

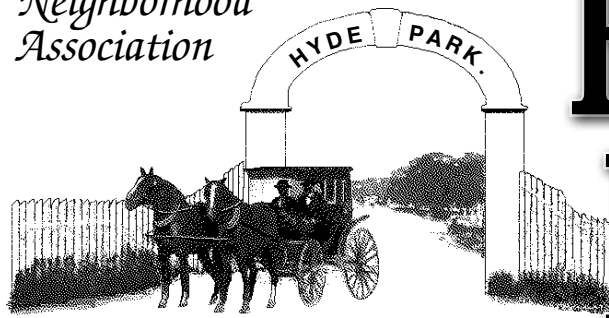
January Meeting

No HPNA General Meeting in January

Happy New Year!

We'll see you in February!

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

January 2022 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 48, No. 1

Post Office Redevelopment

The postal service vacating Hyde Park was a difficult event for all of us this summer. It came without notice and caught each of us by surprise and with disappointment. Much like the seasons' change, this change reminds us of an evolving dynamic within our own built environment. Our built environment changes, sometimes positively and sometimes negatively.

What someone cherishes, others might loathe. This is the unique reality of living in a community. How do we kindly move forward when change is thrust upon us?

The past 10 years, I have enjoyed countless walks through Hyde Park to check on properties, residents, and neighbors. I have met terrific people and learned a great deal on these walks. But the last six months have been exceptionally robust.



I've known Austin for almost 40 years, so I view my work in the built environment simply as being a good steward. Places matter. People matter. Neighborhoods connect us to one another. Seasons change and so do properties. How we usher space into new life is the exciting part of this transformation to improve our communities.

This is why I am excited for the vision at 43rd Street and Speedway. 4300 Speedway is already zoned CS. I am content repurposing the existing building with restaurant and retail use, well below the height and FAR allowances in the NCCD. Currently the site is 100% impervious cover. I plan to return up to 15% of the site to pervious coverage. This beautiful corner will be a walkable amenity for all to enjoy in 2022.

Across the street is the vacant parking lot (4307 Speedway) and a single family home (4303 Speedway) situated between the fire station and the parking lot. The parking lot is zoned MF-3 and the home is zoned SF-3.



Everyone is mindful of the urgent housing needs in our city. It's important to have a dialogue on not just building housing because we need it but placing it in the appropriate areas. My question was always, "What is the most appropriate use on this mid-block site given its relationship to the fire station, adjacent houses, and post office building?"

Continued on page 18

From the Desk of the Co-Presidents



Welcome to 2022!

We hope you enjoyed the holidays! Three weeks ago, on December 11, HPNA helped kick off the holiday season by organizing a parade featuring Santa Claus, followed by a party in Shipe Park. Santa was transported on a brightly lit float up and down Avenue H and up Avenue G, just north of 40th Street. Santa was transported on a brightly lit float up and down Avenue H and up Avenue G, just north of 40th Street. Santa and his helpers passed out candy canes to over 200 neighbors, who either marched in the parade or watched from their homes. After the parade, Santa and the parade participants gathered in Shipe Park, where they enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate and listened to a twenty-piece brass band.

We want to thank the Slovanic Benevolent Brotherhood of the State of Texas (SPJST) for loaning HPNA their spectacular float and we want to thank neighbor Stephen Gonzalez for inviting Santa to join our parade. We also want to thank Quack's Bakery for its generous contribution of 200 cookies and two large Cambro containers of hot chocolate. Thank you also to the Elisabet Ney Museum for sending over a tray of cookies. And thank you to the band Blowcomotion for performing in the park after the parade.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to support the parade, with a special thank you to the Holiday Parade Committee: Chair Stephen Gonzalez and members Betsy Clubine, Kathy Jackson, Marsha Riti, and Katie Turner. Seeing the excitement in our neighborhood kids' eyes when they saw Santa pass by on the float and watching neighbors of all ages enjoying each other's company on a beautiful December evening left us with a warm memory of 2021.

2022 will no doubt have its challenges. COVID and last year's snowstorm remind us all to expect the unexpected. However, no matter what happens this year, we hope our upcoming neighborhood meetings will be helpful and constructive and that the community events we have planned will strengthen the connection everyone in Hyde Park has with each other.

Happy New Year!

— Michele Grieshaber
Lisa Harris
Kevin Heyburn
Co-Presidents

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Co-Presidents



Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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Pecan Press

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Fencing Option for Baker School Retention Pond

Back in October, the Austin Watershed Department presented plans for flood mitigation in Hyde Park. Part of their proposed scope includes a retention pond behind the Baker School, in what is currently an open field. As part of the presentation, they requested input from the neighborhood on fencing options around the perimeter of the pond. The fence is for safety, to prevent people and animals from entering the pond area.



In response to the request for input, the HPNA conducted a survey providing three fencing scenarios (the survey link was published in the *Pecan Press* and included on the Hyde Park website). We're pleased to

Monthly Calendar January

- 1 — Happy New Year!
- 6 — DRC Meeting
- 8 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney
- 10 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 14 — Recycling Pickup
- 14 — Opening of *Suspension* at the Ney
- 15 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney
- 21 — Opening Reception for *Suspension* at the Ney
- 22 — Printmaking Workshop at the Ney
- 22 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney
- 28 — Recycling Pickup
- 29 — Saturday Morning Drawing Salon at the Ney

announce that we had 21 responses. Option one was selected as the favorite, followed by option three.

Option one is a decorative fence with openings of various sizes. The image shows a potential version.

Anti-graffiti considerations might change the final look and feel. The option of a plainer security fence was the second choice of neighbors. We look forward to seeing how the department will proceed and very much appreciate their desire to engage neighbors and gather input.

— Michele Grieshaber

Membership Information

- Membership in HPNA is open to all residents 18 years or older residing within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of its boundaries.
- University students are free.
- All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.
- New members and members who lapse in dues for over six months are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues.
- Membership dues can be paid in several ways: By signing up at an HPNA meeting or event, by mailing in the membership form, or by joining online using PayPal. To pay online, go to www.austinydepark.org and click on the **Join Now** button. Dues paid online are \$6.

Submission Information

- Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to Lorre Weidlich at lweidlich@mail2sevenses.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.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Notify me by email of HPNA meetings & events _____

Dues per Person

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior - \$1/yr. | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student - Free | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member | Date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member | Amount _____ |

Mailing Address:
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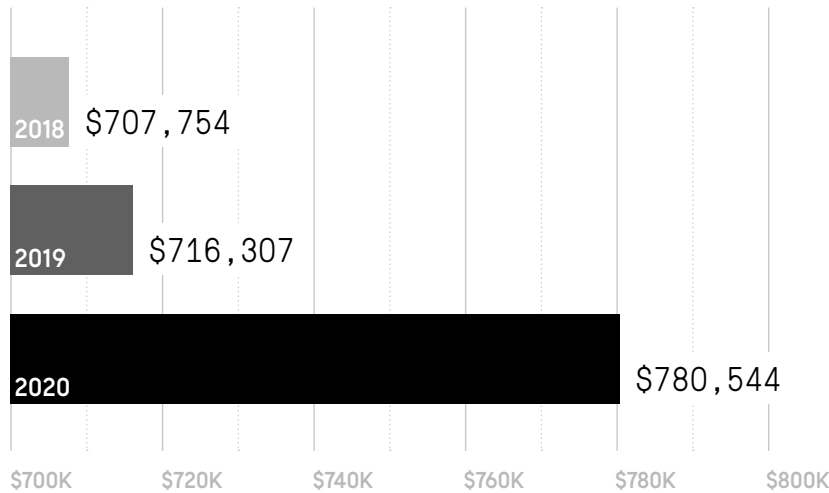
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4211 Ave D Seller Representation



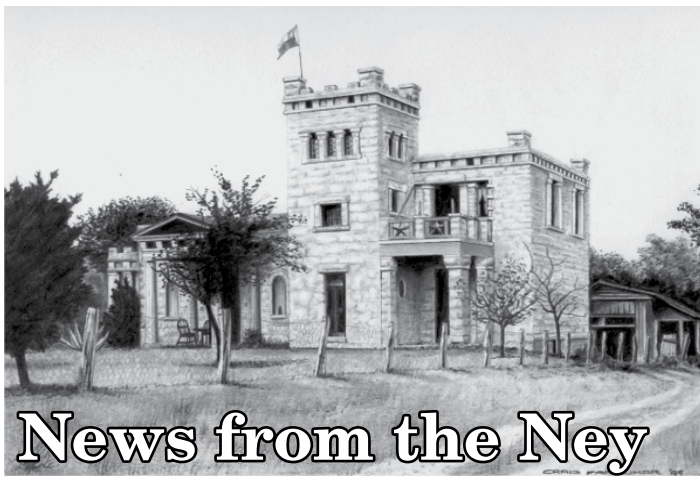
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All YTD data is pulled from Austin MLS for single family residences.





News from the Ney

Well, 2021 is done and in the books! Yoo hoo to '22!

On January 8, the Museum will kick things off with the annual Saturday Morning Drawing Salon. The tradition will begin at 10 am and end at noon every Saturday in January thereafter. Museum staff will be on hand to help with occasional questions, and all the supplies and materials are provided free of charge. That includes, of course, the models, which will be Elisabet Ney's sculptures themselves.

On January 14, the Museum will begin its 2022 exhibition season! *Suspension* is an immersive print installation by the renowned Houston printmaker Liv Monique Johnson. It entices the viewer to explore an outcropping of wilderness where the weird might take place. Screen-printed elements are combined with a variety of materials to create a lush setting of colorful foliage that fills the space. This environment culminates in a suspended moment, a focal point of ultimate potential. Surrounded by abundance, this core allows for a quiet confrontation with the unknown. Johnson is an instructor and Print Studio Manager at the Glassell School of Art in Houston.



A Print by Liv Monique Johnson

As part of the annual Print Austin celebration, featuring print work and shows all over town, the Museum will host an opening reception on Friday, January 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. A family-friendly printmaking workshop inspired by the piece will take place on Saturday, January 22 from 1 to 4 pm.

Finally, the long-awaited reconstruction of the south-facing balcony is due to start in late January. Disassembly should begin sometime in the week of January 24. The museum will remain open during this effort, so no worries there.

Thank you as always for your kindness and neighborly enthusiasm. Love to all and #Sursum!

Word Find: Viruses

by der Brat

THISPUZZLEISVIRAL
 ICANDODELTALBAXE
 ACHOMICRONBALOBEN
 DNEILXOPLLAMSNIIIX
 EUROCETUCAMUSPEND
 NCPOCKZRCARBOSSFU
 OLEONIEQUIPSLUPLA
 VESTOTUNVAMPERIUL
 IIIISIIOPERATIKEU
 RCOORSRIPOFFSVENX
 UAZESTLATEXUEOZZE
 SCDELIEDIDOLNSAL
 NITROGINAILSSIPUP
 ADAMANTOVENSAHMEM
 PLAYELLOWFEVERUPI
 SHELLACPANTOMIMES

[Numbers in parentheses = number of letters in answers]

1. Information in all viruses (7,4)

2. Substance enclosing info in all viruses. (7)

3. Eradicated by 1979. (8) _____
4. Deadly virus from Africa. (5) _____
5. Vector for J&J vaccine. (10)

6. Virus afflicting Ol' Yeller. (6) _____
7. Despite vaccine, had outbreaks in 2019. (7)

8. Over 130 varieties like H1N1. (9)

9. A "backward" virus like HIV. (10)

10. Can lead to shingles. (7,3)

11. Cause of warts and cervical cancer. (9)

12. _?_-19. (5) _____
13. Name means "creeping." (6) _____
14. Form of #13 causing cold sores. (7) _____
15. Form of #13 causing #10. (6) _____
16. Crippler until Salk stopped it. (5) _____
17. Several types cause "common colds." (10)

18. The "A" of AIDS. (8) _____
19. The "A" of SARS. (5) _____
20. Cousin of #7. (5) _____
21. Colorful, carried by *Aedes aegypti*. (6,5)

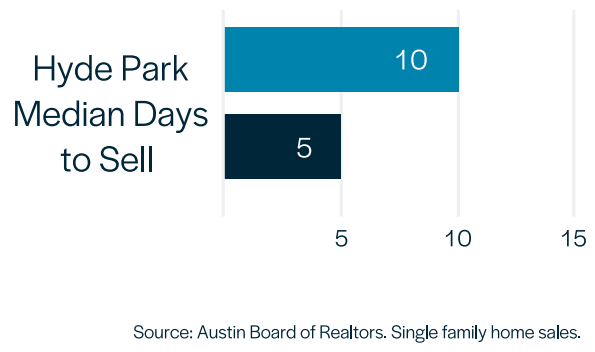
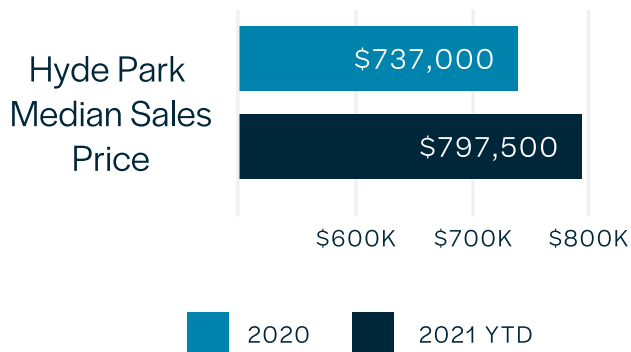
22. Protein on surface of SARS. (5) _____
23. Deadly variant (#12) in 2021. (5) _____
24. Variant (#12) in late 2021. (7) _____

Answers on page 18



YOUR HYDE PARK NEIGHBOR

Jen has lived, worked, and invested in Hyde Park for over 20 years. She understands historic homes and what makes our neighborhood special. If you are looking for a trustworthy real estate advisor, reach out to Jen. Whether you are simply curious about the market or need a market analysis for your home, she is happy to help!



Source: Austin Board of Realtors. Single family home sales.

Jen Berbas, REALTOR®

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E-mail, call or text us if you would like to receive our periodic market update newsletter.

Waller Creek Clean-Up Day

On November 6, 2021, dozens of neighbors gathered together in Hancock Golf Course to help clean up our watershed in Waller Creek.

I am an 8th grader at Kealing Middle School, and I have grown up on the Hancock Golf Course. I've seen it ice over. I've seen it dry out during the drought. And I've seen it flood. This little creek is important and loved by many of us in the neighborhood. But, unfortunately, it has not been well cared for through the years, at least not in smart ways for its healthy future. Its banks are eroding, and invasive species have made it unhealthy for native plants. That is why I am so excited to be part of changing that and to work with my neighbors to restore this important creek bed.

On November 6, many groups came together to fill a truck bed full of trash from the creek. A neighbor, Joanna Wolaver, worked with Austin Parks Foundation to have the day designated an official It's My Park Day, and members of the Hancock Conservancy, the Hancock Golf Course staff, the Perry Mansion



Joanna Wolaver Calling the Volunteers Together



Lexi with Her Clipboard Working on a Silver Award for Girl Scouts

staff, and Girl Scout Troops 382 and 42602 turned out the volunteers to make the day a success. We found many oddities like an old engine and a tire!

Why is it important to our community? Keeping this waterway clean and restoring the creek bed is important

to the whole city. In May and October of this year, Staryn Wagner of the City of Austin and Jill Nokes of Peace Park Conservancy came to speak to neighbors at Hancock Recreation Center about the creek bed and why it matters. There is so much to learn about invasive species like waxleaf ligustrums and how to build up a healthy riparian zone (even learning what a riparian zone is – the areas bordering rivers and other bodies of surface water). But the thing that I remem-

ber most about their talks is that restoring the health of the creek bed will take time – small steps we can take now so that over time our creek can be healthier for the whole city. This time, we did a creek clean-up. Next time, we might try to remove some of the invasive species or add mid-sized trees or other small plants to combat erosion. Little by little our efforts will have an impact and make things better. Sometimes I get discouraged because I want things to move faster, but as Ms. Nokes said, “We have to celebrate the small victories if we are ever going to reach our big goals.”

So what's next? What small victories can we make now? Now, I am working with a neighbor, Darrel Mayers, and oth-

ers at the City of Austin to analyse the creek to determine its current needs. We hope to share this with the community when it is finished. Stay tuned for future creek bed clean-ups and work days. If you want to get more involved with restoring the Waller Creek creek bed, contact my mom, Natalie at nilesarguello@gmail.com. (She is helping collect names and emails). See you at Hancock!

– Lexi Niles Arguello



Steve Bratteng Hauling a Big Tire from the Creek

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Hyde Park Holiday Events



Artists Displaying Their Work for the Holidays,
Photo by Lorre Weidlich

December 11 was a red letter day for holiday events! Early in the day, the Hyde Park Holiday Art Fair, organized by Leila Levinson and Mary Trahanovsky, took place in the Fresh Plus parking lot. Thirty-five artists from around Austin offered their creations for sale.

The Elisabet Ney Museum began hosting its parade kickoff party around 4:30 that afternoon. The Wish Tree was on display in the museum, offering viewers the opportunity to write their wishes on a tag for display on the tree. Refreshments were available outside.



Make a Wish to Celebrate the Holiday,
Photo by Lorre Weidlich



Shoppers Making Their Selections,
Photo by Lorre Weidlich



Donations to the Hope Food
Pantry, Photo by Lorre Weidlich



Santa Makes His Way through Hyde Park, Photo by Karen McGraw

The parade began about 5:30, proceeding south from the Elisabet Ney Museum. The holiday float, graciously loaned to HPNA by SPJST, moved slowly through the darkening streets, while float attendants handed out candy canes to children along the way. Guards with reindeer horns protected the parade from oncoming traffic. Santa Claus waved to neighbors waiting along the route, while other neighbors walked behind the float as it made its way down Avenue H, west on 40th Street, and back north on Avenue G to Shipe Park.



Reindeer to Protect the Float, Photo by David Matthis



Blowcomotion in Action, Photo by David Matthis

When the parade reached Shipe Park, community brass band Blowcomotion entertained the crowd of people, who listened while feasting on cookies and cocoa from Quack's. A good time was had by all!



A Packed Park Enjoys the Music, Photo by David Matthis



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4009 Avenue H · \$1,550,000
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SOLD



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SOLD



403 W Odell St. · \$750,000
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SOLD



920 E 49th 1/2 St. · \$595,000
2 beds · 2 baths · 1,164 sq. ft.

SOLD



910 E 55th St. · \$524,900
3 beds · 2 baths · 1,248 sq. ft.

SOLD



925 E 49th St. · \$495,000
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SOLD



3815 Guadalupe #211 · \$280,000
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Austin Board of Realtors, MLS data shown is for Austin area addresses October, 2021



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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: December 6, 2021

Kevin Heyburn facilitated the meeting, welcomed everyone, and outlined the agenda.

Plans for Post Office Property

Blake Thompson presented his plans to commercially develop the former Speedway post office building at 43rd Street and the post office employee parking lot on the other side of Speedway.

- Blake is a local developer. He introduced himself and gave an overview of what led up to the USPS leaving this location.
- Blake acknowledged that HPNA doesn't always have a general meeting in December and thanked everyone for making time to meet with him tonight.
- Blake began a PowerPoint presentation showing a map of the properties being discussed.
- The properties discussed were as follows:
 - 4300 Speedway – the former post office building. This is a 32,496 sf lot zoned CS (commercial services). The building is 10,088 sf.
 - 4307 Speedway – the parking lot on the other side of Speedway where postal workers used to park their personal vehicles. This is a 16,261 sf lot zoned MF-3 (multifamily).
 - 4303 Speedway – the gray single-family home located between the fire station and the above-mentioned parking lot. This is a 6,500 sf lot zoned SF-3 (single-family). The main house is 1,960 sf, with a 506 sf accessory dwelling unit.
 - 4210 Speedway – the 24-unit apartment complex just north of the former post office building. This is a 19,500 sf lot zoned MF-3. The structure is a 13,248 sf apartment building. Note: 4210 is only mentioned because this property is also owned by Blake and it's adjacent to the former post office; no changes are planned for this property.
- As soon as Blake found out the USPS was not going to renew its lease, he came to Betsy Clubine (former HPNA President) and ultimately met with other HPNA officers and worked diligently to be fully transparent about what was going on with the post office building. He made it clear he wanted to work closely with the neighborhood to determine what neighbors would be interested in seeing happen with this building.
- Blake has met with many neighbors that live adjacent to these properties and he did research, including reading the Hyde Park NCCDs, to come up with the ideas he is proposing.
- Blake pointed out several HPNA goals found in the Hyde Park NCCDs:
 - Preserve and enhance unique historic and residential character.
 - Preserve and enhance unique historic streetscape patterns.

- Promote neighborhood-friendly system of transportation.
- Protect and enhance the Guadalupe corridor and other commercial areas.
- Foster a genuine community of neighbors from every age and background.
- Blake also called out several development objectives in the NCCDs:
 - Build new structures in ways that are in scale and compatible with surrounding uses.
 - New projects should reduce pavement and curb cuts where possible.
 - The neighborhood will support compatibility variances for redevelopment of existing multifamily if proposals restore neighborhood patterns.
 - Permit some redevelopment of existing multifamily projects that might offer a relaxing of rules in exchange for putting back the traditional elements (primarily the streetscape) that were lost.
 - Enhance child friendliness of the neighborhood.
 - Permit outdoor seating as an accessory to restaurants without requiring additional parking.
 - Maintain traditional commercial uses without encroaching on residential character and streetscape values.
 - Preserve network of public, civic, social, and commercial activities.
- He also discussed some negative patterns observed in the Hyde Park NCCDs:
 - Hyde Park lacks sufficient small neighborhood service businesses in appropriate areas.
 - Vacant lots and multifamily structures are incompatible with the Speedway District.
 - There is a lack of quiet night life and evening activities with small shops that stay open in the evenings.

Part 1 of the Proposal

- Blake is proposing to repurpose the existing post office building with very few changes to the exterior (even though the NCCD allows for up to 30 feet with new construction).
- Blake is proposing four businesses be located within the post office building. Although no leases or contracts have been signed, this (or similar) is his vision for the building, from south to north:
 - A restaurant that would have outdoor seating where the delivery trucks used to back up to the post office dock.
 - A bookstore with café and possible walk-up window.
 - An instructional music studio.
 - A Pak Mail-type center to replace services lost by the closure of the post office.

Continued on page 12

HPNA December Minutes... ...cont'd from page 11

- This plan would eliminate the existing curb cut on 43rd street adjacent to the dock.
- The loading dock area from the building to the sidewalk would become pervious again and would be an outdoor seating garden area for the restaurant.
- There are 54 parking spaces available to this planned four-business center, and the city only requires 44 parking spaces.
- Blake is able to do everything mentioned in Part 1 of his proposal by right, based on the current zoning of the post office property.

Part 2 of the Proposal

- On the other side of Speedway, where the large parking lot is located, to the north (left) of the fire station, Blake would like to create a bungalow court retail area, by building several smaller structures that would resemble many of the Craftsman-style homes in Hyde Park.
- Current zoning would allow for a 30-foot tall apartment complex, but Blake doesn't want to build a large monolithic structure that isn't attractive and doesn't fit in with the neighborhood's existing architecture and streetscape.

- The grey house immediately to the north of the fire station would be part of the plan, plus additional structures would be built.
- Parking would be on the north edge of the site and off the alley. Off-alley parking spaces would be extra deep, so as not to impede alley travel or alley services.
- The southern-most curb cut on Speedway would be eliminated.
- Blake's plan hopes to honor our current streetscape, with six separate smaller two-story structures.
- In order to move forward with this plan, Blake would need to rezone the existing grey house from SF-3 to LR (light retail, the lowest level of residential commercial zoning), and the parking lot would need to be rezoned from MF-3 to LR.
- When Blake approached city staff regarding this plan, the city suggested rezoning to LR-MU-H-NC-CD (light retail, mixed-use, historic, Neighborhood Conservation Combining District), which would allow the second story of the bungalows to have residential spaces, so this is the level of zoning he has requested.
- Blake emphasized that he is sensitive to noise, hours of operation, delivery noises and hours, smells, grease traps, and so forth and wants to work with the neighborhood on establishing and applying appropriate restrictions on any new businesses.

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Questions from Neighbors to Blake

- What was the real reason for the departure of the USPS? Blake stated that he suspects the USPS was in cost-cutting mode and that's why it drew such a hard line regarding what it was willing to pay in rent. Blake had a very difficult time communicating with the USPS and found out second hand that it was not renewing the lease. (USPS never notified him directly.)
- Have you thought about how this is going to affect the traffic and general flow of things in this area of the neighborhood? How is it going to change timing and movement? Blake stated he thinks this area of the neighborhood will become a very vibrant area and that's why he wanted to make sure to provide more parking than what was required. Something like a bookstore is going to close earlier than a restaurant. Based on that, more parking will be available later into the evening. Yes, the corner is going to change, and Blake's hope is that people in the neighborhood are going to be happy with the change and possibly even be thankful that the noises associated with the post office are gone.
- Regarding the restaurant, where would deliveries be made? And where would the grease trap go? The grease trap would be located in the alley adjacent to Blue Moon Glassworks. The existing curb cut near the dock would be eliminated. Delivery vehicles could park along the curb (where the curb cut is being eliminated), unload, and take deliveries up the existing ramp and in through the dock area.
- On the bungalow court, if rezoning to LR-MU-H-NCCD is approved, what are the allowed heights? Blake responded that he didn't know but that he's only planning two stories.
- I live near the loading dock area, I am concerned about noise. What would the hours be and would there be music playing? Blake responded that he is not looking to turn this area into a late-night area. Outdoor music would be played only through speakers, and Blake reported that he has not had any complaints when he has done similar things at other properties. Hours could be something like noon to 9:00 pm, and he is not envisioning a night-life scene. Blake is personally screening interested businesses and is not considering any businesses that don't sound right for the neighborhood.
- Would the existing house next to the Fire Station stay residential? No, it would be part of the project and would be commercial. It just doesn't seem like a good fit to leave a single-family home squeezed in between a fire station and retail businesses.
- Are you anticipating there would be parking in the alley? Any cars parked off the alley will be well out of the way; there will be an extra five feet behind each parking space for a total of 23 feet of parking depth per space, so properties across the alley shouldn't have any trouble accessing their parking spaces. Blake also plans to improve the alley as part of this project.

- What about lighting? That can be a nuisance. Blake really wants to preserve the dark sky in Hyde Park and is proposing only minimal lighting that is focused downward onto the parking spaces.
- When you spoke with the city, was there any concern from them about rezoning from SF or MF to LR (changing from able-to-have-housing to not-being-able-to-have-housing)? Blake reports he was surprised that the city staff indicated they would be ok with rezoning these properties to LR; he suspects that the importance of the historical look of Hyde Park outweighs their desire to add several more residential units to an area that is already very dense.
- What's the process for getting all this approved by the city? Blake said he has already filed for rezoning to LR-MU-H-NCCD. He estimates the request will get to the City Planning Commission in March, then go to the City Council after that. At the post office building, it's much simpler; for that project he will ultimately build out a dark shell (a "dark shell" refers to a commercial property that is leased to a tenant without interior improvements such as heating, lighting, interior walls, plumbing, and so forth). If everything goes smoothly, the old post office building could be occupied by August. Blake is less certain about the timeframe of the project across the street.

Holiday Parade

Betsy Clubine gave an update on the HPNA Holiday Parade featuring Santa Claus, scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Ney Museum.

- This parade is going to be similar to Easter parade; the parade will start at the Ney Museum, travel through the neighborhood, and end at Shipe Park.
- There will be cookies from Quacks and hot chocolate.
- A brass band will be playing at the park.
- Bring cans of corn to donate to the local food pantry.

Announcements

- There is going to be an Artist's Market featuring works for sale from 30 local artists in the Fresh Plus parking lot from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on December 11.
- Michele Grieshaber reminded attendees to weigh in on the Watershed Department's proposed fence options for the detention pond that will be going in behind the Baker School. (That survey has closed now and we have transmitted the results to the city.)

Kevin thanked Adam Wilson for the use of the space in the Griffin School, thanked Chris Wooster for providing audio visual support for the meeting, thanked all of the guest speakers for attending, and adjourned the meeting.



New Year's Day 2017

Just about, if not exactly, perfect

Macabre specter of death creeping closer
It would seem, by all reports
Why is this so different?
The reality of change
Not us, Not me, Not this

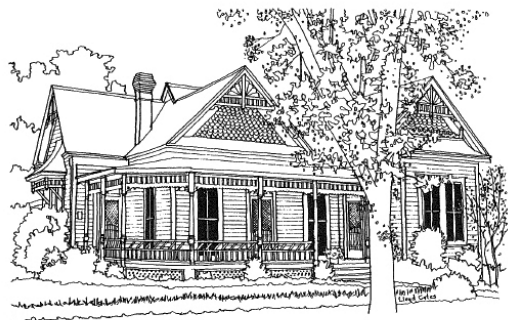
On the first day of this year
With its somber beginning
I went to 1st day celebrations,
Two, the same only different,
The first was in my neighborhood
Up the street a pace

I went early because
I had another party to attend
When I arrived, it was a beginning
People were arriving;
The party had not yet begun
But it was starting

There were moms with babies
There were teenagers, kids of the hosts
And their friends, just hanging out
It was a beautiful day, for a new year
In January, a winter blue sky
Winter blue, not aqua, like summer,
Not pale, like later on
That winter blue, convincingly blue
And clouds with white to set it off.

There was a table, with beginnings of food,
On the back porch, the “staging” area
Women were cooking, in the kitchen,
Black-eyed peas – it’s the south, peas
For good luck, and another table
With all the paper plates, cups, stuff
From which picnics are composed,

It was not quite right, by my thinking,
The foodstuffs were in the sun, no good
For perishables, no good for sandwich stuff
Why not switch the tables, so we did,
“No, no,” the friends who knew her, stated,
Emphatically, “She won’t like it.” I said, I don’t care,
I take full responsibility, enlisted some help, and
The tables were switched, et voila
“She” was happy and the sun continued to shine,
And more people arrived and I sat in a chair,
On that porch, and surveyed my surroundings,





Oh, and a very confident, and very skilled musician,
Paul, began to “blow” on his alto sax and he knew that sax,
Paul was wailing, solo, on a made up stage, in the yard,
And I sat, in that chair, looking around at the guests
Of all ages, babies, children, teenagers who would
Periodically retreat, as teenagers do, into a little room
In the house, and would periodically emerge, for food,
Or drink, or just to emerge,

There were parents with new babies, and grandparents,
People of all ages and various colors and I sat,
Listening to Paul, surveying the eclectic population,
Watching one guy sketch, listening to an alto sax
Blowing in the wind, I looked at that winter-blue sky,
And felt the oddly warm New Year’s sun, and felt the breeze,
And I thought, “This is just about, if not, exactly,
Perfect.

I took that with me to the second celebration,
A gathering of the old guard, musicians, friends,
Old and a few new, some of us will turn 70
In this odd year, and we celebrated, and
There was magic in that, magic in long and
Full friendships and magic in still being here,
And I thought, “This is just about, if not exactly,
Perfect.

— *Herzele*
01/19/2017

PS Happy New Year



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Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston



To Composting and Beyond!

Most of us have been using our green compost bin for some time now and enjoying the benefits of the city's curbside compost collection. As the author of "Lettuce Recycle," I have received many compost collection questions, the answers to which are not always easily found. Thanks to the wonderful people at Organics by Gosh and Austin Resource Recovery, I have been able to answer these great questions. Below are the questions from my readers and the answers.



- *Why do bones and avocado seeds compost in the city compost facility and not in my back yard bin?* Everything brought into the compost facility is ground and sifted. Large piles of this organic material are created. The internal temperature of these piles is maintained at 160 degrees, which is critical for proper composting. With moisture and time, this material becomes nutrient-rich compost.
- *Are disposable paper vacuum cleaner bags allowed in the green bin?* No, they are not. A vacuum cleaner bag could contain contaminated materials such as glass and cat litter.
- *Can I use compost bags as trash bags?* Compost bags do not compost in a landfill. There is not enough heat in a landfill to make that happen. Also, compost bags are more expensive than trash bags and are not as sturdy.
- *Are cornstarch packing peanuts compostable in the green bin?* No, they are not. Home testing them to see if they are compostable is not always accurate. They must be reused or go into the trash cart.
- *How do I identify a compostable bag?* Every box or bag that is certified compostable will have a symbol that says "BPI-CERTIFIED COMPOSTABLE BAGS". These have been tested and approved by Biodegradable Products Institute scientists to ensure that they will break down completely, quickly, and safely during the composting process. The symbol looks like this:



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- *I just spilled coffee on my morning newspaper. Can I recycle it?* No. Any paper that has become wet (even if it has dried) is contaminated and cannot be recycled in the blue curbside bin. However, it can go into the green bin for composting.
- *Can I put wax, parchment, and butcher paper in my green bin?* Yes. You can put all of them (plus non-foil cupcake liners) in your green bin.
- *Can I put the paper around sticks of margarine and butter into my green bin?* Yes, as long as it is not foil.
- *Can cash register receipts and carbonless paper receipts go into the green or blue bin?* No. Most of today's cash register receipts are printed on thermal paper. This paper is treated with BPA, making the paper neither recyclable nor compostable. Place these receipts in the trash cart.
- *Can I compost or recycle disposable masks?* No. They are made with non-woven materials and elastic, neither of which will compost. These must go into the trash cart.
- *Can small pieces of plywood go into the green bin?* No. The glue that holds the sheets of plywood together is not compostable. They need to go into the trash cart.
- *Can paper towels used with cleaning product go into the green bin?* No. Paper towels used with any kind of cleaning product must go into the trash cart. The chemical interferes with the composting process.
- *Does shredded paper go into the green bin?* Yes, it is better to put shredded paper into the green bin rather than the blue recycling bin. Make sure the paper is contained in either a paper or compostable bag.
- *Can dryer lint go into the compost bin?* No. This needs to go into your trash cart. Dryer lint often consists of non-cotton fibers. Only cotton fiber is compostable.
- *Can pet waste go into the green bin?* No. Pet waste contaminates the compost and is a health hazard to the workers who physically sort through the compost.

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

Recycling contamination is a huge problem. If you are unsure about whether an item can be recycled, even after exploring all reuse and recycling options, put the item in the trash can rather than the blue bin to avoid any possibility of contaminating materials to be recycled.

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.

Composting Collection Hazards

- *Glass - Do not put glass of any kind into the green curbside compost bin!* The glass contaminates the compost. If glass is detected in the compost pile, the entire pile is declared contaminated and can't be used.
- *Yard waste not contained in a bin -* When yard waste is not in a collection bin, city workers are not allowed to pick it up. Some items are too heavy, too bulky, or too dangerous and pose a danger to the workers.

Fluff - Don't Stuff

Recently, I noticed that a compost collection truck's automatic arm kept shaking a green can. Finally, the driver set the can down, got out of the truck, reached into the can, and pulled out pizza boxes that had been stuffed into it. He then was able to re-engage the auto arm and empty the can. This is potentially dangerous. Please don't stuff things into any of your cans.



Around & About the Avenues

HPNA Holds First In-Person Meeting. On December 6, the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association held its first in-person meeting in a year and a half. Attendees still wore masks, but they had the opportunity to interact with their neighbors live instead of on screen. Those unable or unwilling to attend in person had the option of participating online, thanks

to the technical expertise of Steering Committee member Chris Wooster.



Hyde Park LHD Consultant Wins Preservation Austin Award.

Terri Myers, former Hyde Park resident and historic preservation consultant who conducted the survey and wrote the application for the Hyde Park Local Historic District, received a Special Recognition for Public Service award from Preservation Austin on December 2 in an awards ceremony at Symphony Square. Terri was a major participant in not only the Hyde Park LHD but also the Harthan Street LHD, Austin's first Local Historic District, and the Castle Hill LHD, among others. She continues to be a significant figure in historic preservation in Austin and Texas.



Post Office Redevelopment... ...cont'd from page 1

It might be apartment or condos, but maybe not. During my research of the neighborhood plan, I became excited about a different vision for the property.

In the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan, it states in the section about the Speedway District, "permitting some redevelopment of multifamily projects ... may offer a relaxing of some rules in exchange for putting back the traditional elements (primarily of the streetscape) lost when apartments replaced homes."

The proposed project seeks to replace this traditional streetscape element by introducing a collection of bungalows modeled after Hyde Park's historic charm. Imagine a yoga studio, counter food window,

and art gallery on the first floor and a CPA, photography studio, and residential use on the second floor, all housed around an inviting central public courtyard.

To accomplish this, the NCCD would be amended for 4307 and 4303 Speedway to include the following:

1. Zoning change to LR (light retail) with residential use
2. Variance to allow parking within compatibility setback

The LR zoning allows 37 uses. My request would restrict the site to allow only the following:

- Administrative and business offices
- Art gallery
- Art workshop
- Food Sales
- General retail sales
- Multifamily residential
- Personal improvement services
- Personal services
- Professional office
- Restaurant
- Single-family residential

Nothing in my request is intended to be precedent setting — no changes to height, no changes to FAR, no changes to impervious cover. In fact, the existing 100% impervious cover parking lot would return 25% pervious cover to the site.

Recently, I filed a zoning request, merely to occupy a place in line to a heavily backlogged city process. This was not meant to be presumptuous on my part, based on an assumption that the project was approved. I know there is work ahead to define details of the plan.

In my opinion, I concluded the lot deserved to add public amenity value to the neighborhood rather than apartment or condos. Many of you agreed and validated the merit of this proposal. So reach out and let's work through the details and see if 43rd Street and Speedway can be a new valued treasure in Hyde Park.

— Blake Thompson



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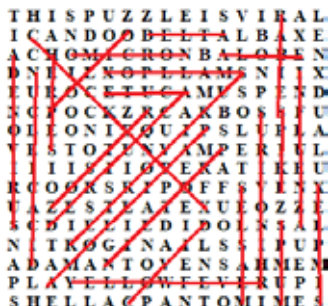
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Word Find Answers from page 5

- 1)NUCLEIC ACID; 2)PROTEIN;
- 3)SMALLPOX; 4)EBOLA;
- 5)ADENOVIRUS; 6)RABIES;
- 7)MEASLES; 8)INFLUENZA;
- 9)RETROVIRUS; 10)CHICKEN POX;
- 11)PAPILLOMA; 12)COVID;
- 13)HERPES; 14)SIMPLEX;
- 15)ZOSTER; 16)POLIO;
- 17)RHINOVIRUS; 18)ACQUIRED;
- 19)ACUTE; 20)MUMPS;
- 21)YELLOW FEVER; 22)SPIKE;
- 23)DELTA; 24)OMICRON



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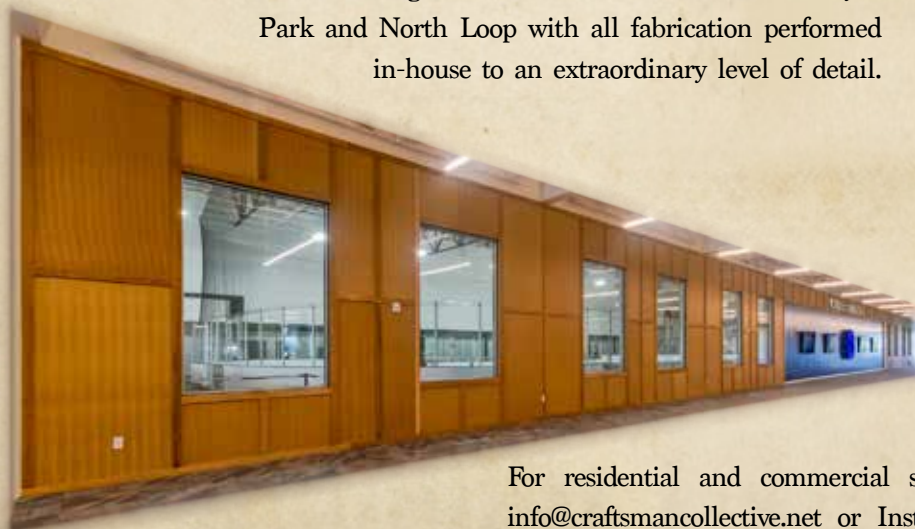



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