

# April Meeting

**When:** 7:00 pm  
Monday, April 3, 2017

**Where:** Griffin School  
5001 Evans Avenue

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

## HPNA General Meeting Agenda for April 3

- Presentation about the new Senior Living Center under construction at the Triangle by Lynn Wallace, Senior Vice President of Sales
- Presentation about Speedway Bike Lane by Alison Mills, P.E., Active Transportation and Street Design Division, City of Austin Transportation Department
- Announcements

**See You There!**

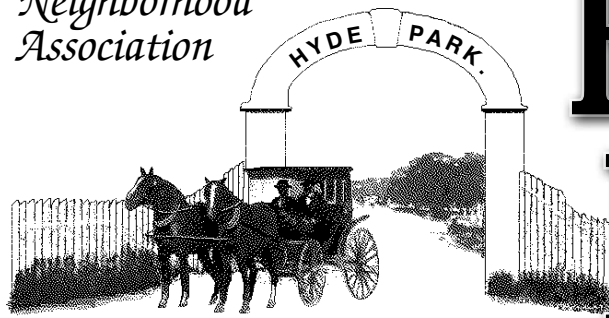
## Egg Scramble Time

Spring has sprung, and we all know what that means: the Egg Scramble Bunny is on the prowl! Or should we say, on the hop? In either case, we know where he's headed - to our annual Hyde Park Egg Scramble at Shipe Park! He's looking forward, like the rest of us, to an exciting morning of egg scrambling, egg-and-spoon races, egg tosses, balloon animals, bouncing in the bounce house, face painting, and - new this year - egg-themed crafts. Set aside Saturday, April 15, 10:30 to 12:30, for this annual HPNA event. It's open to everyone in the neighborhood and it's always a fun event, whether you're a kid doing the scrambling or an adult watching from the sidelines.

So what, you ask, is an egg scramble? Basically, it's a traditional Easter egg hunt. In the case of this hunt, if your child is going to participate, we ask you to provide the eggs for your child's age group. Just drop off a dozen plastic eggs filled with age-appropriate

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*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



# Pecan Press

April 2017 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 43, No. 4

## Resting in Peace

*(Special thanks to Audrey Bunting and her staff at the Austin History Center without whose help this article would not have been possible.)*

It is not against the law in Texas to bury people on your property. This fact came to light recently during the processing of an application for a construction permit on the vacant lot between 4205 and 4209 Avenue F.

During a routine check with the Historical Commission, it turned out that a number of historical personages are interred at this site. It also came to light that a minor Victorian masterpiece used to stand where the two houses at 4201 and 4205 Avenue F now stand.

The house belonged to Pierre Gaigneux, a native of Clermont-Ferrand, France, who emigrated to Austin in the mid-1880s with his sister Belle. Although not formally trained as an architect, polymath Gaigneux designed the house himself.

Pierre was seen as a young man of great promise when he arrived here. His friends and admirers spoke of his great intelligence, erudition, musical talent and charm. There was talk in political circles that he was destined for high office, perhaps even the governor's mansion.

As it turned out, he advanced no higher than assistant postmaster. This was widely attributed to his devotion to his sister who ran a "house" on W. 10th street. According to a handbill in the city archives, the establishment featured "the prettiest girls between the Sabine and the Rio Grande."

Between the years of 1889 and 1903, when Belle died of tuberculosis, her house was mentioned over a dozen times in the Austin American, almost always concerning incidents tinged with scandal.

In 1890, Josephine Baxter, one of the entertainers at Belle's establishment, was found dead in her room from an overdose of laudanum. A group of leading citizens demanded an inquiry, with the aim of shutting down the house. Belle's comment, quoted in the Austin American, was "Stuff happens." According to staff at the Austin History Center, this is



The Gaigneux House at 4201 Avenue F

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## Shipe Pool and Shipe Park

Last month we received both good news and bad news about Shipe Pool. First, the bad news. It appears that Shipe Pool will not be opening this summer as originally planned. The pool was scheduled for major repair and redesign over a two year period, and the initial plan was to keep the pool open this summer and begin work on renovation in the fall after the season closes. However, due to unexpected problems discovered by the health department, including massive leaking and hazards associated with the pool drains, the city Parks and Recreation Department has determined that it is not possible to open the pool this summer without first doing expensive repairs. Those repairs would be short-term, because the whole pool will shortly be replaced with the new design, and the cost of those repairs represents a significant portion of the annual maintenance budget for the Aquatics department.

Additionally, the health department is also insisting that new fences be placed around the pools and that, in addition to lifeguards, a gate keeper be hired to staff the pool. We are unsure why these two requirements are just now being raised, given that there have been no changes in the underlying health code. We will continue to investigate these requirements and report back to the neighborhood as we learn more.

There is some good news about Shipe Pool. The latest pool design reduces the number of bathrooms to be built inside the pool fence. That will free up space around the pool deck and give swimmers a better view of the Ney Museum. As a replacement, some of the park money will be used to improve the

bathrooms in the log cabin outside the pool gate, which, we are told, will be available year round for patrons of Shipe Park. Perhaps HPNA and other neighborhood groups can partner with the City to restore the log cabin itself.

HPNA has always been a supporter of Shipe Park. Last month, there was another successful Its My Park! Day (IMPD), with neighbors and friends helping to clean and refurbish the park. We want to thank Mark Fishman, the HPNA Parks and Public Space Chair, for taking the lead on IMPD. We also want to thank the IMPD organizers: Lisa Harris, Alison Young, Adam Wilson, Leila Levinson, Summer Seibert, Jill Nokes, and Jack Nokes. Our thanks to Quack's for providing an amazing, free assortment of drinks and pastries. Even though the weather put a damper on a few things, such as painting and graffiti removal, everything else managed to get done, with about 100 folks participating in this annual event.

### Ridgetop Elementary

Last month we received the great news that Ridgetop Elementary is no longer on the AISD list of schools to be closed. This news comes as a great relief for parents and children in North Hyde Park. Earlier in March, HPNA had passed a resolution in support of keeping the school open, and we received a lot of input from folks

in and outside of Hyde Park about how important Ridgetop is for children all over the city. We will continue to work with those residents to help provide the support

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## Pecan Press

The *Pecan Press* is published monthly by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas. Advertising deadline: 15th of the month preceding publication. Editorial deadline: 10th of the month preceding publication.

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# Shipe Pool Update

On Monday, March 6, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department hosted a public forum at the Griffin School to provide an update on Shipe Pool. Construction drawings for the new pool will be finalized at the end of March, with the goal of breaking ground in October or November, 2017.

As part of the design and construction project, the bathrooms in the historic log cabin will be brought to current ADA standards to ensure that the pool meets the number of fixture required by City code. This innovative solution allows for more green space within the pool enclosure and gives park patrons access to upgraded, ADA-compliant facilities throughout the year. Unfortunately, the original budget did not include work outside the pool area. PARD has not identified funds to address the log cabin. At this time, any desired repair work will need to be funded by Friends of Shipe Park and HPNA. Pool project architects are looking at project requirements, but the total costs of the renovation have not yet been determined.

Park staff also presented several key site considerations, including forensic findings about the post oak tree west of the pool. After extensive core testing and analysis of the tree, representatives of the City Forestry Department and PARD forestry determined that the tree is dying and poses a public health hazard. PARD staff is open to the community to preserve wood from the tree to potentially construct park benches.

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# Austin Pilots Extended Outdoor Music Hours along Red River City Seeks Neighborhood Input

On May 1, the City of Austin will launch a six-month pilot of extended music hours in the Red River Cultural District, between 7th and 10th Streets.

During the pilot, outdoor live music curfews will be extended from 11 pm to midnight on Thursdays and from midnight to 1 am on Fridays and Saturdays for five local venues: the Empire Control Room and Garage, Cheer up Charlie's, the Mohawk, Sidewinder, and Stubbs BBQ.

The city will be collecting data to determine whether the extended hours benefit local venues and musicians and the impact of the pilot on homes, hotels, and businesses near the affected area. As part of this effort, the Economic Development Division will be placing sound monitors in potentially affected neighborhoods, including Hyde Park.

Alex Lopez, deputy director of the Economic Development Department for the City of Austin, has asked the HPNA for help locating sites where these monitors should be placed in our neighborhood. If you have suggestions, please contact HPNA Steering Committee Member, Joan Burnham, at [jgiburnham@gmail.com](mailto:jgiburnham@gmail.com). The City will also be setting up a special hotline for Red River Cultural District noise complaints. The number will be published in the May edition of the *Pecan Press* and distributed on the neighborhood Yahoo group.

– Betsy Clubine

Membership Information	Submission Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership in HPNA is open to all residents 18 years or older residing within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of its boundaries.</li> <li>• All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</li> <li>• New members and members who lapse in dues for over six months are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.</li> <li>• Membership dues can be paid in several ways: By signing up at an HPNA meeting or event, by mailing in the membership form, or by joining online using PayPal. To pay online, go to <a href="http://www.austinhypark.org">www.austinhypark.org</a> and click on the Join Now button. Dues paid online are \$6.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at <a href="mailto:lweidlich@grandecom.net">lweidlich@grandecom.net</a>. <i>Opinion articles &amp; letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.</i></li> <li>• Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at <a href="mailto:herzele@gmail.com">herzele@gmail.com</a>. <i>All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.</i></li> </ul>

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form	
Name _____	Phone _____
Address _____	
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Dues per Person <input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/yr. <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Senior - \$1/yr. <input type="checkbox"/> Cash  <input type="checkbox"/> New Member            Date _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member        Amount _____	Mailing Address: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 <i>Make checks payable to HPNA.</i>

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## HYDE PARK AREA: YTD SALES IN REVIEW

	2014	2015	2016
NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD	21	29	24
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$470,419	\$570,905	\$578,158
AVERAGE SQ FT	1,582SF	1,549SF	1,927SF
AVERAGE SOLD \$/SQ FT	\$321.75	\$376.47	\$361.16
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	14 DAYS	7 DAYS	7 DAYS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for Single Family Residence taken 10/04/2016 from the Austin MLS. For detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker.



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# HPNA General Meeting Minutes: March 6, 2017

Reid Long, co-President, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Betsy Clubine provided the following updates:

The City of Austin is piloting an extension of the hours during which outdoor live music can be presented in the Red River area (between 7th and 11th Street), extending the time from 11 pm to midnight during the week and until 1 am on weekends. This will begin in May. Monitoring devices will be set up in various neighborhoods, including Hyde Park, to see how the sound travels and whether it presents a problem. Any excessive noise resulting from the program should be reported to 311. The City's intent with this program is to determine if the extra hours provide a benefit for (often struggling) music venues and (always struggling) musicians. Hotels located downtown, particularly those serving the Convention Center, have opposed this program.

The reconstruction plans for Shipe Pool are moving forward. As the City will be able to count the existing bathrooms in the log cabin (in an upgraded form) against the current requirements, it will not need to build quite as much new bathroom space as originally thought. This will enable leaving a bit more of the space along Avenue G open to maintain the view of the Ney Museum from the pool area.

Now the bad news:

- The large post oak by the log cabin has reached the end of its life and will have to be taken down. There is a plan to use wood from it for benches to honor its service to the countless children who have climbed and sat upon it over its many decades.
- New interpretations of health department codes make it necessary to add height to all the pool fences for security purposes.
- New interpretations of health department codes require having a gatekeeper at each pool entrance or exit.
- New interpretations of health department codes have determined that the drains in the pool are too far apart and could be hazardous.
- In addition, the pool is leaking 35,000 gallons of water a day.
- Remediation of these items would cost approximately \$108,000. Considering that the entire budget for running all the city pools for the season is approximately \$900,000, this likely means that the pool will not be open this summer.
- If all goes well, the pool could be ready for the 2018 season.

## Monthly Calendar April

- 2 — *Short Short Fiction Festival at the Ney Museum*
- 3 — *HPNA Meeting*
- 6 — *DRC Meeting*
- 10 — *Steering Committee Meeting*
- 14 — *Recycling Pickup*
- 25 — *Contact Team Meeting*
- 28 — *Recycling Pickup*

Kevin Heyburn, co-President, brought us the news that Steering Committee Member-For-Life Dorothy Richter (who recently turned 95) is back at home continuing to recover. We signed cards for her that wished her the best of health.

Lorre Weidlich shared the draft of a letter to be sent to Mayor Adler concerning CodeNEXT.

- Kevin Heyburn offered that he had seen Mayor Adler at a meeting of the Austin Neighborhoods Council and on that occasion the Mayor volunteered to speak at an HPNA General Meeting. In response to this, a friendly amendment to the letter was proposed, stating that we offered the Mayor "friendly welcome to appear before HPNA."
- The major issues seen with CodeNEXT are the fact that there are significant mismatches between it and existing neighborhood plans (which would theoretically remain in force) and the fact that middle-class housing would continue to be lost as newer housing stock replaces older stock.
- As amended, the proposal to send the letter passed with 24 votes in favor, 1 opposed, and no abstentions.

The meeting continued with Lorre Weidlich presenting a resolution supporting the recommendations of the Flood Mitigation Task Force (available in last month's *Pecan Press*). This proposal passed with 25 votes in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

The proposal regarding a proposed letter to the parole board about the convicted perpetrator of the stabbing on Speedway last year was postponed.

Kevin Heyburn presented a report and resolution about the possible closure of Ridgetop Elementary School (again, available in last month's *Pecan Press*). He attended last month's FABPAC meeting, which had a large attendance that supported maintaining Ridgetop as a school and not consolidating it with Riley Elementary. Kathie Tovo, our representative on the City Council, also attended the meeting. We learned the following:

**Continued on page 7**



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## March Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 5

- The recommendation to close Ridgetop came from a consultant hired to find possible efficiencies, not from the AISD Board itself.
- In support of our recommendation to maintain the school, it was suggested that we canvass that part of the neighborhood to see how many young children – possible future attendees – live there.
- The general consensus at the meeting was that smaller schools are more effective. In addition, the dual-language program has been highly regarded. Although the dual-language program would continue at Riley, it would not be the whole school.
- The current status is that FABPAC has provided initial comment to the AISD Board, which is seeking a new bond initiative this summer. It will be the Board that has the final say.
- This proposal passed 25 votes in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention.

Reid Long then presented a report about the proposed bicycle lanes for Speedway between 38th Street and 45th Street; this proposal is in conjunction with the planned resurfacing of the street later this year. Currently, the city is doing engineering studies and finalizing the actual proposal. Some questions and concerns arose:

Some trees have green ribbons on them. Why? Those are trees that would need to be trimmed. Clearance needs to be 14' over bike lanes as opposed to 9' over sidewalks.

Have there been comments by Speedway residents? Varied. The loss of parking has been the most frequent issue raised. Additional concerns have been raised concerning the narrowing of Speedway (the bicycle lanes would be five to six feet in width).

Would there be a provision for temporary parking? Unknown.

Finally there were some concluding announcements:

Lorre Weidlich requested a volunteer to write the "Kids' Corner" column in the Pecan Press.

Mark Fishman gave thanks to all the sponsors of It's My Park! Day, which, despite bad weather, was a rousing success with great attendance. Much work was done making the park a better place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

– Artie Gold  
HPNA Co-Secretary



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# Another It's My Park! Day at Shipe Park



The morning of March 4 began with cool temperatures and a threat of rain, yet nearly 100 undaunted volunteers still showed up at Shipe Park for the annual It's My Park! Day spring cleanup. Sponsored by Friends of Shipe Park and the Austin Parks Foundation, this once-a-year event engages volunteers to help the city Parks and Recreation Department staff maintain and enhance our heavily used park by spreading mulch around trees, raking leaves from the pools, aerating the lower field, spreading compost, and clearing trash from the creek.

The city budget for our Parks and Recreation Department has been under-funded for years and will likely continue to be so, so this event is crucial to maintaining the health and resiliency of the park. It's also an opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another better and to become informed about park issues, such as the pool renovation and other proposed improvements.

We want to recognize some of the folks who helped make this volunteer event a success: Thanks go to the Austin Parks Foundation and Friends of Shipe Park for sponsoring the event.



Quackenbush's bakery generously provided baked treats and coffee, and Fresh Plus brought Gatorade and ice for our hard working volunteers. Just Trees arborists delivered an extra load of mulch, and employees of the Austin Parks and Recreation department partnered with volunteers to complete tasks and help set up the event. Also on hand as group volunteers were students and parents from Griffin School, Midtown Church, and Youth Corps.





Want to find out how you can get involved?  
Contact Jill Nokes at [jill@jillnokes.com](mailto:jill@jillnokes.com) or Alison Young at [lacoeurooyeur@yahoo.com](mailto:lacoeurooyeur@yahoo.com).

– Jill Nokes

Participating in It's My Park! Day for one morning a year is a great way for families and individuals to contribute to park maintenance and upkeep. The multiple hours provided by so many people result in benefits that last the whole year.



## Around & About the Avenues

**Over 65 and Feel Like Dancing?** The Parks and Recreation Senior Activity Center at 2874 Shoal Crest Avenue (corner of 29th Street and Lamar) holds regular dances on Fridays that feature two bands that play everything from big band music to rock 'n' roll. Admission is \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members. For more information, call Kay Sousares at 512-453-7978.



**Ridgetop Saved!** From HPNA co-President, Reid Long, we heard the following: "I wanted to pass along some good news. We heard earlier in the week from Susan Moffat, and I found the (*Austin American*) *Statesman* article that Ridgetop Elementary has been removed from the school closure list. See the article at <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/local-education/austin-district-stalls-recommendations-school-closures-rebuilds/QLaWzs1mOqVkgvOwm9nJVM/>. One battle won, so many more to fight."



## Co-Presidents...

...cont'd from page 2

needed to continue to make the case to AISD that Ridgetop is a valuable community school. We especially want to thank neighbor Susan Moffat for her leadership and hard work to preserve Ridgetop for future generations of students.

### CodeNEXT

The map related to Austin's massive code rewrite will come out in mid-April. A joint committee of the HPNA and the Contact Team has been formed to monitor the progress of CodeNEXT and to review the documents that it has been producing. This committee will make recommendations when necessary to the membership on how to proceed. We will no doubt have to vote on future resolutions to express our views to the City, and we might need neighbors to go to City Hall to help represent the neighborhood's interests.

### Upcoming Events

Finally, don't forget to come to the Egg Scramble in Shipe Park on Saturday, April 15, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. This is a great event for kids and always fun to watch. More information about the Scramble is in this issue. Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 3, at the Griffin School. Among other things, we will learn more about the proposed new protected bike lane that will run down Speedway from 45th Street to 38th Street. Hope to see you there.

– Kevin Heyburn & Reid Long  
HPNA Co-Presidents

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# Egg Scramble Time...

...cont'd from page 1

treats on the front porch of either 4307 Avenue F or 4402 Avenue F any time between Saturday, April 8 and Friday, April 14. There will be bins marked by age group: under 3 years, 3 and 4 years, and 5 years and older.

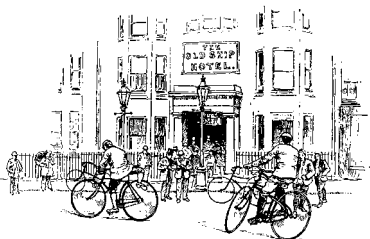
The action starts about 10:45. Each age group will have its own area marked in the park with colored flagging tape. The younger age groups will be scrambling in the large flat field area of the park, while the oldest age group will be in the area north of the bridge. The playground, swings, and basketball court will still be open to people not attending the event.

The fun doesn't end with the egg scramble. After that, there are egg-and-spoon races and egg tosses. We'll provide an egg and a spoon for any kid old enough to run and hold a spoon at the same time! And we'll have prizes for the winners! The Egg Scramble Bunny will arrive shortly after that, for pictures in the photo booth provided by Carolyn Grimes of Coldwell Banker United, Realtors.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Grande Communications, there will be popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy for everyone! There will be a bouncy castle for the little ones and an obstacle course for the big ones. After the egg hunts, Jasper the balloon artist will make amazing balloon creations and Sparkles the face painter will decorate the kids with rainbow unicorns, tigers, monkeys, and butterflies. New this year is the opportunity for kids to color and make egg-themed crafts at a table near the concessions.

We thank Grande Communications, our primary sponsor for this event, and additional sponsors Trinity United Methodist Church; Carolyn Grimes of Coldwell Banker United, Realtors; Walgreens; and Bounce Around Austin. We especially want to thank the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and all the volunteers from It's My Park! Day for their efforts to keep Shippe Park looking so beautiful and to get it ready for this event.

Finally, we want to thank all the committee members who organized this for our kids: Tim Luyet, Joanna Fitzgerald, Jennifer Suehs, Sandy Kearns, Phyllis Parsegian, and Michelle Rossomando. Interested in volunteering? Go to our invitation page, SignUp.com, at <http://signup.com/go/DihZA8>. We look forward to seeing you all there!



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At the Quarries  
June 12-16  
At Hyde Park  
9a-Noon  
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June 26-30  
9am-2:00pm  
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KAMP is a week for children to explore their creativity in music, art, drama, movement and more. Find more details at [hpbc.org/kamp](http://hpbc.org/kamp)

Questions? Contact Bev Allen at [ballen@hpbc.org](mailto:ballen@hpbc.org)



## Say Hi to the Homeless

Sometimes I will ask a homeless person how he/she is doing  
And if they could use a dollar or two  
I do this because I read a book in which a homeless woman said,  
“Just tell them to remember who I am.”

It must be a terrible thing to be invisible when people avert their eyes  
They do not want to see you. They do not want to think about your life  
That you do not have a home to go to at the end of the day  
They do not want to give you money but they feel guilty about it.

The other day I was at a stoplight, waiting to turn left,  
There was a vet, with a sign, “Anything will help. God bless”  
I rolled down my window and asked him, “How are you doing,  
Today?” And he said, “I’m feeling lucky – I wasn’t born in Iran.”

I can’t stop thinking about that. I am still thinking about it.

— *Herzele*  
11/21/15

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## News from the Ney

The only event that's happening at the Elisabet Ney Museum this April, 2017 is the Austin Short Short Fiction Festival #2!

This terrific event will take place the day after the Annual Fiction Confab of the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation, which brings Austin authors together with national authors for a wonderful mini-conference at the Faulk library downtown. That will be on Saturday, April 1.

On Sunday, April 2, the Ney's Short Short Fiction Festival will bring some of those authors together with local stars like Deb Olin Unfirth, Elizabeth McCracken, Mary Helen Specht, and more to read selections of flash fiction (also known as "short short fiction") at the Ney. Last year's event was delightful, with fourteen readings in two hours – a sweet and entertaining afternoon on the grass. It's also going to feature booths from some of Austin's favorite short-fiction presses.

Mark your calendars: celebrate National Wildflower Awareness Week with the Ney's Annual Spring grounds tour on Sunday, May 7. Also, the Fifth Annual Ney Day: A Celebration of Women in the Arts, Sciences, and Civic Culture, will take place on Saturday, May 20. The Museum will be featuring bands like Los Tesoros de San Antonio, The Jones Family Singers, Ruby Fray, and Riders Against the Storm. Ney Day will also see the unveiling of two new outdoor sculptures by local Austin women artists. Later this summer, look for another ArtSwap and three more Meet Her Hands events, co-produced with #BossbabesATX. Join the Museum's Facebook page for more information as events come closer, or join the museum's e-newsletter list by sending your contact information to [ney@austintexas.gov](mailto:ney@austintexas.gov).

### Hyde Park Neighbors –

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## Resting in Peace... ...cont'd from page 1

the first documented use of that phrase.

Baxter was refused burial in the city's Oakwood Cemetery because of her past, and Pierre stepped forward to offer the vacant lot adjacent to his house for her interment.

The following year, House Speaker Tyler Adkins, the legendary 'Bullmoose of the Brazos,' shot and killed a man on the front porch of Belle's establishment. Adkins said it was a duel and called it "an affair of honor." Skeptics pointed out that the dead man was unarmed and was shot in the back.

According to Audrey Bunting, the only thing that kept Adkins off the scaffold was the intervention of Supreme Court justice DeWitt Pugh, one of Adkins' card-playing buddies and a regular at Belle's, who ruled that Adkins was immune from prosecution owing to his position as head of the Texas House of Representatives.

No one claimed the body of the dead man, a South Texas rancher named Houlihan. Feeling responsible for the mishap, Belle paid for the simple funeral and prevailed upon Pierre to bury him next to Josephine.

The most poignant story is that of Belle's illegitimate son, Jean-Baptiste. By all accounts the child, said to be the offspring of Victor Trovatore, the Italian tenor who spent a week in Austin during his only American tour, was a singing prodigy. From an 1898 *Austin American* review of a performance at the Hyde Park Pavillion: "...but the highlight of the afternoon was Jean-Baptiste Gaigneux's crystalline rendition of 'Oft in the Stilly Night.' Many a crusty Hill Country goat rancher's cheek glistened, and many a lady's handkerchief was brandished, as the child's seraphic voice swept over the crowd."

Plans were being made for Jean-Baptiste to tour Europe when tragedy struck. Danton Giraud, a notorious mesmerist, had a falling out with Belle over an unpaid bill. He retaliated by hypnotizing Jean-Baptiste and telling him that when he awoke he would no longer understand the English language. And so instead of heading for glory before the crowned heads of Europe, Jean-Baptiste headed to the Texas State Lunatic Asylum on Guadalupe Street.

Often in the years that followed Hyde Park residents would hear Jean-Baptiste singing as he strolled the asylum grounds at night. Pierre always doted on the boy and visited him almost daily. When Jean-Baptiste died of unknown causes in 1907 Pierre insisted that he be buried on Avenue F.

Ironically, Pierre was the only member of the family not buried on his property. His uninsured house burned to the ground in 1910, and he began drinking



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9:45 Egg Hunt  
10:30 Worship Service

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heavily. His property was seized by the county for unpaid taxes in 1912 and he was found dead on the floor next to his bed at a cheap East Austin rooming house a few months later. He was buried in a pauper's grave on 51st Street.

The story might end there, except that in recent years neighbors have reported that on cold, moonless nights a child's voice can sometimes be heard singing in the 4200 block of Avenue F. Curiously, although none have been able to identify the song, all described the child's voice as "seraphic."

– Rollo Treadway

## Shipe Pool Update... ...cont'd from page 3

City staff are looking at ways to improve access to the pool by extending the sidewalk around the park, along 44th Street and Avenue G. The current family activity pool (the wading pool) will be filled with soil and covered in sod. (Holes will be drilled in the bottom of the pool to ensure proper drainage.)

At the meeting, PARD recalled findings of the 2014 Aquatic Assessment that identified Shipe, Govalle, and Givens pools as critical pools. In the case of Shipe, the structures would require \$108,000 in repairs and general pool maintenance to bring them up to code. The pools are losing 34 thousand gallons of water each day, in effect, emptying every four days. In addition, the Health Department is requiring improvements to fences around the wading pool and the large pool, gate guards, and safety improvements to the drains.

Since PARD's budget for the fiscal year for all pools in the current aquatic system is \$900,000, the budget for Shipe Pool repairs is cost-prohibitive. Staff are recommending that PARD focus its repair dollars on pools that aren't earmarked for replacement like Shipe and Govalle pools, which will be under construction in the Fall of 2017. Friends of Shipe Park and HPNA will meet with Parks and Recreation Department leaders to explore expediting construction of the new pool as well as avenues for funding restoration of the log cabin and other improvements to our beloved park.

– Betsy Clubine

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## 3502 RED RIVER STREET

Tucked away down a private drive, this gorgeous traditional townhome has 3,186 SF with 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 LIV, 2-car attached garage. Hardwoods, fireplace, two decks.  
Listed at \$699,000



## 838 EAST 37TH STREET

Spacious 1940s Austin stone house located just south of Hancock Golf Course. 2,271 SF, one-story, 3 BR, 3 BA, 1 LIV, 2 DIN, 2-car garage. Walk to UT and Lee Elementary.  
Listed at \$675,000



## 103 WEST 32ND STREET

1930s Colonial Revival with guest house and swimming pool. Main house has 3,064 SF with 4 BR, 4 BA, 2 LIV, 2 DIN. Beautifully updated kitchen & baths. 1-car garage.  
Listed at \$1,045,000



## 3306 HARRIS PARK AVENUE

Charming renovated 1930s duplex available for immediate move-in! Adorable downstairs unit has hardwoods, screened porch, 2 BR, 1 BA, 1 LIV, 1 DIN. Appliances provided.  
Listed at \$1,895/mo.



## 4809 AVENUE H

Two adorable homes on one lot. Main house is 3 BR, 2 BA, with new kitchen & baths. One-story guest house has 1 BR, 1 BA. Ideal for rental or extended family.  
Listed at \$649,000



## 4009 AVENUE D

Classic 1925 Hyde Park bungalow in heart of historic district. 2 BR, 1 BA, updated kitchen and hall bath, utility porch. Wood floors throughout. One-car garage.  
Listed at \$529,000



## 4202 AVENUE C

Cute 1920s Hyde Park bungalow featuring 2 BR, 1 BA plus separate 1 BR, 1 BA garage apartment. Both have hardwood floors and many recent updates.  
Listed at \$529,500

The 2017 Austin real estate market is already off to a great start. Call your neighborhood expert today for a complimentary market analysis and customized marketing plan for your property.

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