austin neighborhoods.

For almost 50 years, HPNA has fostered a closer, more genuine community of neighbors and worked to preserve and improve the historic and unique character, amenities, and ecology of the neighborhood. The current I-35 expansion proposal is incompatible with our shared goals of creating a healthy neighborhood and represents a potential permanent barrier to accomplishing them in the future.

Therefore, HPNA calls for revisions to TxDOT's preferred alternative Modified Alternative 3 and conditions any future support for TxDOT's expansion of I-35 upon TxDOT and the City of Austin committing to the following design elements for the entire Central Segment:

- *Increase the total number and frequency of at-grade crossings.* I-35 severely limits east and west access between neighborhoods and creates unnecessary obstacles to travel. Modified Alternative 3 does not provide badly-needed additional crossing opportunities, maintaining disconnection between neighborhoods. At a minimum, TxDOT should provide a fully accessible crossing at least every half mile on I-35 and pedestrians and bicyclists should never be relegated to tunnels or raised crossings simply to cross the street.
- *Enable covering I-35 in north central Austin and other locations not previously enabled by TxDOT.* "Decking" or "capping" over the highway provides clear community benefit by removing noise and air pollution from neighborhoods and creating new shared public spaces. TxDOT should commit to designing for future covering of I-35 through residential neighborhoods along I-35, not just in central business districts as currently proposed. Trade-offs such as removal of ramps should be weighed against other community benefits that can be achieved through additional covering of I-35.
- *Reduce the physical impact of I-35 on surrounding neighborhoods.* Surface streets should reflect City of Austin standards, including street trees and designs that are compatible with urban neighborhoods. The current plans do not sufficiently support the safety, comfort, and health of all users. TxDOT has demonstrated the ability to work within areas of limited right-of-way in this project; this innovation should be employed more extensively to reduce crossing distances and right-of-way needed for the project, which should be limited to 30 mph speeds or less and limited to no more than two lanes in each direction.

We also call on City Council and the City of Austin to support the health of residents and neighborhoods—who are affected daily by I-35 and face the harm of increased air, water, and noise pollution and health impacts such as asthma, particularly in children, and who will live with nearly a decade of construction impacts if this project moves forward—by identifying and supporting revisions to Modified Alternative 3 that further common goals of health, access, and community strength.

Each time TxDOT has acted on community input on I-35, a better version of the project has followed. The current design will benefit from greater, deliberate engagement with HPNA and its close neighbors; and we look forward to seeing revisions to put this project on a path toward better supporting the needs of travelers and commuters as well as the communities who live with I-35 every day.

Respectfully submitted,

On behalf of the Hyde Park  
Neighborhood Association

## January Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 9

**Update on Membership Software and Discussion of Possible Raising of Membership Dues.** Chris Wooster described the new system, called GlueUp, as a very effective database software that will replace the current use of spreadsheets for tracking membership. Prospective members will be able to join through email and pay online using credit or debit card. QR codes can be scanned, and there will be an auto-renew option. People can continue to pay with checks or cash if they prefer.

The contract with GlueUp has been finalized, and membership database and emails have been set up. The software is now being tested, and will soon be available through the HPNA website. Members will shortly get an email reminder to renew for 2023. (Note that members who paid dues in October 2022 are considered paid up through this year.) In the second phase, about 600 residents who are not current members will be invited to join.


Chris noted the software will help HPNA maintain healthy membership rolls. Membership numbers have been declining over the years. This is especially undesirable because when neighborhood association numbers dwindle, the neighborhood's influence with the city diminishes. The new system will also provide up-to-date membership data.

On the topic of membership dues, Kevin asked that discussion be postponed until more information is collected.

**Update on I-35.** Brendan Wittstruck briefly summarized the work of North Central I-35 Neighborhood Coalition (NCINC), of which he is Chair. NCINC is a coalition of 13 Austin neighborhood associations that is trying to get the best possible outcome with respect to the I 35 Capital Express Project. This TxDOT project proposes a complete rebuild of I-35 between Highway 290 and State Highway 71 (Ben White Boulevard). Brendan noted that the plan involves widening I-35 by up to a hundred feet through north central Austin without adding any additional crossings or other improvements that would improve the quality of life for residents living along and near the highway.

Brendan explained that TxDOT began its required environmental review in November 2020 and released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement last week. The Statement includes an assessment of two design alternatives and a "no-build" alternative and covers environmental consequences including right-of-way and displacements, community impacts, cultural resources, water and biological features, air quality, noise, induced growth, and construction impacts, among other criteria.

Continued on page 14



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# Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston



## Recycling Journeys

My readers often ask, "What happens to some of the items we recycle?" This issue of "Lettuce Recycle" will explore the journey of metal, styrofoam, electronics, and tires after they leave the City of Austin's Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center (RRDOC).

### Styrofoam

Styrofoam cups, meat trays, egg cartons, and so forth are collected at the RRDOC. They are then shredded and melted to condense the material for shipping. The material is then sent to various manufacturing facilities to be made into products such as baseboards, crown molding, and attic insulation.

### Electronics

Electronic devices contain valuable precious metals such as gold, silver, platinum, palladium, copper, tin, and zinc. When they are disassembled, these precious metals are recovered and used in products such as jewelry, plating, new electronics, and automotive parts. Plastic components are used in new electronic devices or other plastic products. All electronic devices are sent to a company in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This company meets very strict standards for wiping hard drives to protect the security of the donors.

### Metal

Various metals and steel are baled and shipped to a steel mill or foundry, where they are mixed with other metals like automobile parts. Everything is melted in a furnace at nearly 3000 degrees. They are then cast into ingots (bricks) to be used in manufacturing.

### Tires

Tires are sent to a vendor to be shredded. This material is then used for making road beds and playground surfaces.

### Leaves - The Gift that Keeps on Giving!

Leaf collection in Austin is an ongoing process during the fall, winter, and spring. Here are some guidelines to help with leaf disposal.

Leaves are collected curbside in the green compost bin. They can also be placed in paper leaf bags and personal collection cans. There is currently a limit of 15 extra bags or cans per household per pickup. These leaves go to Organics by Gosh, where they are turned into compost. Organics by Gosh is the City's contracted compost company, located in Elgin, Texas.



Please do not put leaves in plastic bags curbside. They are collected as trash and the customer is charged \$10.20 (plus tax) per bag. These leaves go to the landfill

### Questions and Answers

**Why do we still have to make an appointment to go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center?** As with most industries post-COVID, the RRDOC has had difficulty obtaining and keeping employees. Scheduling appointments has become a way of assisting them in scheduling staff. The quickest link to schedule an appointment is <https://www.austintexas.gov/dropoffschedule>.

**Are the plastic netting that is wrapped around Christmas trees and the net-like bags that lemons and oranges come in recyclable in the plastic bag collection bins?** No, they are not. It is difficult to handle and process at the facilities that recycle plastic.

**My Keurig cup says "recyclable." Is it?** No, the single-use coffee and tea pods are not recyclable in our market. The containers are too small to be collected for processing.

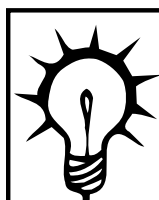
**Can greeting cards with batteries be recycled?** The batteries need to be removed from the musical greeting cards and be recycled with batteries. Once the battery is out, the rest of the card can go into the recycling bin, providing it doesn't have any glitter, flocking, or other adornments on the card.

**PLEASE REMEMBER -  
WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!**

**NOTHING SMALLER THAN A  
CREDIT CARD IN THE BLUE BIN.**

Remember the City of Austin recycling website:  
<http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips for creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to [recycling@hpwbana.org](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).



**Pecan Press is online at  
[www.austinhydepark.org](http://www.austinhydepark.org)**

## It's My Park Day... ...cont'd from page 1

This is your opportunity to pitch in to improve our play areas, show love to our trees, clean up Waller Creek, and prepare the park for the months ahead. Bring your kids to instill in them early the practices of volunteerism and stewardship.

Friends of Shipe Park will host It's My Park Day at Shipe Park on Saturday, March 4, from 1am to 1pm. Sign up will begin on February 7. (Keep an eye out for a signup link on the Friends of Shipe Park website and Facebook page as well as the neighborhood list serve.)

For those who are not familiar with it, It's My Park Day (IMPD) is a citywide event organized by the Austin Parks Foundation to galvanize volunteers to improve our neighborhood parks. Friends of Shipe Park sponsors the IMPD activities at the park, and we always have a robust turnout for the work done there. IMPD is a wonderful community event that will help the park while you get to know your neighbors. There is nothing like digging in the dirt, weeding, and aerating around your favorite old tree next to a bunch of friendly folks with common interests. Come join us!

As in years past, we'll have similar groundskeeping goals:

- Mulching trees
- Spreading compost
- Cleanup of the landscape and beds around the pool

We will also ask volunteers to bring garden tools if they have them (and make sure to label them with your name, so they make it home with you at the end!). These are the kinds of things we can always use:

- Work gloves
- Wheelbarrow (we always need more of these than we have)
- Garden forks
- Shovels
- Pitchfork
- Water bottle
- Wheelbarrow (yes, I listed it twice – we really do need them!)

It's going to be a fun few hours of hard work and good times together! There will be snacks provided by Quack's, along with music. Please wear work clothes and long sleeves.

And if you'd like to learn more about the Friends of Shipe Park, and how to get involved both for this event and in general, contact Jill Nokes ([jill@jillnokes.com](mailto:jill@jillnokes.com)).

– Kristen Remeza

## January Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 12

Among several alternatives, the Modified Alternative 3 is now the preferred option. TxDOT estimates this design will cost \$4.5 billion, expand I-35 by 42 acres (including 107 displacements), and have a minimum construction length of six years.

The 60-day public comment period spans January 6 to March 7. TxDOT will also host a virtual and in-person public hearing on February 9 from 5 to 7pm.

Brendan encouraged members to comment:

- email: [capexcentral@txdot.gov](mailto:capexcentral@txdot.gov)
- voicemail comment: (512) 651-2948
- mail: I-35 Capital Express Central Project Team, 1608 W. 6th Street, Austin, TX 78703
- online: [My35CapEx.com](http://My35CapEx.com) or [TxDOT.gov](http://TxDOT.gov)

Brendan also asked that members consider contacting City Council with concerns:

- Mayor Kirk Watson
- Council Member Zohaib "Zo" Qadri, District 9

For the next step, Brendan and HPNA officials will draft a resolution providing feedback and concerns to TxDOT. At the HPNA February meeting the resolution will be presented and put to a vote.

At next month's meeting the issues will be explored in greater depth, including the part of the plan involving the 45th Street and Airport Boulevard exchange.

You can contact Brendan at [brwittstruck@gmail.com](mailto:brwittstruck@gmail.com). For more information, see his January 9 email to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Group.

The invited speaker from Helping Hand Home for Children was not able to attend the meeting. She plans to present at the February meeting.

During general announcements, Jim Ellinger noted that a new mural honoring César Chávez, founder of the United Farm Workers of America, was unveiled on January 9 at Waller and Cesar Chavez Streets. Jim provided attendees with photocopied documents about Chávez's life and accomplishments.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

– Minutes submitted by Katie Vignery  
HPNA Co-Secretary

### Word Find Answers from page 7

- 1)SCRIPTURE; 2)HONESTY;
- 3)FIERCE; 4)PROLOGUE;
- 5)NATURE; 6)AMBITION;
- 7)BEACON; 8)WRINKLES;
- 9)BOLDNESS; 10)REPUTATION;
- 11)GLISTERS; 12)EXPECTATION;
- 13)TONGUE; 14)BREVITY; 15)CONSCIENCE; 16)SUSPICION;
- 17)THOUGHT; 18)KINDNESS;
- 19)MADNESS

SHAKESPEAREWORDS  
HOWABOUTYOU EATING  
A PROLOGUE EAT AC FOR  
PREENING UG M UCH  
EARNPUTON BUNSOAP  
UPON A UFO LOINSET  
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