June Meeting

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for June 5

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

Meeting Topics: Austin Independent School District

- Presentation by AISD School Board Vice President Kevin Foster, PhD.
- Introduction of FirstLight Cafe and Book Shop, a new Hyde Park business
- ➡ Updates:
 - Membership Software
 - I-35 Project
 - 2023 Homes Tour

◆ 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= V3hIKzhLVGxIVTNqVCtVTHVZeVZYUT09 Meeting ID: 473 813 0850

Passcode: 728004

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

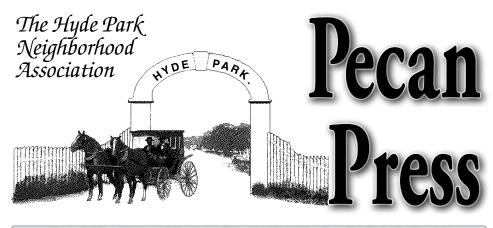
Dial by your location: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Protecting Our Trees and Our Neighborhood

Note: The author, a practicing lawyer, has been doing tree work since about 1959. He planned and implemented the planting of approximately 500 trees at Casis Elementary School, O'Henry Middle School, and Austin High School. He continues to maintain those trees.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and, apparently, the price of preserving our trees and their place in our neighborhood. The appalling work recently done on several of the finest trees in Hyde Park is much the topic of conversation right now.

On roughly April 15, a crew reported to be with Trees R Us did terrible work on the enormous and spectacular elm tree in front of the house at 4104 Avenue F and the large pecan tree behind it. The pecan is irreparably damaged. The over-100-year-old elm could be saved by qualified arborists.



June 2023 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 49, No. 06

Concerns about Proposed Development at 43rd & Avenue H

Hyde Park is often referred to as "a village within a city." Despite the rapid growth of Austin, our neighborhood has maintained its village feel, thanks to conscientious residents who support thoughtful and responsible development.

With this in mind, there are many neighbors concerned about the proposed development of the parking lot at 43rd and Avenue H (see article in *Pecan Press*, May 23, 2023, "The Proposed Hyde Park High Street Project"). More detail and discourse can be found at *WeLoveHydePark.org*.

The developers have proposed to develop the parking lot (Lots 1 through 7, Block 19) with a 13,000 square foot, two-story structure that includes a 2,500 square foot restaurant, retail, and office space, with an adjacent parking lot partially under the second story.

The authors do not oppose thoughtful development, but the current design proposal requires significant changes to Hyde Park's land use rules. This has immediate implications for the character of the corner and the traffic and parking for nearby neighbors, and it will have long term consequences. Once the exceptions to current rules are granted, the precedent is set for future developers of lots throughout Hyde Park. We encourage Hyde Park residents to take interest in this development, whether or not you reside in the immediate vicinity.

Our concerns are as follows:

- **Zoning:** Lots 6 and 7 (next to the duplex at 4207 Avenue H) are zoned MF-3 (Multifamily) and are within the Hyde Park NCCD Residential District. These lots are not permitted for an office building and its associated parking. We suggest building another duplex or multifamily unit on these lots, which will enhance local housing options and be more compatible with the single-family homes across the street.
- Size and Scale: The developer is requesting to expand the allowable floor area by 50% over existing zoning rules, which could result in a building of 15,512 square feet. This size disrupts the neighborhood's character and clashes with the single-family homes across Avenue H. The developers also seek to increase allowable impervious cover, thus maximizing building space. We suggest a structure that is smaller in scale and one that adheres to existing impervious cover requirements. This will both fit better with the existing businesses on that block and it will maintain open green spaces.

Continued on page 18

From the Desk of the President

As summer begins and our neighborhood's elementary, middle, and secondary school students are home to start their summer break, what better time to hear about the schools where they have been all year? To that end, at HPNA's June 5 General Meeting, we will be hosting Dr. Kevin Foster, the man who represents us on the Austin Independent School District's (AISD) Board of Trustees.

Elected in 2020, Dr. Foster currently serves as Vice President of the AISD Board. He is a professor of educational anthropology at the University of Texas, where he is engaged in a wide range of activities related to student achievement. He is also the founding Executive Producer of Blackademics Television, a TV series on PBS.

Together with eight other trustees, Dr. Foster oversees a school district with a \$1.68 billion budget;

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765 www.austinhydepark.org – HPNA Officers & Steering Committee –

President						
• Kevin Heyburnkmheyburn@gmail.com						
Co-Vice Presidents Kathy Jackson 						
• Paul Smith						
Co-Secretaries						
•Katie Vigneryvigneryk@gmail.com						
Ann Duncanslomm3@gmail.com						
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Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Lorre Weidlich lweidlich@mail2sevenseas.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						
Homes Tour • Vacant						
Membership • Katherine Mydra						
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, katieturner050@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						

116 schools; 5,508 teachers; 5,435 staff; and 73,384 students. The AISD Board is currently searching for a new school district superintendent. Dr. Foster will update us on what is going on in AISD and will answer your questions.

In addition to the General Meeting in June, HPNA is hosting an Ice Cream Social in the park behind the Elisabet Ney Museum on Saturday, June 10, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This event will coincide with an introduction to the neighborhood of the Tiny Grocery Store,

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@mail2sevenseas.com*.

- *Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.*
- Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at *herzele@gmail.com*.

All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes. First Light Books, and Allday Pizza – the new businesses that will soon reside in the old post office building. The Elisabet Ney Museum, Quack's Bakery, and Fairweather Cider Co. are also helping to host the event.

The following Saturday, June 17, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the Friends of Shipe Park will be hosting their annual Shipe Pool Party to celebrate the opening of our neighborhood pool. There will be music, a raffle, a food truck, and other refreshments. And for those of you who can't wait for the party, the pool is scheduled to be opened on June 5.

When you jump into Shipe Pool, you can also celebrate the fact that our State Legislature completed the last day of its current Legislative Session on May 29. I wish our legislators a long and happy break from law making. In last month's President's letter, I discussed legislation of concern to HPNA. As of this writing (mid-May), I cannot tell you definitively how those bills fared. I hope to be able to update for you in the July issue of the *Pecan Press*.

We look forward to seeing you at the HPNA General Meeting on June 5 to hear Dr. Foster and we hope you will join us at the Ice Cream Social and the Shipe Pool Party!

> Kevin Heyburn HPNA President



Shipe Park

Please Show the Heritage Trees at Shipe Park Some Love!

Many of you will recognize this tree as one of the two heritage Live Oaks at Shipe Park. Foresters estimate these trees to be over 300 years old. At one time this tree draped over the baby



pool, providing shade to parents and young kids alike. Once the new pool was opened and the old swing set removed, the tree's lower branches gracefully framed the lower field. However, these same limbs are too tempting to little and big people who want to climb the tree.

Friends of Shipe Park (FOSP) has invested volunteer time and money for arborist's fees to air spade and inject compost into the root zone in order to give these old warriors a boost after we noticed rapid decline due to compaction from foot traffic. We also persuaded the Parks Department to replace the sidewalk near the trunk with compost and mulch.

We respectfully ask everyone to refrain from climbing these trees. If you see someone hoisting a kid onto these branches, please explain how old and fragile these trees are and ask the person to join us in protecting them so folks in the future might enjoy their presence and shade. What would our park be without these rare and wonderful witnesses to life along Waller Creek?

– Friends of Shipe Park

We Need Shipe Park, and the Park Needs Us!

Friends of Shipe Park (FOSP) has hosted an annual workday, like last month's It's My Park Day, for over 16 years. Today our group is focusing on inviting and training new people to help lead the group in future projects, community event planning, and maintenance of our beloved and well-used Shipe Park.

Many It's My Park Day participants are surprised that mulching, aerating, planting trees, and other park stewardship activities that benefit the park and its users are all volunteer driven. The question often comes up, "Why do we need a FOSP?" Unfortunately, the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department has never had a sufficient budget to maintain all the public spaces, greenbelts, neighborhood parks, sports facilities, and trails in our parks system. The Department has been chronically underfunded since it was first created in the 1920s. Today that problem is compounded by a severe staff shortage and a growing population who want to enjoy the peace and recreation found in a nearby park.

While around a hundred volunteers from the neighborhood and across Austin typically participate in the one-day It's My Park Day event, throughout the rest of the year the FOSP leaders are strategizing ways to keep the park resilient against the harsh reality of climate change and over use. We take seriously our role as stewards of the park. We keep a watchful eye out for hazards, for broken lights, dangling tree limbs, and the safe condition of the playscape and pool area. FOSP built the Shipe Mosaic Mural, advocated for the pool to be rebuilt when it was in danger of being closed, successfully advocated

Continued on page 15

		Joint the					
• 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.			 To join, use one of the following methods: Apply and pay online at <i>austinhydepark.org/contact</i>. Complete and mail the form below, with cash or check payment. Visit one of our events, including our monthly meetings at the 				
 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. 			Griffin School (see front page for details).				
			To receive reminders about HPNA events, send an email to subscribe+hpna-notice@googlegroups.com. NOTE: HPNA does not share or sell contact information.				
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		DIL					
	New MemberRenewing Member	Date Amount	Austin, Texas 78765				

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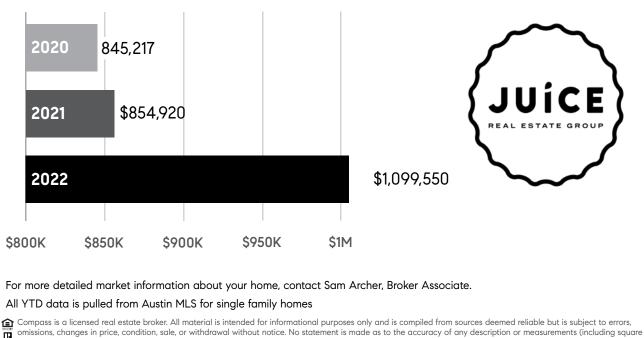


COMPASS

Central Austin Specialist

Sam Archer, Juice Real Estate Group 512.633.4650 | 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.



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(Effective September, 2015)RatesSize(width X height)Price

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1/4 Page
1/6 Page
1/9 Page
1/12 Page (3.63" X 1.63") 50.00

Monthly Calendar

- 2 Recycling Pickup
- 3 Volunteer Neighborhood Day at Hope Food Pantry
- 3 Landscape Learning Day at Ney Museum
- 5 HPNA General Meeting
- 10 Family Day at Ney Museum
- 10 Ice Cream Social
- 12 Steering Committee Meeting
- 14 Flag Day Celebration
- 16 Recycling Pickup
- 17 Shipe Park Pool Party
- 17 Family Day at Ney Museum
- 30 Recycling Pickup

Pecan Press is online at www.austinhydepark.org

Around & About the Avenues

Volunteer Neighborhood Day at Hope Food Pantry. The Hope Food Pantry will be having a volunteer Hyde Park neighborhood day on Saturday, June 3, 8 am too 11 am. You will be helping to distribute food to Hope Food Pantry patrons. Younger people may volunteer with the assistance of their caregiver. If you are available to volunteer, please contact Betsy Clubine at *coordinator@hopefoodpantryaustin.org.* — Marsha Riti, HPNA Hope Food Pantry Liaison

HPNA Bunny Parade Award to Hope Food Pantry. At a

special ceremony, HPNA presented a check to the Hope Food Pantry for the donation it raised as a result of the Bunny Parade on April 8: \$1,350. The photo includes Hope Food Pantry Director Stephanie Humphreys, parade organizer Stephen Gonzalez, and Hope



Food Pantry Coordinator Betsy Clubine. Thanks to everyone who donated to the event!

XXX RATIS

Annual Titanic on 43rd Street Event. Did you know that

the length of the Titanic is equal to the distance from the mural on the side of Fresh+ to the middle of the three Weeping Yaupon trees at the north-west corner of 43rd Street and Avenue F? That's just one interesting fact that came out during this year's Titanic on 43rd



Street event. On April 15, Patrick Floyd led interested followers along 43rd Street, while sharing with them interesting facts about the Titanic. As always, the tour was informative and entertaining. We look forward to next year's tour!

Renovation of Shipe Basketball Court. The basketball court



at Shipe Park, long in a state of disrepair, is finally undergoing a renovation. The court was closed to players around May 8 and is expected to reopen by June 30. During that time, the floor will be broken up and removed and a new one installed.

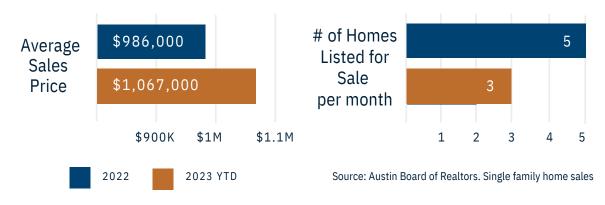




LOCAL. DATA. PROCESS. A plan for every possibility. COMMUNICATION.

Your home is a valuable part of your net worth and financial plan. Our detailed "roadmap" takes the unknowns out of the sale and purchase process so you always know what's next. Let us manage the details for a worry-free transaction while you focus on making the best decisions for you.







Jen Berbas

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Concerns about 43rd & Avenue H... ...cont'd from page 1

- Parking: The City of Austin recently voted to remove all parking mandates outside of downtown, which means all of the existing 46 spaces in the parking lot could permanently go away. These spaces service the existing businesses and visitors and are already insufficient for current demand. The new office building will generate additional traffic to the corner. Where are those additional vehicles going to park?
- Restaurant Use: The developers seek rezoning to allow a restaurant up to 2,500 square feet. A restaurant of any size is not permitted for any of Lots 1 through 7. Such a large restaurant, combined with the existing commercial kitchen and the potential for outdoor seating, could result in seating for hundreds of people. This exacerbates the parking and traffic congestion. A small cafe with limited seating might be an acceptable compromise between limiting the impact to parking and traffic at the same time as bringing in another great, local eatery option.
- Setbacks and Compatibility: The developers' request to decrease street and compatibility setbacks reduces green space. It allows parking in the setback from Avenue H and parking next to the duplex at 4207 Avenue H, and it allows the building to crowd the sidewalk on 43rd Street.

The proposed development site is a significant entry point into the historic Hyde Park neighborhood. Any project here will set a precedent for future developments, affecting generations. It is crucial to ensure careful planning that addresses concerns about architectural character, parking, pedestrian safety, flooding, noise, and traffic.

We are not against development. The authors understand the existing businesses will no longer be required to lease parking spaces on the existing lot, and so development is inevitable. But, we want any new development to comply with the existing Hyde Park NCCD regulations or at least require only changes that the neighborhood can get behind, so that they are the most compatible with existing homes and provide minimal neighborhood disruption.

We hope for collaboration and a united neighborhood voice in this development, resulting in something that blends with the fabric of our neighborhood and provides value to our community.

To learn more, comment, and get involved, visit *WeLoveHydePark.org*.

– Ashley St. Clair Jean Bertrand Nick van Bavel



Logical Fallacies & Cognitive Biases Word Find by der Brat

LOGICALFALLACIES C Q B A R N U M B S D R O O P L **ONUSGRAPHHANGNRI** G N E E D A G O O D T G N E O P N N O O S E MME T E R I D O P IEGISTIBILEOMRFE T M S A T N I N L T U U A U E R ΙΟΝUΕΑΑΟΟΕΕΝRΒΥΥ V T O M A MMO N L R D F T E S E I V E S C H R D G S S I B R L BOOTASEDINNRODUO INOTPAISZFOIBLTP A C E R T M I N L H N U G G A E S P A N E C D O T A L O N G N R EHOWAREUDEFTCUES S T R A WM A N O G A W D N A B

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers] 1. _?_ bias: favoring what you already believe. (12)

- 2. The Texas _?_ fallacy: cherry-picking data. (12)
- 3. Appeal to _?_: relying on an expert. (9)
- 4. Appealing to popularity. (9) _
- 5. The _?_ Effect: seeing personal specifics in vague statements. (6) _____
- 6. Misrepresenting claims to allow easy attack. (8)
- 7. _?__?_: using existing relationship to imply causation. (5,5) _____
- 8. and 9. [joined by "the"]: circular argument. (7 and 8)
- 10. _?_ Effect: unduly affected by context and delivery. (7)
- 11. No True _?_: an appeal to purity. (8)
- 12. and 13. _?_ _?_: compromise between extremes is the truth. (6 and 6) ______
- 14. Appeal to _?_: non-artificial things are good or true. (6) _____
- 15. _?_ Fallacy: 'runs' exist in statistically independent phenomena. (8) _____
- 16. and 17: it's someone else's task to disprove a claim. (6 and 5, separated by "of") ______ of
- 18. Appeal to _?_: using feelings instead of facts. (7)
- 19. Attacking the person and not the argument. (2,7)
- 20. Allowing one thing means another thing to occur. (8,5)
- 21. _?_ Fallacy: relying on a story instead of statistics. (9)

Answers on page 18

HPNA General Meeting Minutes: May 1, 2023

Meeting Topic: Statewide Zoning, Propositions A and B, and Parking in Hyde Park

President Kevin Heyburn started the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Presentation on Austin Police Reform Propositions A and B

Kathy Mitchell, Treasurer for Equity Action, explained that Proposition A, the Austin Police Oversight Act, is the brainchild of several local civil rights organizations. Passage of the bill would create a local ordinance that strengthens the external oversight of Austin police, improves transparency, and mandates that the city can only approve a police contract if it complies with this ordinance. The model behind Prop A, Mitchell said, is that a legitimate entity needs to identify cases where discipline might start to shape outcomes by providing police accountability.

Mitchell said that the city's Office of Police Oversight (OPO) lost access to information about police incidents as a result of recent police contract negotiations as well as grievances filed against the OPO by the Austin Police Department. Prop A will enable the OPO to access all police records, gather evidence, and interview witnesses.

A civilian board, appointed by City Council members and reporting to the City Manager, will consider complaints and decide whether to make a recommendation to the APD Chief. To become a board member, individuals apply for the (unpaid) position through the Auditor's Office. The board would provide a separate and independent view on police matters. Mitchell described it as creating space for debate and a place for dialogue – to "move the process from oversight theater to actual oversight." With respect to concerns about protecting victims' privacy, Mitchell noted that information the board reviews is restricted to agency staff who work for the city.

Mitchell said that Proposition B, which does not include the statement about unfettered access to information about police conduct, muddies the legal terrain. Prop B supporters' initial public statement was that "everyone votes for both." If both pass, Mitchell said, everything will be litigated, with no clarity about police oversight for a long time. Mitchell was asked about civilian complaints filed if Prop B is passed. She said that because the oversight committee would not have necessary information (for example, camera footage and police reports), they could not help those individuals. Prop A, on the other hand, would enable a legitimately independent investigation so that, by knowing the facts, the right questions would be asked and the APD Chief could make an informed recommendation. (A spokesperson for Prop B did not respond to HPNA's invitation to attend the meeting.)

In response to a question about whether there is a similar police oversight trend in the rest of the country, Mitchell said that before the Austin oversight process was withdrawn, Rice University had conducted a study about oversight in Texas. The study, which covered several large cities, identified Austin and Forth Worth as approaching national standards. Mitchell was asked about the OPO's impact before it was stripped of power. She said that once the office no longer had access to information, cases meriting investigation were not investigated. For example, in 2021 there were 2,200 complaints about APD officers. Of those, 220 were recommended for investigation. Ultimately, the Internal Affairs Department decided to investigate only 90 cases. This matters, she said, because if case-related information is not reviewed, there is no way of knowing whether cases merit investigation. Mitchell also pointed out that in the past, police complaints against other police were pursued more often than complaints from the public about APD behavior.

In response to Prop A opponents' charges that the Act is a violation of state law, Mitchell noted that APD police contracts supersede state law.

Discussion and Vote to Send a Financial Donation to Support Community Not Commodity's Efforts to Oppose State Legislation that Would Restrict Local Zoning Authority

Lorre Weidlich described the bills addressed in the HPNA draft letters that were discussed and voted on later in the meeting. The so-called Skyscraper or Tall Buildings Bill (SB 491 by Hughes and HB 2198 by Heffner) proposes that cities with populations greater than 725,000, which includes Austin, would not be able to limit the height of a building based on the building's proximity to a lot more than 50 feet away. SB 1787 by Bettencourt and HB 3921 by Goldman would disaggregate lots. This bill, which would apply to counties with over 300,000 people, states that municipalities cannot require that lots be over 1,400 square feet, wider than 20 feet, or deeper than 60 feet.

Lorre outlined her proposal that HPNA make a \$1000 donation to Community Not Commodity, which has hired a lobbyist to oppose the bills. The contribution would come out of HPNA's Preservation and Development fund, which has a balance of \$15,000.

Lorre then introduced the first Community Not Commodity speaker, Fred Lewis. Mr. Lewis described the organization's two-part focus during this legislative session. For the first, he referred members to a handout outlining the city's failure to give required notice to property owners about rezoning initiatives. CNC is also opposing Texas legislators' push to preempt local zoning laws. Stressing that zoning is inherently local, Lewis noted that some lawmakers want to end local control of zoning. This attempt was defeated in 2021. However, during this

legislative session there is major funding behind the bills and support from Austin real estate developers, "true believers," and "high-tech recent California transplants." The coalition has hired multiple lobbyists; CNC has hired one lobbyist, Chas Semple, a Republican with a real estate background. CNC's lobbyist is charging \$30,000; the organization owes him \$14,000. CNC has also established a social-media grassroots campaign intended to persuade Senate and House members. The organization has spent \$22,000 on emails, ads, and robocalls; Lewis said they need another \$10,000 for the next two weeks, as the bills in question will be voted on within that time period. He cited "6 or 8 bad bills," but noted the organization must follow all the zoning-related bills and be ready to defeat as many as possible – ideally all of them.

The second CNC speaker, Barbara McArthur, said that as a scientist she looks at issues analytically. She walked members through a Powerpoint presentation (available on the HPNA website) outlining zoning-related bills being proposed this session:

- SB 1787/HB 3291, described above, would affect 71% of Texans.
- SB 491/HB 2198 (tall buildings bill), described above. Sen Eckhart voted for SB 491. SB 491 was passed out of the Senate and awaits action in the House.
- HB 4637/HB 1514 would make it very difficult to have a valid petition for a zoning change: The requirement for a petition against rezoning to force a super-majority vote would be increased from 20% to 50%.
- HB 2665 (Gates) would prohibit a municipality from adopting laws preventing the use of a property as a short-term rental. The property could be anywhere, with no limit on duration or number of people in the rental.
- SB 1412 (Hughes)/HB 2789 (Holland) would allow accessory dwelling units to be half the size of the primary residence; for example, a 4,000 square-foot house could have a 2,000 square-foot ADU. There would also be no impervious cover requirement.
- HB 1526 would make it much more difficult for cities to get parkland from large developments. The bill also mandates that the city has a 30-day limit to request parkland.
- HB 3135 (Stucky) says that governing bodies must repeal any regulations that interfere with new or existing development.
- HB 2367 (Lozano) would allow any house to be used as an amenity rental-that is, a party house- for 15 hours.

HPNA member Duncan Meisel noted that SB 491 is about eliminating contextual zoning and that developers cannot build a skyscraper if the land isn't zoned for it. He opposed the contribution to CNC because "I oppose CNC's approach in Austin." Fred Lewis noted that this bill has moved quickly through the Senate because it affects so few cities and that other bills affect more people. He pointed out that Fort Worth representatives in the House care about these issues and thus House votes are critical.

Member David Whitworth said that potential problems have been exaggerated by opponents of the bills. He noted that developers still have to go through site plan review and other checks. He also opposed the CNC contribution motion.

Fred Lewis reiterated that all the bills in question will work their way through the legislature in about three weeks. One CNC strategy is to delay the process, as every day that goes by reduces the bills' chance of passage. CNC has raised \$50,000 to date, including contributions from other neighborhood associations. In response to the question "What bills scare you most?" both presenters said it depends on what will be appended to the bills. That said, they cited the Stucky bill (HB 3135) because it has no parameters and SB 1787 by Bettencourt (which hadn't gone to the Senate floor as of May 1) because anything could be appended to it. Lewis pointed out that Sen. Bettencourt is a Libertarian. He also noted that there is an area of Houston that allows 1,400 square foot lots, but property owners can opt out.

Susan Moffatt, noting that Sarah Eckhardt has already voted, said she was more concerned about **Continued on page 13**



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.austinhydepark.org/contact. Apply online:



app.glueup.com/org/austinhydepark/



June Events Flag Day Celebration Unfurls for 28th Year

A ustin's long-running Flag Day Celebration returns to the streets of Hyde Park on Wednesday, June 14 for the 28th year. Flag fans will gather at the cul-de-sac at the intersection of Fairfield Lane and Eilers Avenue from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The Flag Fun Run will be at 6:00 pm, with flag wavers circling the traffic circle two times.

In addition to scores of flags covering many houses in the neighborhood, there will be two educational vexillogical displays.

Stars over America will be a display of current, historic, and possible future United States flags with various numbers of stars: 48 stars (1912 to 1959,) 49 stars (July 4, 1959 to August 21, 1959), the current official US flag with 50 stars, and two future flags featuring 51 stars (Statehood for DC!) and 52 stars (should both DC and Puerto Rico become states). A fascinating bit of vexillogical wishful thinking. See https:// resipsausa.com/blogs/journal/a-brief-history-of-theamerican-flag. Other US variant flags include NYC artist David Hammond's Marcus Garvey Movement-inspired African-American Flag and a Thin Blue Line Flag, showing support for first responders, as well as the national flag of Malaysia, which substitutes a Muslim crescent for stars.

And whether you mourned the passing of HRM Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, 2022, after serving a remarkable 70 years on the throne, or see it as an inevitable and long-overdue end of colonialism, also known as the British Empire, her passing will be one of the most iconic moments of the 21st century. A collection of more than a dozen flags featuring the Union Jack will be displayed, including flags from New Zealand, Australia, British Columbia and Ontario, British Virgin Islands, Fiji, Cayman Islands, and three Ensign flags from New South Wales and the Canadian and British navies.

"Where do all these flags come from?" I am often asked. Many are gifts or hand me downs, others are lent to the event, and many I picked up in my community radio projects around the planet (60+ countries and counting). However, the collection of Union Jack-festooned flags was a real find, right here in Austin. The Austin Creative Reuse Center (*https:// austincreativereuse.org/*) is a wonderful resource for teachers, students, and artists. You never know what you might find in their overflowing bins. Somebody, maybe a retired Navy veteran or teacher, donated a collection of flags, perhaps from a tour of duty in the South Seas. I snapped up the entire inventory, for the bargain price of a dollar a piece.

The center piece of the event will be a Texas-sized



Texas flag draped over the intersection of Fairfield Lane and Eilers Avenue. Flag fans are encouraged to walk or bike under the display or drive "Avenue G slow."

The last couple of years' events have been canceled or scaled back. This year's celebration will be entirely outdoors. There will free fancy waters and soft drinks for all VIPs (vexillogically important persons). There will be judging and awards for the best flags in a wide variety of categories. Homemade and kid-made flags are particularly welcome.

Text 512-796-4332 for updates or to lend a flag. We have plenty of free bamboo flag poles (LOL). An LBGTQ, Drag-Queen-safe event. Rain or shine.

– Jim Ellinger

June Events Shipe Pool Opening Party

The pool days of summer are just around the corner, and to celebrate the opening of the pool, Friends of Shipe Park have planned their annual Pool

Opening Party for June 17 from 5 to 8 pm. As always, the event is free to everyone. This year it will include music by KellyDbeats DJ, food trucks and other refreshments, and – thanks to Astound Broadband – a raffle and other fun activities. Friends of Shipe Park T-shirts will also be available.

The City of Austin's website states Shipe Pool will be open from June 5 to August 13. And, thankfully, *Community Impact* reported in their April 19 issue that the City of Austin's lifeguard recruitment efforts are showing signs of progress.

Shipe Pool's hours are listed as follows:

Monday/Tuesday/ Thursday/Friday:	8:00 am—10:00 am Lap Swim/Swim Lessons	10:00 am—12:00 pm Swim Team (closed to the public)	12:00 pm–8:00 pm Recreational Swim		
Wednesday:	Closed				
Saturday/Sunday:	11:00 am - 8:00 pm Recreational/Lap Swim				

Also important to mention is that not only will this year's party be celebrating the opening of the pool, but the neighborhood can finally celebrate the upcoming opening of a new basketball court! More details about that can be found on the Friends of Shipe Park Facebook page. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

- Friends of Shipe Park

Ice Cream Social

The 2023 Hyde Park Ice Cream Social will be held at the Ney on June 10 from 1 to 4 pm. Cool off from the pool and join your neighbors for food, fun, and drinks sponsored by our amazing neighborhood businesses! There will be pizza, ice cream, cookies, treats, music, and drinks for all to enjoy!

Come meet our three newest neighborhood businesses, set to move into the old Speedway post office space: Allday Pizza, First Light Books, and Tiny Grocer. Quacks will have a decorate-your-own cookie booth for the kids, and Fairweather Cider will be donating Austin's favorite hard cider. A DJ will also be spinning tunes!

Neighbors, families, and children of all ages are invited to attend!

– Stephen Gonzalez



Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team Minutes: April 24, 2023

Griffin School, Room BH100, 5002 Martin Ave

Attendees: Abigail King, Adam Wilson, Alexa Corbett, Alexandra Bangs, Andy Homer, Annabelle Baskin, Ashley St. Clair, Avigal Noy, Barbara Gibson, Betsy Clubine, Bick Brown, Billy Corbett, Chris Carty, Darren Schlissel, David Connor, David Whitworth, Deaton Bednar, Debby Reynolds, Ellie Hanlon, Gene Cuny, Jack Hohengarten, Janet Zeitler, Jean Bertrand, Jen Vickers, Joe Bedell, Karen McGraw, Kate Behrman, Kate Saunders, Kevin Heyburn, Lee Walker, Linda Fugit, Linda Van Bavel, Lisa Harris, Lorre Weidlich, Maria Elena Cigarroa, Marsha Riti, Maury Sullivan, Melissa Martinez, Michael Horowitz, Michael Klug, Michele Grieshaber, Mity Myhr, Nancy Hohengarten, Nathan Bangs, Nick Van Bavel, Oded Fehr, Pam Pruitt, Pat Ferguson, Pat Tuohy, Paul Manners, Paul Smith, Pete Kennedy, Reid Long, Sidney Lock, Stephen Saunders, Steven Frantz, Susan Marshall, Susan Moffat, Susi Spies, Todd Pruner, Wanda Penn, William (Billy) Nelson

- 1. Call to Order: Chair Barbara Gibson called the meeting of the HPNPCT to order at 7 pm.
- 2. A quorum was present.
- 3. Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved via email prior to the April meeting.
- 4. Project Connect: Vice Chair Susan Moffat gave an update on the Project Connect Plan and the city's goals in creating the plan. Public feedback can be given on the five proposed options by visiting *www.atptx.org/ aboute.light-rail*. Feedback is due by May 2, 2023.
- 5. ETOD: Susan Moffat gave an overview of the ETOD (Equitable Transit-Oriented Development) study Cap Metro has undertaken. Learn more by visiting *www. projectconnect.com/projects/etod.*
- 6. Barbara was asked to give a brief overview of HPNPCT mission as there were many new attendees present.
- 7. Review of High Street Project (proposed for the parking lot on SE corner of 43rd Street and Avenue H): Karen McGraw provided a brief overview of the proposed new development, which would replace the parking lot west of Quack's. She showed some site plan drawings and discussed the goals for the proposed development. In short, the project involves a new building that would have two floors, with a restaurant and retail store on the first floor and office space on the second floor. To go forward with the project, the developer is requesting that the city change zoning on part of the property to allow for new commercial use.



- 8. Discussion of High Street Project:
 - Question: How many variances are you going for? Karen: None, variances are not needed but rezoning is, and they are requesting a change of the lot line for the duplex south of the parking lot.
 - Question: Are you asking to add property to the current Duval District? Karen: No, we believe the property is already part of the Duval District.
 - Question: How many commercial spaces will there be, and how many parking spaces will there be as part of the proposed plan? Karen: The first floor will have a restaurant and a retail store; the second floor will have office space divided according to market demand. There will be 30 parking spaces on site with nine additional existing street parking spaces. The current parking lot has 46 spaces plus the nine existing street spaces.
 - Question: The businesses and offices will all have employees, right? Karen: Yes, and they will all need parking.
 - Question: Has a traffic study been conducted? Karen: No, but the developer plans on doing a traffic study.
 - Statement: A neighbor voiced concern about potential traffic increases on narrow neighborhood streets.
 - Question: What will happen to the Fresh Plus parking lot? Karen: Nothing, it stays as is for Fresh Plus parking.
 - Question: Where will the people who use the parking lot now park? Karen: The city is reducing parking requirements for commercial properties, so most existing businesses have enough parking for their businesses without the lot due to the relaxed requirements. The current property owners can't keep the space as a parking lot because property in Hyde Park is expensive and the parking lot in question generates no income.
 - Question: Will the office space be required to remain office space, even if they can't rent it out? Karen: If they want to change the allowed uses for the property, they would have to request this permission from the city.
 - Bick Brown Statement: The city is growing, property in Hyde Park is expensive, and it's not feasible for a property owner to have a big parking lot that doesn't bring in income. So something has to replace this parking lot, the only question is what will it be?
 - Nick Van Bavel Statement: Nick's family owns a home on Avenue H and he expressed concern that Avenue H will bear the brunt of additional parking demand, that the traffic will make the neighborhood less safe for kids, and that the building will be a large office building that is incompatible with the neighborhood's current look and feel. He invited attendees to ask him for a copy of a paper he has written outlining his concerns.
- 9. Adjourn: Barbara Gibson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

- Todd Pruner, HPNPCT Secretary

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May Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 9

the bills' effect on housing affordability: If all zoning provisions are waived, cities will have fewer tools to promote affordable housing. One member noted that CNC is very good about communicating information and updates to members. Member Adam Wilson suggested that, without group consensus about the contribution, individuals rather than the HPNA should make contributions. Finally, one member said he appreciated the fact that the issues had been presented at the meeting.

Lorre Weidlich called the question. The vote was 27 in favor, 11 opposed, 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

Discussion and Vote on Draft Letters To Sen. Eckhardt and Rep. Hinojosa Urging their Opposition to State Legislation that Would Restrict Local Zoning Authority

Kevin Heyburn directed membership's attention to two draft letters published in the May issue of *Pecan Press*. They address SB 1787 by Texas Sen. Bettencourt, HB 2198 by Rep. Heffner, and HB 3921 by Rep. Goldman. (Kevin noted that the letter to Sen. Eckhart will be edited to delete reference to SB 491, which was passed by the Senate on April 28.)

Kevin pointed out that the proposed HPNA letters only cover the bills mentioned above. Lobbyists are working to oppose other zoning-related bills the Legislature is considering.

Kevin summarized the Bettencourt bill as removing local control of zoning from the cities and the Tall Building Bill (already out of the Senate) as relating to building height.

Lorre Weidlich called the question. The vote was 31 in favor, 5 opposed, no abstentions. The motion passed.

Introduction to Ideas about Potential New Parking Strategies for Neighborhood Streets near Commercial Areas in Hyde Park

Kevin noted that this discussion would not focus on the proposed Hyde Park High Street Project, near Duval and 43rd Street. For more information on that development, he encouraged members to attend a second meeting with developers on Thursday, May 4, at Griffin School.

Kevin introduced Curtis Rogers as a parking consultant – not a city employee – who is very familiar with neighborhood parking issues, especially in South Congress neighborhoods.

Rogers described the two extreme options that currently exist in Austin: a free-for-all ("chaos"); and strict permits – privatized parking. He mentioned that the city recently conducted a pilot program of paid parking in a Westlake-area neighborhood of single-family homes. That program was discontinued; Rogers wasn't sure why it ended. He also described a hybrid model in South Congress whereby neighborhood permits are available and nonresidents can also park using the Park ATX app. He noted that the paid parking incentivizes police officers to monitor, as permit parking is typically not well monitored. Rogers said that the Parking Benefit District program, in effect in an East Cesar Chavez neighborhood as well as at Mueller, returns 50% of net revenue from people paying to park. He said the posted signs look like existing permit signs. Annual cost of a permit is about \$20 per year for the first vehicle and more for additional vehicles. Drivers can buy inexpensive day passes; in addition, they might be available on the app.

Sebastian Weyland wondered why residents would pay to park in front of their homes. Rogers said this would only apply to curbsides where parking demand was high. One member described the parking permit system in Washington, D.C., which allows two-hour permitted parking. Rogers noted that the two-hour parking rule is very hard to enforce. Another member wanted to know whether Austin enforces the law that cars must be parked in the right direction. It was noted that this is illegal in Austin and Texas. Kevin urged members to email questions to Rogers.

Updates

Membership Software: Steering Committee Member Chris Wooster says the membership process is going well, with over 200 new members and numerous two- and three-year memberships. A total of \$880 has been returned to HPNA coffers. Kevin thanked Chris for his excellent work on this major initiative.

I 35 Project: The Committee is working on an update; information and updates will be shared at the next HPNA meeting. Duncan Meisel noted that the Austin City Council is asking TxDOT to reopen the public comment period.

2023 Homes Tour: Kevin reported that the Homes Tour Committee is gradually building a roster of homes. (The Committee subsequently met on May 2 at Lorre Weidlich's house.)

Announcements

Kevin thanked Chris Wooster for setting up the meeting technology as well as online coordination. He also thanked Ann Duncan and Katie Vignery for their work as Co-Secretaries.

A party will be held at the Elisabet Ney Museum on Saturday, June 10, to celebrate the opening of First Light Bookstore, Tiny Grocer, and the Allday Pizza shop on the former post office site.

AISD Trustee Dr. Kevin Foster will speak at the June 5 HPNA meeting. North Loop, North University, and Hancock Neighborhood Association members will also be invited.

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 8:39 pm.

– Katie Vignery, HPNA Co-Secretary



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



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News from the Ney

Summer is here and the Elisabet Ney Museum is brimming with activities to celebrate the season marked by long days of sun surrounded by family. The museum grounds have seen the flowers and wildlife of the spring and are looking forward to the summer solstice this month as it heats up in Austin.

On June 3, we will celebrate both the landscape and family art learning with two programs on the site. From 9 to 11 am, join us by getting your hands dirty and learning about the unique holistic unit that is the prairie, first



treasured by Ney, at our monthly Landscape Learning Day. This is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience with planting native seeds, interacting with our landscape educator, and removing invasive plants! Later that morning, from 10 am to 12 pm, we kick off the first of four (June 3 and 17, July 8 and 22) summer Family Days at the Ney. The Ney's education staff will be on hand to lead children of all ages through art activities that explore a variety of mediums. This activity is free and all materials will be provided. After the session, feel free to explore the museum or visit nearby Shipe Park and Pool.

This month we also team up with the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to celebrate our surrounding community and local businesses by hosting the Hyde Park Ice Cream Social from 1 to 4 pm on June 10. This outdoor gathering will take place on the Ney's expansive grounds. Attendees can enjoy pizza from Allday Pizza, cider from Fairweather Cider, and snacks from Tiny Grocer. There will also be a cookie decorating table from Quack's 43rd Street Bakery, books on view from First Light Bookstore, and family friendly art activities and interactive games. Attendees will also have a chance to take a tour of the Ney, which encompasses the history of the Hyde Park neighborhood.

Lastly, this month we shift our contemporary arts program to host Alejandra Almuelle. Originally from Peru, Almuelle's ceramic figurative sculptures exemplify the biological archive of experience through the human form. Almuelle's works have been re-contextualized amongst Elisabet Ney's own classically inspired sculptures to create new conversations around the idea of the human form. The exhibit will be on view from May 25 through July 30, 2023.

We hope to see you and yours at the museum for these lively events and programs or to spend time with the familiar work of Elisabet Ney or share the joy of shady oaks on the grounds. As the summer heats up, we invite you to Formosa!

Landscape Learning Day – June 3, 9 to 11am Family Days at the Ney – June 3, 10 am to 12 pm Hyde Park Ice Cream Social – June 10, 1 to 4 pm

The Park Needs Us...

...cont'd from page 3

for improvements to the new pool design, and pulled the neighborhood together to fund the restoration of the historic log cabin. As faithful partners of the Parks and Recreation Department, we can be assured that FOSP will have a place at the table when it's time to replace the tennis courts, the playscape, or the basketball court.

Most of all, as stewards of our community's green space, we share an underlying land ethic that motivates us to care for the park and to take on those projects that sustain it for the benefit of all. An essential part of that responsibility is to teach others how to manage our park so that future generations can enjoy it as much as we do.

Almost 80 years ago, Aldo Leopold described this commitment as "A land ethic..." that "reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity."

If you'd like to join us in the conservation of Shipe Park, send us a message through our website at *www. shipepark.org/contact*. We will add you to our group email list so you will get notices of our planning meetings and upcoming events! You can also follow us on Facebook at *facebook.com/groups/friendsofshipepark*.

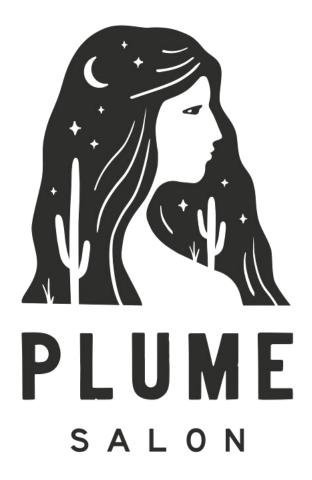
Friends of Shipe Park



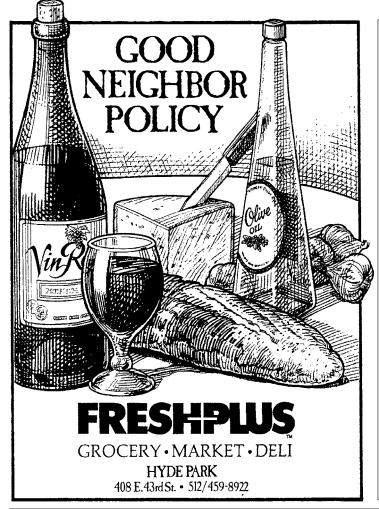
THIRD BIRTHDAY BLOCK PARTY

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 9 Am - 1 pm 5212 Avenue f

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Lettuce Recycle! by Dena Houston @ •Regiving•Recycling •Reusing•Repurposing

ll of the above words describe what we can do to Asave items from going into the landfill. My favorite is this:

Regiving

A neighbor posted on NextDoor a request for a

wheel chair for someone she knew who had Lou Gehrig's Disease. A reader suggested that she contact AGE of Central Texas. Within a few hours, she



had a free wheelchair for her friend.

AGE of Central Texas (*http://www.ageofcentraltx*. org/) is located in central Austin at 3710 Cedar Street. Their Health Equipment Lending program lends all kinds of equipment (canes, wheel chairs, bath tub seats, walkers, and so forth) to seniors and persons with disabilities, free of charge. To donate, call 512-600-9288. You can learn more on their website about what they need and even how to borrow equipment. AGE of Central Texas truly makes your recycling a way of regiving.

Regive Old Cell Phones - Helping Heroes Home has a program that gives active-duty soldiers and veterans cell phones. More info can be found at https://www. cellphonesforsoldiers.com/about-us/helping-heroes-home/. The Pak Mail store on Balcones Drive accepts these phones (no cables please).



Regive your CDs, LP Records, and Books - Recycled Reads will take books, records, and all kinds of media, including eBook readers and tablets. Typically, the only thing they cannot accept is magazines. This

wonderful store will sell these items to earn money to support the Austin Public Library. As a result, your donations help purchase books and eBooks for the residents of Austin. Visit their website at http://library.austintexas.gov/recycled-reads.



Buy Nothing - The Buy Nothing Project is a global network of community groups that encourages giving away (selling or bartering not allowed) consumer goods and services. It is accessed through Facebook and organized by neighborhoods. For more information on the project, go to https://buynothing*project.org*/. The Facebook page is a private group but is easy to join; just go to "Buy Nothing."

I Was Wondering About...Lettuce Recycle Questions **Through The Years**

Use this link to access a compilation of the many recycling and composting questions I have received over the past seven years from my 86 issues of Lettuce Recycle. I hope everyone finds this helpful. https://drive.google.com/file/d/17kiiWHkUXJcZnTLfM25D0ad4V0UObbcI/ view?usp=sharing

Questions from our Readers

How do I dispose of rat bait and bait stations? These can go to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center (as long as the rat is not still in it). They are considered hazardous materials; the Center knows how to dispose of them safely.

What do I do with plastic pill bottles? First, be sure the bottles are empty. If the bottles have a recycling symbol on the bottom, they can go into the blue recycling bin. Please leave the lids on. The labels do not need to be removed.

Can I put metal bottle caps in the metal collection bins at the Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center? Yes, you can. These caps cannot go into the blue recycling bin because they are too small.

What do I do with shredded paper? Shredded paper is a problem because it cannot be recycled in its state of "shreddedness." It needs to go into the green curbside bin, contained in either a paper bag or compostable plastic bag. Shredded paper cannot go into your recycling bin.

Wax paper – compost bin? In the beginning, wax paper could be put into the green compost bin. However, it was discovered that it did not break down in the 120 days of composting. Therefore, wax paper must go into the trash can.

Can margarine and butter wrappers go into the green compost bin? Yes, they can as long as the wrappers are not made of foil.

Please Remember - Do Not Bag Recyclables!

After recyclables are collected, they are taken to the recycling facility where they are loaded onto a fast-moving conveyor belt for sorting. There is no time for bagged items to be opened and sorted; they are pulled off the conveyor belt and taken to the landfill. So, don't put recyclables in bags.

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 recycling@hpwbana.org.







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Protecting Our Trees... ...cont'd from page 1

Neighbors called 311 when they realized the butchery being done on those magnificent trees. The city posted a stop-work order and, from my understanding, it will be taking action against the homeowner and the tree company.



This episode is a painful, if not brutal, reminder to pay attention when tree work is being done in the neighborhood. If the crew is not from a company well recognized as qualified to do the work — meaning it has a certified arborist on staff — please let the crew members know you will immediately call 311 and the city arborist to report them. And be sure to take a photo of the company name on their truck. If there is no name, take a photo of the license plate.

Most of us think that common sense and the city's tree ordinance, which regulates work on trees, would keep this sort of thing from happening, particularly in Hyde Park. This is a reminder that we all need to be vigilant and active in protecting our tree canopy and our neighborhood.

- C. Stephen Saunders



Word Find Answers from page 7

1)CONFIRMATION; 2)SHARPSHOOTER; 3)AUTHORITY; 4)BANDWAGON; 5)BARNUM; 6)STRAWMAN; 7)FALSE CAUSE; 8)BEGGING; 9)QUESTION; 10)FRAMING; 11)SCOTSMAN; 12)MIDDLE; 13)GROUND; 14)NATURE; 15)GAMBLERS; 16)BURDEN; 17)PROOF; 18)EMOTION; 19)AD HOMINEM; 20)SLIPPERY SLOPE; 21)ANECDOTAL

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