

# July Meeting

## HPNA General Meeting Agenda for July 10

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

Meeting Topic: Sidewalks in Austin

- ◆ Presentation by John Eastman, City of Austin Sidewalk Program
- ◆ Updates:
  - Membership Software
  - 2023 Homes Tour
  - New HPNA Business Membership
- ◆ Announcements

We hope to see you at the meeting!

Not an HPNA member?

You're welcome to join the meeting anyway!

Join Zoom Meeting at 7 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4738130850?pwd=V3hIKzhLVGx1VTNqVCtVTHVZeVZYUT09>

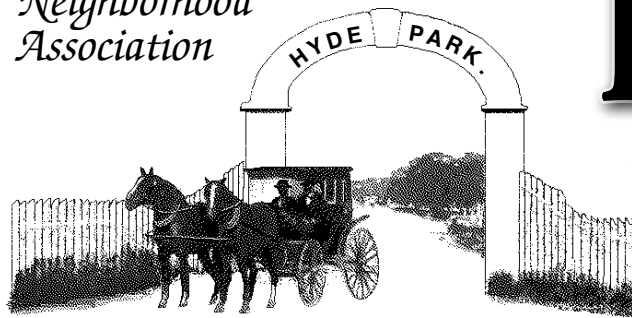
Meeting ID: 473 813 0850

Passcode: 728004

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,4738130850#,,\*728004# US (Houston)

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The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association



# Pecan Press

July 2023 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 49, No. 07

## Hyde Park Today: The Evolution of a Livable Urban Neighborhood

This article is the seventh in a series covering the evolution of Hyde Park from its initial platting to the walkable, complete community it is today. Each installment has been published in the *Pecan Press* and will be collected on the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association website at <http://www.austinhdepark.org>.

Since our last pre-pandemic installment in November of 2019, Austin and Hyde Park have experienced many changes.

First, the controversial overhaul of the city's Land Development Code (a.k.a. CodeNext) was halted after a citywide group of residents sued, alleging that the city had violated state law by failing to provide proper notification. Since that time, a new majority of the Austin City Council appears intent on adopting various parts of CodeNext in a piecemeal fashion. Though they no doubt mean well, council members should understand the impacts these changes will have on existing neighborhoods and that every new entitlement given to developers undercuts the city's only remaining leverage to ensure affordable housing units in new projects. (The Texas Legislature has already prohibited cities from enacting other traditional tools such as rent control, inclusionary zoning, and any wage requirements higher than the current federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour.)

Proponents of CodeNext and these more recent code changes have rallied around the notion that the current Land Development Code must be replaced in order to build anything in Austin. Yet one has only to look to the thousands of building permits issued, as well as the high rises and six-story apartment buildings now lining North and South Lamar, Burnet Road, and South Congress Avenue, to question the accuracy of that opinion. In fact, Austin led the nation in issuing the most single-family and multi-family building permits per capita in 2022, and early 2023 reports show that lead continuing, albeit with precious little affordable housing to show for it. It appears this continued push for code revisions is less about affordability and more about densifying older central city

## HYDE PARK HOMES TOUR



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Continued on page 8

# From the Desk of the President



At our July General Meeting, our primary speaker will be John Eastman from the City of Austin Sidewalks Program. The City plans to build a number of new sidewalks in Hyde Park.

Elsewhere in this issue is a map of where those sidewalks are going to be placed and a short explanation of the rules governing the placement of sidewalks. Many neighbors would like to see more sidewalks in Hyde Park, and some neighbors would rather not have sidewalks placed in front of their homes. Whichever type of neighbor you are, please come to the General Meeting with your questions.

July's meeting will be our last General Meeting of the summer. We will take a break in August. Our next General Meeting will be on Monday,

September 11, when we plan to host our newly elected City Council Member Zo Qadri.

The Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour Committee is meeting regularly to plan the neighborhood's annual homes tour, scheduled for Sunday, November 12. We will have some wonderful homes on the tour and we are grateful to all the generous owners who have made their homes available. The tour will need around 130 volunteers, so please consider volunteering to help make the tour a success. To volunteer, please email me at [kmheyburn@gmail.com](mailto:kmheyburn@gmail.com).

My June President's letter discussed bills under consideration at the Legislature that could potentially affect Austin's zoning and by extension Hyde Park. As the Legislative session came to an end, none of those bills passed into law, although there is a possibility some of them could be revived in a special session called by the Governor.

While the Legislature's attempts to enact state-wide zoning failed, the *Austin Chronicle* reported that the City Council has set in motion the process of easing the current compatibility zoning rules that now limit the building height of housing developments near single-family homes. This action could potentially affect parts of Hyde Park. And the *Austin Monitor* reported that the City Council has begun the process of removing the occupancy limits placed on single-family homes, raising the possibility that single-family homes could turn into what opponents of this arrangement call "stealth dorms." City staff has been instructed to draft code language to carry out these plans by this fall.

In June, Hyde Park celebrated a number of wonderful community events. Thank you to the Friends of Shipe Park for having another successful Shipe Pool Party. Thank you to Jim Ellinger and Karen Horan for hosting their fantastic annual Flag Day Celebration. Thank you to those who supported and participated in the HPNA's big Ice Cream Social at the Ney Museum. Ice Cream Social sponsors included the Elisabet Ney Museum, Quack's Bakery, Allday Pizzeria, Fairweather Cider Company, First Light Cafe & Bookshop, and the Tiny Grocer. A big thank you to all the Ice Cream Social volunteers and to Steering Committee member Stephen Gonzalez, who organized the event.

— 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

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### Co-Vice Presidents

• Kathy Jackson  
• Paul Smith

### Co-Secretaries

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### Additional Steering Committee Members:

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

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Homes Tour • Vacant

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## Pecan Press

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## Submissions to Pecan Press

• Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at [lweidlich@mail2sevensas.com](mailto:lweidlich@mail2sevensas.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.*

# Neighborhood Updates

## Hyde Park Sidewalks

Editor's Note: A representative from the City of Austin Sidewalk Program will be presenting a program on this topic at the July meeting. See the meeting information on page 1.

Neighbors, the City of Austin has embarked on a plan to repair some sidewalks and build a number of new sidewalks in Hyde Park. You might have received a post card and link to a map but this is very sketchy information. Adding sidewalks is generally a good thing to enhance the walkability of the neighborhood but there are a few things you should know.

Where is your property and where is the city right of way? You likely have a survey of your property that indicates your property lines. Everything outside of these is either another private property or City of Austin alley or street right of way (ROW). Most Avenues in Hyde Park are 60' wide with about 30' of pavement. The rest is usually about 15' on each side which might have sidewalks and is intended for public passage other than in vehicles in the paved roadway. There is room for street trees between the sidewalk and curb.

While you have to maintain any vegetation in the ROW, you may not place fences or other items in this space and it is possible that some might have to move.

The city's standard location of public sidewalks is 2' from property lines; once you locate your property lines, you can tell where sidewalks belong. Sidewalks should be continuous on a block and inline block to block. Today at intersections the city places accessible

**Continued on page 13**

## Water and Wastewater Renewal Project

Last September we published information from the City about the Hyde Park Water and Wastewater Renewal Project part of Renewing Austin, an Austin Water program to replace and upgrade aging water lines. The project will replace about 18,940 linear feet of water and wastewater lines. This project is still very much in progress, closing or partially closing portions of streets north of 45th Street on a regular basis. The project website is [austintexas.gov/hydeparkwater](http://austintexas.gov/hydeparkwater).

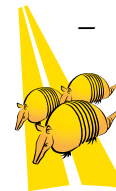
Because it has been almost a year since we have published an update on this, I recently requested an update from Lisa Whitworth, the project manager. Ms. Whitworth's response to my query follows:

Good morning,

The short answer is that roughly 50% of the project is done. We have run into conflicts on just about every street we have worked on. The crews are doing their best to work around what they can. The gas company is working to get four locations moved out of the way of our lines.

Lisa Whitworth  
Project Management Division  
[lisa.whitworth@austintexas.gov](mailto:lisa.whitworth@austintexas.gov)

— Lisa Harris



### Join the HPNA

• Residents 18 or older and living inside or directly across the street from the boundaries of Hyde Park are welcome to join the HPNA. Current members may vote on HPNA resolutions concerning issues facing our community.

• Memberships are \$5 per person per calendar year, expiring December 31. Seniors may join for \$1 per person per calendar year. University student memberships are free.

• New members and members who lapse in dues over six months are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.

To join, use one of the following methods:

- Apply and pay online at [austinhydepark.org/contact](http://austinhydepark.org/contact).
- Complete and mail the form below, with cash or check payment.
- Visit one of our events, including our monthly meetings at the Griffin School (see front page for details).

To receive reminders about HPNA events, send an email to [subscribe+hpna-notice@googlegroups.com](mailto:subscribe+hpna-notice@googlegroups.com).

NOTE: HPNA does not share or sell contact information.

### Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dues per Person  Standard - \$5/yr.

Senior - \$1/yr.

Student - Free

New Member

Renewing Member

Check

Cash

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

HPNA Membership

P.O. Box 49427

Austin, Texas 78765

*Make checks payable to HPNA.*



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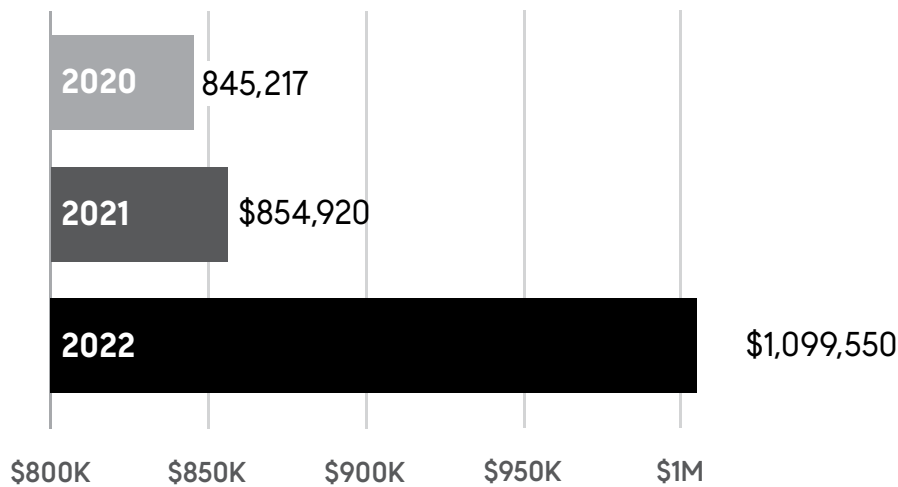
# Central Austin Specialist

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.

# Exploring the Trees of Hancock Golf Course

Three Girl Scouts, their (younger) sister troop, and the chaperoning adults walked out to Hancock Golf Course on a spring-ish day last year. Troop 45402, consisting of Avery Yadav, Abbey Amato, and Rebecca van Bavel, were looking at trees.

We learned about different types of trees and their importance to the wetland-y ecosystem, especially the Live Oaks, Ash Juniper trees, and all the manner of twisted centurions with rusted metal hardscape sticking out of them. Ecologically, the highest priority of Hancock Golf Course is its old trees. Erosion and inconsistent weather patterns as well as human error in the form of over pruning and the existence of too many cement features near the roots is causing the golf course to lose its trees.

Heritage Oaks are important in Austin and people are doing many things to protect them. According to the city of Austin, "Heritage Tree means a tree that has a diameter of 24 inches or more, measured four and one-half feet above natural grade, and is one of the following species: Texas Ash, Bald Cypress, American Elm, Cedar Elm, Texas Madrone, Bigtooth Maple, Pecan, Arizona Walnut, and Eastern Black Walnut, and all Oak Trees." (Ordinance 20100204-038). They have special protections because they are irreplaceable (at least for many, many years) and essential for all the flora and fauna.

We worked with Kit Hagin, who was then a University of Texas at Austin sustainability student and intern at the Shoal Creek Conservancy, to tag some heritage trees. We tried to catalog different types of heritage trees by measuring them, then using Google Maps to pinpoint their coordinates and specifics like diameter, stress levels, disrupted infrastructure, or an excess of parasitic mosses. Unfortunately, this did not work the way we were hoping



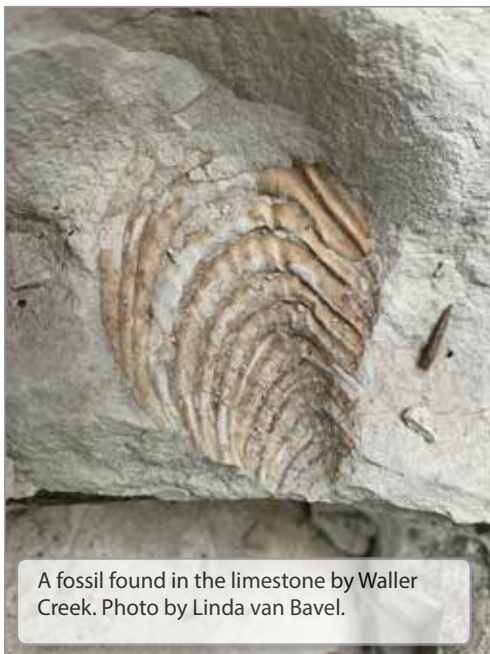
This is the group that spearheaded the project. The scouts in the photo received either their bronze or silver award from this project. Photo by Linda van Bavel.

due to external factors having to do with the software of the dataset. So, we pivoted to mapping the previously tagged trees (the trees with metal tags with a little number), and using these tags we were able to catalog the quantity and quality of different types of heritage trees for My Tree Keeper. My Tree Keeper is a database that stores each tree's specific information including the tree, subzone, inventory date, growth space type, and location. We submitted the condition of these heritage trees and their current size.

Our troop created a poster of different types of trees we encountered with facts about different trees and artwork we created. You can find this poster in the Hancock Golf Course Recreation Center.

We are so glad to have this experience and share with y'all our findings and our love of all the big, old trees. We hope you can find joy in natural spaces like these and take a break to sit under a tree every once in a while.

— Rebecca van Bavel  
GSCTX Troop 45402



A fossil found in the limestone by Waller Creek. Photo by Linda van Bavel.



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What our clients are saying...

“ *This was an experience unlike anything we had seen before - we were given so much useful information in such an organized way, and we always felt completely supported by them. I would recommend them hands down.*  
-Lisa T.

*The team has great attention to detail and an unmatched willingness to find the answers to any questions we came up with. This was our third property transaction with Jen and her team, and we will never use anyone else.*”  
-Stacy B.



Jen Berbas

Your Hyde Park Neighbor  
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Jen@BerbasGroup.com

Read what others are saying:





# Monthly Calendar

## July

- 4 — Happy Independence Day!
- 8 — Family Day at the Ney
- 10 — General Meeting
- 13 — Alejandra Almuella Artist Talk at the Ney
- 14 — Recycling Pickup
- 17 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 22 — Family Day at the Ney
- 28 — Recycling Pickup

# 7<sup>th</sup> Street Candle Company Lights up 41<sup>st</sup> Street

A new shop has joined the growing list of Hyde Park businesses. Audrey Jahanian and Zaid Gallo

opened the doors to their brick-and-mortar workshop on May 1 after three years in the candle-making business. The shop focuses on collaborating with other small businesses, sharing knowledge through workshops and tutorials, and



Audrey Jahanian and Zaid Gallo in Aroma Room. Photo by Ellie Hanlon.

selecting materials with an eye toward environmental responsibility. The peaceful, welcoming interior is full of natural light and plants that serve as a serene backdrop for the variety of local wares for sale and hands-on workshops.

In 2018, Audrey and Zaid began making candles as gifts for friends, and a crafty hobby that blended his love of gardening with her art background was born. The soy wax candles contain no synthetic ingredients and incorporate botanical elements grown in their garden for fragrance and aesthetics. The candles are offered in traditional glass jars, hand carved wooden bowls, and locally made concrete vessels in a collaboration with local company forEver Wyld. They also offer custom candles for weddings and other private events and even created scentsational candles for local companies Café Medici, KUTX, and Hopsquad Brewery, among others. Items for sale from other area

Continued on page 9

# Sister Cities

## Word Find by der Brat

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

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. [Birmingham, AL] - Japanese city and electronics co. (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. [Austin] - Aussie city that also starts with A. (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. [San Jose, CA] - Irish capital. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. [Los Angeles] - Greek capital. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
5. [Houston] - used to be Constantinople. (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. [Cathedral City, CA] - what's in a margarita. (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. [Anchorage] - Aussie town named for British naturalist. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
8. [Phoenix] - Cowboy town in Canada. (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. [Tempe, AZ] - Where to find the Taj Mahal. (4)  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. [Beverly Hills] - West coast vacation spot in Mexico. (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. [San Francisco] - Used to be Saigon. (2,3,4,4)  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. [Atlanta] - Used to be capital of Nigeria. (5)  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. [Boston] - Home of 1992 Olympics. (9)  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. [New York] - Also has a Soho. (6) \_\_\_\_\_
15. [Denver] - Used to be Madras. (7) \_\_\_\_\_
16. [St. Louis] - Sounds like sausage or nonsense. (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. [St. Paul] - Victim of August 9, 1945 attack. (8)  
\_\_\_\_\_
18. [New Orleans] - Its namesake. (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_
19. [Baltimore] - Egyptian city known for its library. (10)  
\_\_\_\_\_
20. [Chicago] - Where to find Rick's in the movie. (9)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Answers on page 18

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# Hyde Park Today: The Evolution...

...cont'd from page 1

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neighborhoods into expensive and highly profitable apartment enclaves.

Here is a short list of ordinances the current City Council has already changed or has directed staff to return with drafts for consideration and adoption, many of which will have direct impacts on Hyde Park:

- **Compatibility.** In the past, Austin's compatibility provisions have kept large adjacent commercial properties from negatively impacting smaller homes and residences by providing a distance buffer between structures. The City Council had previously reduced the compatibility buffer from 540' to 300' but recently directed staff to reduce it again to 100' citywide.
- **Removing On-Site Parking Requirements.** City Council also recently directed staff to remove all on-site parking requirements for residential and commercial uses citywide. Staff was directed to address how accessible parking will be provided for those with mobility impairments but was not charged with any other planning related to this change, including where trash, recycling, and compost receptacles will go if and when streets are filled with parked cars. Many homes in Hyde Park are fortunate to have alley collection for refuse, but not all do.
- **Substandard Lots.** The current code provision regarding substandard lots, which has been on the books for many years, prevents the unraveling of consolidated tiny lots such as the 25' wide lots, which, grouped together, make up most properties in Hyde Park. The proposed change would enable existing homes that span more than one 25' lot to be removed and replaced with multiple 14' wide houses, each with three refuse receptacles and potentially no on-site parking.
- **Removing Occupancy Limits for Dwellings.** City Council recently removed occupancy limits for dwellings to allow up to three adults per bedroom, the maximum permitted under state law. In Hyde Park and other areas near campus, this change will once again allow construction of 12-bedroom super-duplexes to replace smaller, more affordable homes. A Board of Adjustment ruling eliminated this practice twenty years ago, stating the city code never intended to allow more than six unrelated adults per site, but this new change again opens the door to more expensive super-duplexes, likely with inadequate on-site parking.

Meanwhile, in Hyde Park, construction of second dwellings and house additions has continued at a rapid pace. In North Hyde Park, where there is no historic demolition protection, many modest older homes have been lost to larger, more expensive projects despite a recent city survey identifying potential historic districts in that area.

In addition, several larger projects have moved forward in Hyde Park, many of which have received strong neighborhood support:

- **The Baker School** was sold by AISD to the Alamo Drafthouse and received a rezoning to enable it to become an office building for Alamo's headquarters. Neighbors supported this change as well as a 50' tall housing development on the Baker site, which would have provided a percentage of affordable units. Unfortunately, the city later purchased the portion of the site where the housing development was to be built in order to provide flood control, also a pressing public need. This is an example of the difficulty in balancing conflicting public needs as, even with strong neighborhood support, the owners were unable to realize housing on this site. The City Council has since designated Baker School as a historic landmark.
- The three old homes at **405 and 407 West 39th Street** that could not be included in the Hyde Park Local Historic District were removed and rezoned for apartments, again with neighborhood support. City staff supported a plan for two-bedroom apartments, but the project was eventually built as four apartments totaling 26 bedrooms with only 12 parking spaces, which has created congestion near the Helping Hand Home.
- The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association supported zoning and new development for the **Helping Hand Home** on Avenue B. The new expansion has increased the nonprofit's capacity by 41%, including 17 additional beds in eight new homes, an education building, a playground, and a multipurpose space to provide training for foster families.
- **The Speedway Post Office** closed and the current owner is redeveloping the site in line with the zoning provisions negotiated by neighbors in the Hyde Park Neighborhood Conservation Combining District (NCCD) in 2002. The owner also proposed changing the zoning for the parking lot at 4307 Speedway, which had served as overflow parking for the post office, from its original multi-family zoning to commercial zoning, but has not pursued this change in the face of neighbors' desire for redevelopment of this site to provide housing.
- **Hyde Park High Street** has purchased the Hyde Park Bar & Grill parking lot and is intending to replace the commercial parking lot with a new commercial building providing compatibility to both the Duval Center and surrounding homes. Project owners are still in discussions with nearby neighbors and proposed changes have not yet been scheduled for hearings at Planning Commission or City Council.

Since the last installment in this series, neighbors have weathered a global pandemic, survived the deep freeze and power outages of 2021, and cleaned up countless downed tree limbs after the ice-pocalypse

Continued on page 13



# HPNA General Meeting Minutes: June 5, 2023

Kevin Heyburn called the meeting to order.

**AISD Vice President Kevin Foster.** The meeting began with a presentation by AISD School Board Vice President Kevin Foster, PhD. He was elected in 2020 and is our representative to the school board. He is a professor of anthropology at UT and a founding producer on PBS and lives in the North Loop neighborhood.

He began with an overview of the district: The district has about 115 campuses and just finished with graduation, which is a highlight of the year. Most of the campuses are elementary schools (about 97). The feeder patterns are clean on the west side, but on the east side there was more wheeling and dealing so it's a crazy jumble. For example, McCallum High School has children from many different feeder schools. The new superintendent started in January after the previous one was in office for two years, which didn't go well. Before that, there was a longer-standing superintendent. Foster is excited about the new superintendent because he is systems oriented, he has a local connection, and he has what the district needs. Foster talked about the winter storm and opening schools for warming shelters. He stated that the district has 11,000 employees, over 5,000 are teachers, and everyone is working hard. There is great diversity among the 72,000 students. About 20 percent of the students are newcomers, who arrived in the country in the last 3 years. The district builds apps to accommodate that. It also works hard to service the special education population. For example, Rosedale is a school for medically fragile children. Many school districts in Texas do not have the capacity to do that. It is much more expensive than what the State provides, which is about \$8,000 per student. Foster stated that the legislative session can be hard for the school district, partly because of unfunded mandates. The district offers wraparound services, for example, meals and teacher housing. Many teachers can't afford to live in Austin.

There was a question about services for kids with special needs. Dr. Foster stated that dyslexia is new to special ed. Testing was expanded, but services are having trouble keeping up. The pandemic was a setback. The last superintendent made everyone reapply and, in that process, the district lost staff. The new superintendent is helping. The district was behind by over 1,000 special education evaluations, out of compliance and under a lawsuit. The district is rapidly reducing the backlog; the question is how fast it can catch up. The State could appoint a conservator or a

Continued on page 15



## 7th Street Candle Company... ...cont'd from page 7

makers include Madhu Chocolate, Paper Committee and Kitchen Committee, Joon Spice, and Texas Coffee Traders.

Audrey and Zaid are passionate about partnering with local craftspeople to bring educational opportunities to the shop. Have you ever wanted to learn more about pickling, chocolate, flower arranging, or fiber arts? Those are just the workshop topics offered in July! In addition to hosting other teachers, Audrey and Zaid offer candle making workshops that include lessons in selecting aromatics for different effects and pouring techniques for different sized vessels. They also offer kits with all the materials to make your own candles at home.

In order to minimize waste, one of the lines of candles offered is a Mystery Candle where leftover waxes from multiple batches are combined (and tested for pleasing fragrance) to create a new scent. They also offer refill services for candle vessels and provide a box at the front of store for return of empty used candle vessels even if the candle was purchased elsewhere.



The shop is located at 507 W. 41st Street in a charming building from 1905. Retail operating hours are Wednesday through Saturday from noon to 4 pm. Pop on over and enjoy the aromas while browsing a wonderful selection of local and vintage goods.

— Ellie Hanlon



# Flag Day Celebration



Jim Ellinger Instructing the Flag Bearers.  
Photo by Kevin Heyburn.



The Parade Begins



The Doves Emerge



Flag Bearers



Flag Bearers Marching

# Ice Cream Social Recap

The Ice Cream Social was a tremendous success! Employees of the Elisabet Ney Museum stopped counting after they hit 600 attendees on the grounds on June 10.

The HPNA would like to thank our magnificent host, Elisabet Ney Museum, as well as our sponsors (and a few new neighbors) for their time and generosity in making the event a memorable one! In no particular order, we would like to recognize Allday Pizza, Fairweather Cider, Quack's Bakery,

Tiny Grocer, and First Light Books. Hyde Park is very lucky to have such fantastic local businesses within our neighborhood!

Collectively, neighbors consumed over 500 individually wrapped ice cream treats, 40 pizzas, seven



Quack's Provides Refreshments and Cookie Decorating



Fishing for Ducklings



Neighbors Learn about Tiny Grocer



# Shipe Pool Opening Party

Despite a brutal heat wave, kids of all ages came out to celebrate the annual opening of Shipe Pool put on by the Friends of Shipe Park. While folks cooled off in the pool, they enjoyed the upbeat positive vibe of the DJ Kelly D Beats summer play list as well as the snowball fight provided by Casey's New Orleans Snowballs. Children in dripping swimsuits patiently waited in line for their custom balloon animals made by Zippy the Clown.



Enjoying Cookies & Drinks from Quack's



DJ Kelly D Beats Provides Summer Music

Our loyal neighbor Quack's Bakery provide two boxes of huge cookies, pink lemonade, and tea, which kept the energy level high; and Fresh Plus provided ice for our beverage coolers. We are so grateful to our sponsors Sam Archer with Juice Real Estate group; Annette Patterson with Bramlett Residential Real Estate; and Astound Broadband, who made the fun extras of the event possible.

Hyde Park is fortunate have a neighborhood park and pool. Over the past few years, park improvements have included a new pool, a renovated log cabin, new benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles as well as improvements and tree plantings at the annual It's My Park Day in March. And at long last, the replacement of the basketball court will be finished this summer.

All of these amenities have been made possible by the Austin City Council and the Parks and Recreation Department working in close collaboration with the Austin Parks Foundation, the Friends of Shipe Park, and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association.

Would you like to know more about or join the all-volunteer Friends of Shipe Park group? Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofshipepark/>.

– Jack & Jill Nokes



Preparing for a Snowball Fight



Zippy the Clown at Work

## Ice Cream Social Recap... cont'd

pallets of sparkling water, eight pallets of hard cider, and over 400 cookies. Additionally, children were treated to over 300 rubber ducks courtesy of Quack's. This author personally wound up with six in his house somehow!

Stay tuned for information on the next HPNA neighborhood event!

– Stephen Gonzalez



Fairweather Crafts Three Kinds of Cider



Ice Cream for Kids of All Ages



First Light Displays Its Books



AllDay Offers Samples to Neighbors





## News from the Ney

We hope you and your families are enjoying the warm summer days and lazy swims in Austin’s many watering holes, including our beloved Shipe pool. This July we are excited to host Family Saturdays at the Ney, focusing on arts education and family activities. Our team of educators will lead arts activities to help create collages, cardboard sculptures, and paintings of all kinds. The museum will provide the materials and the event is open to all ages and abilities. Come out and be a part of this vibrant Ney legacy.



We also celebrate the works of our contemporary arts program artist, Alejandra Almuelle, throughout July. Her creations have been re-contextualized amongst Elisabet Ney’s own classically inspired sculptures to inspire new conversations around the idea of the human form. Please join us for an artist conversation about her work and the exhibition on July 13, 2023 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The exhibit will be on view through July 30, 2023. This program is funded by the Friends of the Elisabet Ney Museum, enabling us to showcase some of the amazing local art by female-identifying artists at Formosa. To find out more about the group, please visit its website at [theney.org](http://theney.org).

In the spirit of community, the Museum recently invited over 50 artists from all over Austin to a Ney inspired Artist Salon. We asked this talented group to share thoughts about how they could envision the Museum and grounds as a space to exhibit contemporary art alongside our beloved Elisabet Ney. Our namesake would have loved the wide range of creatives that gathered under the oaks to share ideas. The event included information sessions, tours, art making, and community building. Thank you to this outstanding group of artists, including many from our neighborhood. We hope to invite many of these artists to join us again and share their artistic talents at Formosa.



The Elisabet Ney Museum is free and open Wednesday through Sunday from 12 to 5 pm, with personalized tours available throughout the day. We invite you to revisit the amazing collection of this unique artist, an iconic woman sculptor from the 1800s. The museum is her historic home and studio. It is a rare opportunity to explore arts from the past centuries and celebrate the history of Texas.

*Family Days at the Ney – July 8 and July 22, 2023, 10 am to 12 pm*  
*Alejandra Almuelle Artist Talk – July 13, 2023, 6:30 to 8:30 pm*



Artist Salon Graphics Courtesy of Creative Policy.

# Historic Homes Tour Returns

The Hyde Park Homes Tour will take place on Sunday, November 12, 2023. We are looking for seven house captains to help coordinate a team of 12 to 15 volunteer docents for each house on this year's tour.

- House Captain duties are fun and easy. Each captain will be assigned to a house. First, a meeting is scheduled with the homeowner so the captain can discuss any special needs for that home.
- Next, a meeting is set at the house with the docents so they can become acquainted with the house. This meeting is often a small party. A work schedule is set for the docents. Usually there are three (two-hour) shifts, 11 to 1 pm, 1 to 3 pm, and 3 to 5 pm.
- Our qualified researchers will provide detailed descriptions and comments on the architecture and style of the home. House Captains will receive free admission to the full homes tour and invitations to the kickoff party with the homeowners and the after party. We will be holding a training for anyone interested in serving as a captain.

For volunteer opportunities, contact Kip Dollar at [kipdollar@gmail.com](mailto:kipdollar@gmail.com).

— Kip Dollar



## Hyde Park Today: The Evolution... ...cont'd from page 8

earlier this year. But we've also welcomed the opening of a gorgeous new Shipe Pool and celebrated our updated neighborhood Fire Station #9, which now includes facilities for female firefighters.

As previously noted, Hyde Park didn't become one of Austin's most livable neighborhoods by accident. It took solid planning, strong preservation efforts, and countless labors of love by neighborhood volunteers over many years. Today, the challenge is how to maintain older neighborhoods like Hyde Park while preserving and creating affordable housing in the face of relentless market pressures. As Austin continues to evolve, it will take a new generation of engaged residents to strike this balance, those who understand the past while looking to the future.

— Susan Moffat and  
Karen McGraw

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## Hyde Park Sidewalks... ...cont'd from page 3

ramps. These too should be inline with sidewalks. Twenty years ago the city put some ramps near Baker School by concreting entire corners and placing ramps diagonally into streets. HPNA worked with city representatives at that time to explain that our traditional and historic neighborhood should have traditional sidewalks and inline ramps. We achieved this agreement and you can see these ramps in various locations.



Residents have only recently received notices and work has begun so HPNA will be working with the city. If you have questions you can call the City Sidewalk Program at (512) 974-7056.





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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  
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SOLD



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# June Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 9

monitor. (A conservator is prescriptive, while a monitor performs more checking in.) Recent progress has led to more hope of a monitor.

There was a question about AISD staff paying into both TRS and Social Security, which Dr. Foster said he would investigate.

AISD doesn't want to let go of land, so where old schools used to be, the district is going to put housing. It will have a property manager, but teachers would be given a preference for that housing. There are three or four sites on the horizon. The district would lease the land, not be in the business directly.

There was a question about bonds. Passing bonds supports the economy and small businesses. There is a vote on contracts over \$100,000. There is an RFP process and so forth, and the district follows all local and state guidelines for contracting.

As a trustee he has learned how hard public servants work. People work as hard as they can without having the money they need, and they are broken-hearted that they can't do a better job. He wants to take care of them because he knows how hard they are working. A year ago, they had 30 vacant principal positions and now it is virtually zero. The district is stretched thin.

There was a question about access to summer school for refugees, which he said he would discuss after the meeting.

He stated that they are going back to paper report cards. The online grading system wasn't being used and parents were not checking their children's grades like they used to do.

After he finished speaking, Kevin commented that we are lucky to have him.

**FirstLight Cafe & Book Shop Presentation.** First Light Cafe & Book Store is a new business at the old post office location. Breezy Mayo introduced herself and talked about opening the bookstore on the purple side of the renovated building. They are hoping to open in July. FirstLight is an independent general bookstore focusing on literary fiction and genre fiction. It will have a wide selection of different kinds of books: sci fi, fantasy, poetry, music, and art. They want to stock the books that interest their neighbors. The largest area will be the children's section. On Speedway, facing the building to the right, they will have a walk-up coffee window with snacks. They will offer a membership program with 20% off purchases and free coffee for \$99. *Bookshop.org* is their current online site; in the bookstore you will be able to search online and can order anything. They will host events such as author signings, book clubs, and so forth on the front patio. They will hold special events; you can

let them know if you want to host something. The Café window will open at 7 am. The hours will be 9 am to 9 pm for the bookshop.

**Membership Software Update.** Fifteen new members joined in the last month, and HPNA is now up to 241 members. Updated instructions have made it easy to join online, or neighbors can join using the form in the *Pecan Press*.

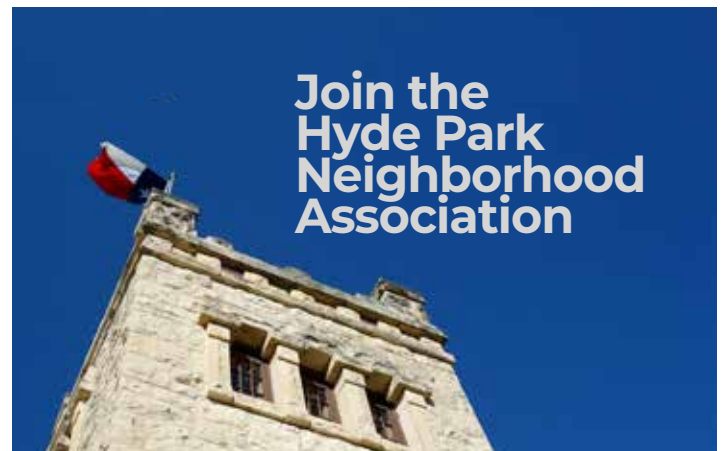
**I-35 Update.** The TXDOT update is due in late summer. The city has a parallel project for spaces above the highway, mostly downtown. Brennan will keep us posted on dates.

**Homes Tour Update.** The Committee will meet Thursday at Kip Dollar's house. Homes have been selected, including some large ones. The committee will need many volunteers.

**Announcements.** There were several announcements:

- There will be an ice cream social at the Ney Museum, 1 to 4 pm on Saturday, June 10.
- There will be a Shippe Pool party on June 17 with food,

Continued on page 16



Join the HPNA to add your voice to local issues — and to help us with community events we sponsor here in one of Austin's oldest and most vibrant neighborhoods.

Current members can vote on resolutions and contribute efforts toward events like the annual Hyde Park Homes Tour, and local events like the Bunny and Holiday parades, the Ice Cream Social, and the Hyde Park Fire Station Festival.

Memberships are just \$5 per person, per year. Learn more about membership at [www.austinydepark.org/contact](http://www.austinydepark.org/contact).

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# June Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 15

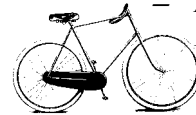
music, games, children, and parents.

- Jim Ellinger announced that Flag Day will have a huge event on June 14. Flag Day is a national holiday but is the least celebrated one. Jim showed us the City of Austin flag, Hyde Park flag, and the Trans flag. He mentioned that we're all familiar with the Gay flag, but the Trans flag is new. Flag Day celebration will feature that flag this year. Jim will have many flags for attendees with free bamboo flag poles.
- Marsha Riti is stepping down from the Steering Committee due to the demands of her other volunteer commitments. Kevin thanked her for her time serving on the committee.
- Nick Van Bavel, who lives on Avenue H, made an announcement about the proposed development on 43rd Street and Avenue H. He owns a property directly across the street from the parking lot. His article was published in the *Pecan Press*. Several neighbors most directly impacted wrote the article, which references a website, *Welovehydepark.org*, which includes tabs with significant information. The neighbors surveyed neighbors on Avenues H and G from 40th to 44th Streets and got a significant number of responses. It was a 10-question survey. The results are interesting and represent the opinions of those most directly impacted.

You can download the questions and look at the results. There is also a short presentation about the status of the current zoning on the lot. The developer is asking for a number of significant zoning changes. A few of the most impacted neighbors got together and hired an architect so that, instead of just protesting the current proposal, they could develop a counter proposal that would make money for the developer but be something the neighbors can live with. That way, they could come to common ground with the developer. There was a question: has HPNA or the Contact team advocated for zoning changes in the past? There were no zoning changes required for the old post office site at 43rd Street and Speedway. 4307 Speedway has requested zoning changes but the project is on hold due to opposition from neighbors.

- The Steering Committee will meet on Monday at Trinity Church.
- There is no Agenda for July yet, and there will not be an August meeting.

Kevin Heyburn adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.



— Ann Duncan  
HPNA Co-Secretary

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## On The Road Again: Summer Travel and Recycling

On a recent road trip, it became very apparent that recycling collection bins are often non-existent. Gas stations (where we clean the trash out of our car) don't always have these bins. In addition, there is no recycling collection at any of the highway rest or picnic areas in Texas.

### What to Do?

As we were having lunch at a picnic area near Abilene, I looked at our aluminum drink cans, looked at the trashcan, and had to make a decision - throw



them away or hang on to them for the week we would be traveling. I knew these cans wouldn't be going into my landfill, but I just couldn't throw them into another community's garbage dump.

So, a decision was made. We set up a recycling collection bag in the car and a box in the cabin

we rented in Cloudcroft. At the end of our trip, we brought a week's worth of recyclables back to Austin and put them into our blue recycling bin.

This is easier to do when traveling by car. The frustrating thing is when you don't have the option of carrying all your recyclables back. In my many travels, I have discovered that some hotels take recycling very seriously. The hotel chain, Home 2, has recycling containers in all of the rooms and on each floor by the elevators. This is not true of all hotels, so here are some things you can do.

### More Travel Recycling Ideas

- Carry reusable bags for shopping. Many places (especially in Europe) either charge for bags or don't even provide them.
- Carry a refillable water bottle. This reduces plastic waste. Also, refillable bottles often are insulated.
- Carry non-plastic eating utensils. Take a fork, serrated knife, and spoon for each person. (Security Alert: Serrated knives cannot go into your carry-on bag on an airplane.)
- Carry plastic containers. Use these for restaurant leftovers and so forth. They are easily washed and a great thing to use for packing delicate souvenirs for the trip home.

### Bulk Pick Up and Buy Nothing

Bulk pick-up week is one of my favorite times in our neighborhood. I love it when the entrepreneurs come through with their trucks and trailers and collect the items we don't want. It is one of the best examples of reuse. Over the years, as we have walked through our neighborhood, we have found items that we still use today - a round metal outdoor table, a huge lighted plastic pumpkin, and most recently, a lovely plant stand.

This year, I noticed that there were many postings on Buy Nothing of sightings of items set out to be picked up by the City. They even included pictures and addresses. These sightings included a lovely couch, table, and even a piano.

Please remember that the items the City picks up go to the landfill. I am so happy that members of Buy Nothing helped connect these items with people who could use them.

For more information on the Buy Nothing project, go to <https://buynothingproject.org/>. The Facebook page is a private group, but is easy to join. Just go to "Buy Nothing."

### Questions From Our Readers

*How can I tell if a plastic bag or plastic wrap is recyclable?* Use the "finger poke" test. If you can easily poke your finger through the plastic, it is not recyclable and must go into the trash cart. Just a reminder: Frozen food bags, salad bags, and all bags that have held heavy or contaminated materials are not recyclable.

*Can I get an extra compost cart?* You cannot get an extra cart, but you can get a larger one (96 gallon). It's free. Just call 311 to make that request.

*Can I get an additional recycling bin?* Yes you can; it's free. Call 311 to make that request.

*Are post-it notes recyclable?* Yes, if they are at least credit card size.

*Is there help for seniors to get their trash, recycling, and compost cans picked up?* Yes. Go to <https://www.austintexas.gov/emailarr> and select "Special Services." An arrangement will be made to have your cans picked up close to your house, emptied, and returned.

### Please Remember:

- When in Doubt, Throw it Out! Recycling and composting contamination is a huge problem. If you have exhausted all reuse possibilities and are still unsure, put the item into the trash can.
  - 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 [denahouston3309@gmail.com](mailto:denahouston3309@gmail.com).





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# Hyde Park Poets

## Birdsongs in the Late Winter & Early Spring

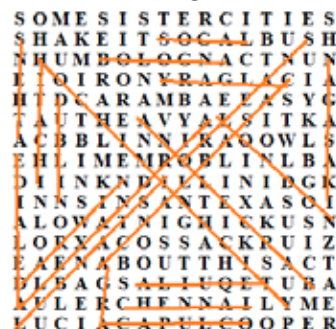
I hear you, birds,  
You, Owl, I hear you,  
I am inclined to do nothing,  
I lie here, on the sofa, on the porch,  
It is warm, like early summer,  
Even though it is only February,  
I prefer your song, if it can be called that,  
Who-who-who-who,oo,  
Who-who-who-who,oo,  
And you keep it going,  
In spite of the leaf blowers,  
The chainsaws, the cars, driving by,  
And even that guy who has to rev up  
His motorcycle, at least once a day,  
Later it will be the grackles, the loud grackles,  
I love them, though, as they preen and pose,  
Then, the doves will show, no longer worried,  
By the grackles that are easily twice as big,  
But are leaving as the doves arrive.  
There is something inherently peaceful,  
About being outside on the porch, in the waning  
Afternoon on a way-early spring day, the kind of day  
That portends a very hot summer, an inevitable summer,  
And I have lived here for a while, and I know that summer  
Is nowhere near, not even real spring is happening  
Anytime soon, but I can pretend or just enjoy.  
It will be here soon enough,  
Just keep talking birds, just sing your songs,  
Tweet your tweets; keep talking to each other,  
Thank you for sharing the afternoon.

- Herzele  
02/21/2023



### Word Find Answers from page 7

- 1) HITACHI; 2) ADELAIDE;
- 3) DUBLIN; 4) ATHENS;
- 5) ISTANBUL; 6) TEQUILA;
- 7) DARWIN; 8) CALGARY; 9) AGRA;
- 10) ACAPULCO; 11) HO CHI MINH CITY;
- 12) LAGOS; 13) BARCELONA;
- 14) LONDON; 15) CHENNAI;
- 16) BOLOGNA; 17) NAGASAKI;
- 18) ORLEANS; 19) ALEXANDRIA;
- 20) CASABLANCA





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