

# May Meeting

**When:** 7:00 pm  
Monday, May 7, 2018

**Where:** Griffin School  
5001 Evans Avenue

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

## HPNA General Meeting Agenda for May 7

- ❖ Welcome New Members
- ❖ Introduction of Runoff Candidates for Congressional Districts 10 and 25 (as available)
- ❖ Cap Metro Remap: The New System and Changes in Our Area, by Sam Sargent, J.D., Deputy Chief of Staff, Capital Metro
- ❖ Vote: CodeNext Resolution
- ❖ Announcements

## Sixth Annual Hyde Park Egg Scramble

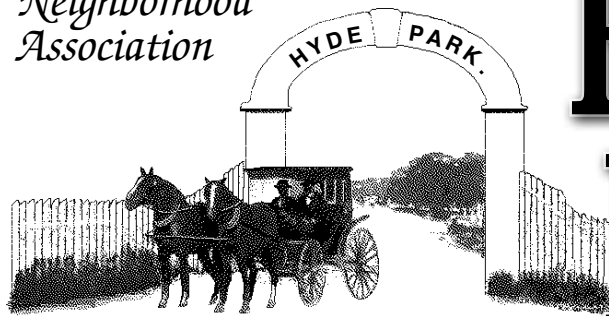
It was a mad scramble for candy-filled eggs on the morning of Saturday, March 31! Over 400 neighborhood kids and adults came out to Shipe Park to enjoy egg hunts, egg games, food, and fun at the Sixth Annual Hyde Park Egg Scramble.

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Photo by Michelle Rossomando

*The Hyde Park  
Neighborhood  
Association*



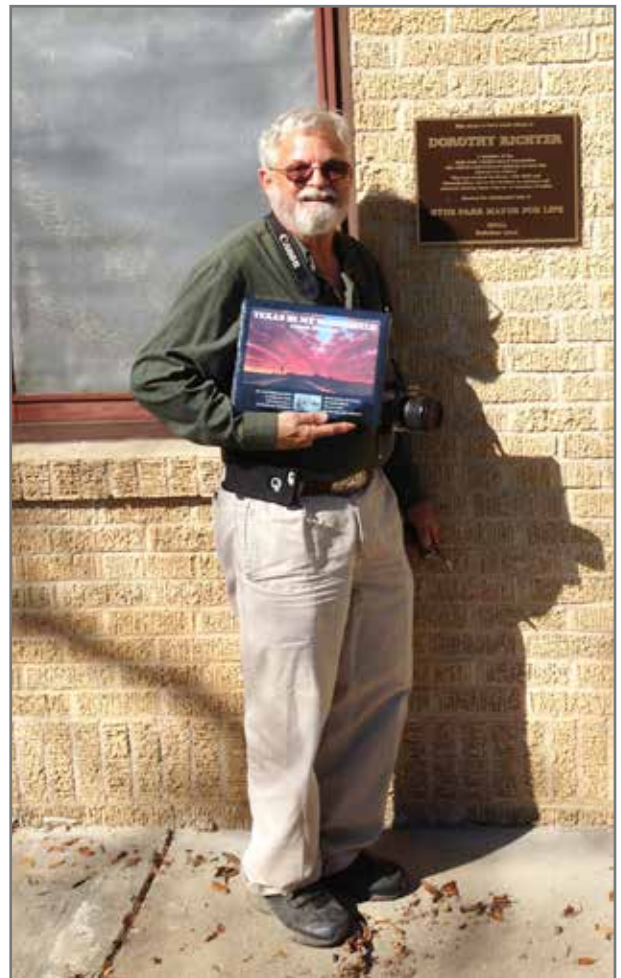
# Pecan Press

May 2018 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 44, No. 5

## George Boutwell Remembers Hyde Park

Long-time Hyde Park residents will remember George Boutwell, owner of the Smith-Marcuse-Lowry House, 2006 Official Texas State Artist, member of the Historic Landmark Commission from 1982 to 1985, *Texas Monthly* Art Director from 1966 to 1972, and – most important to Hyde Parkers – the man who moved the Woodburn House to its present location. George was back in Hyde Park on April 10 to photograph the Hyde Park Fire Station in anticipation of painting a picture of it for an upcoming calendar. He had been gone long enough that he almost did not recognize downtown and got lost a few times!

During his time here, Dave Bowen talked to him about those earlier days in Hyde Park. Dave said, about their talk, “First and foremost, George is just amazingly delightful as his stories are captivating. I could have talked many more hours as we talked about Hyde Park and other topics.” Recounting his favorite quote from George, “You can’t appreciate the past until you have one,” Dave said, “Something for the next generation to think about as Hyde Park could easily change with so many later regrets.”



George Boutwell. Photo by Dave Bowen

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While winter seems to have found a way to keep coming back just when we feel like we have fully transitioned to spring this year, we might have just kicked off the last of the cold mornings and firmly entered spring. With the arrival of spring, the hot days of summer are surely around the corner, which means that many of us will begin to take vacations and visit other cities around the country and around the world. One of the immediately visible signs of summer in Austin, besides the heat, is the slight relief that we see on the streets of our city. During the weeks that AISD and UT are in summer session, I notice a visible difference in my commute. While I know that this particular respite is only temporary and I cannot grow too attached to it, I long for a day when those traffic levels are sustainable in our city.

One of my favorite parts of visiting new cities is exploring the city, which often means using public transportation or using my own two feet to power me around the city. I love visiting Washington, DC, not for the swamp-like summers or the buzz of political activity but because the Metro makes getting around the city easy and convenient. Similarly, I often walk upwards of 1 to 15 miles per day when I visit NYC and frequently use the subway. I am a supporter of strong and useful public transit and would use it more frequently in our city if we

were able to develop a system that meets our needs and can adequately move people around the city.

Unfortunately, the public transportation infrastructure in Austin is sorely lacking. Cap Metro and its bus fleet all too often are located in less than ideal locations and have an unpredictable schedule. Further cut backs in the bus routes and realignments have failed to create a system that meets the needs for many of the citizens of Austin. Additionally, the antiquated bus system simply cannot move the requisite number of people for high capacity events, which further stresses our car-centered infrastructure. Finally, the city and its transportation agencies, along with Cap Metro, have not put forth bold plans that have any hope of getting this city off its addiction to cars.

If we, as a city, hope to ease the congestion on many of our streets, building more roads will be insufficient. We must be willing to think boldly about developing and funding a comprehensive strategy for tackling transportation, one that further develops our active transportation modes (both walking and biking) and public or mass transit options such as light rail and bus rapid transit along with redevelopments of the roadways. Such a plan must take a comprehensive look at the city's needs and requirements for such systems.

While such a bold approach could allow us to stem the tide

of traffic gridlock, it is likely that we will always have difficult with some parts of the city. A city that has grown up so dependent on cars to move people will likely have a difficult time kicking the

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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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# Vote at May Meeting

*Editor's Note: The following resolution was crafted and approved by the HPNA Steering Committee. The membership will have the opportunity to discuss, amend, and vote on it at the May meeting.*

We, the membership of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, have paid close attention to each draft of the new City of Austin land development code, CodeNEXT. While we have written on another occasion with comments to express our support for Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts (NCCDs) as a city tool and as a key aspect of our neighborhood, we want to provide our comments and concerns on the CodeNEXT draft as it currently stands, as final deliberations begin. Specifically, we have identified several areas where we believe that the draft has fallen short on its promise to deliver the vision contained within Imagine Austin.

First, the **Code Development Process** was frustrating. The release schedule called for digesting large amounts of information in short windows of time in order to provide feedback to be considered in later drafts. Changes between the different draft versions were not tracked, weakening the ability of citizens to give informed consent, and city staff were not able to give consistent and complete answers to questions raised both at public forums and official committee meetings.

The resulting third version **Code's Organization** remains hopelessly complex without consistent indexing and cross-referencing that will make it easy for the end-user or for city staff. The land use code should be understandable by the average person and should include clearly stated height restrictions, setbacks, and compatibility as key elements. Sections should be based upon large themes and divided into coherent categories.

The third version also does not adequately provide for continued or increased **Affordability**. The density bonus programs and incentives included in the code

to encourage affordability are insufficient. Instead, CodeNEXT seems to provide more affordable housing by increasing density, but this does not account for the complexity of market forces and numerous analyses that disprove that more new housing stock will depress prices.

CodeNEXT fails to account for the **State of Infrastructure** in older areas, and makes no attempt to improve inadequate infrastructure in areas targeted for increased density. Flooding is already a problem in many Austin neighborhoods, including Hyde Park, and no intensification of development should proceed without addressing this, and other infrastructure, issues.

Finally, as mentioned above, we believe that **Neighborhood Conservation Combining Districts (NCCDs)** are beneficial tools for neighborhoods to deploy in order to promote smart and guided growth. Both the Hyde Park and the North Hyde Park NCCDs, for example, supported additional appropriate development, including the continuance of missing middle housing; allowed increased densification in appropriate areas; provided for the maintenance of commercial areas; and encouraged development of the Guadalupe activity corridor. Other neighborhoods in Austin should be afforded the ability of these tools, which can protect affordability and slow displacement.

The CodeNEXT process represents an exciting opportunity to help Austin develop into a city for the 21st century and beyond. Unfortunately, the current CodeNEXT draft, in the opinion of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, fails to adequately address the issues delineated above and falls short of its original purpose. We believe that until these issues are addressed, CodeNEXT should be rejected, as we all come together to build an Austin that respects the past and prepares for the future.



## 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.
- 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.austinyhdepark.org](http://www.austinyhdepark.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@grandecom.net](mailto:lweidlich@grandecom.net).  
*Opinion articles & letters to the editor must not exceed 500 words.*
- Send your poems to Charlotte Herzele at [herzele@gmail.com](mailto:herzele@gmail.com).  
*All poems, even if written under a pen name, must include a name and contact information for identification and verification purposes.*

## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership Form

Name _____		Phone _____	
Address _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Notify me by email of HPNA meetings & events _____			
Dues per Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Check	Mailing Address: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 <i>Make checks payable to HPNA.</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior - \$1/yr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	Date _____	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member	Amount _____	

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## HYDE PARK AREA: YEAR IN REVIEW

	2015	2016	2017
NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD	38	31	31
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$567,765	\$623,514	\$595,595
AVERAGE SQ FT	1,599	2,079	1,699
MAX PRICE SOLD	\$995,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,200,000
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	10 DAYS	9 DAYS	14 DAYS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for Single Family Residence taken 01/06/2018 from the Austin MLS. For detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker.



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# Around & About the Avenues

**Meet-up at Shipe Park.** Set aside May 6 on your calendar to enjoy a civic engagement event. Meet your neighbors, your precinct chair, your elected officials, and candidates in the shade at Shipe Park on Sunday, May 6, from 2 to 4 pm. At this event – hosted by Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor Collector and Voter Registrar; Kevin McLaughlin, Chair, Precinct 200; Julie Gilberg, Chair, Precinct 274; Sharon Brown, Chair, Precinct 275; Mary Patrick, Member, Precinct 200; and Kim Romero, Member, Precinct 200 – you will have the opportunity to talk with people who make decisions for the future of Austin and beyond, people who want similar positions, and neighbors and volunteers who want to know them better. There will be refreshments provided by Quack's and the opportunity to register to vote and to volunteer. Attendees will include Bruce Elfant; Gina Hinojosa, Representative, Texas House District 49; Steve Adler, City of Austin Mayor; Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, City Council Member, District 9; Mike Seidel, Candidate, U.S. Congressional District 10; Tawana Cadien, Candidate, U.S. Congressional District 10; Chris Perri, Candidate, U.S. Congressional District 25; Julie Oliver, Candidate, U.S. Congressional District 25; Laura Morrison, Candidate, Austin Mayor; and Danielle Skidmore, Candidate, City Council District 9.



**Weigh in on the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.** The City of Austin is developing a new city-wide transportation plan, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP), and the Austin Transportation Department would like to invite you to provide feedback. You can take the online survey at [asmp.metroquest.com](http://asmp.metroquest.com) any time before May 31. Your feedback on three different scenarios will help the city develop the preferred strategy for the ASMP, which will update the city's current transportation plan from 1995 and expand the vision of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan to guide Austin's near- and long-term transportation investments. Before taking the survey, read the scenario guide at [www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/ASMP\\_Scenario\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/ASMP_Scenario_Guide.pdf). City staff anticipates that the ASMP will head to City Council for adoption in early 2019. You can learn more about the ASMP planning process online at [austintexas.gov/asmp](http://austintexas.gov/asmp).



**CultureMap Recognizes VinoVino.** CultureMap Austin recently recognized VinoVino as one of Austin's nine most sophisticated wine spots. In the words of CultureMap food editor Brandon Watson, "This Hyde Park haunt has only been around for a decade or so, but it feels like it has always been there. Truth is, we don't want to remember a time when we couldn't perch at the bar and slowly sip (okay, quickly gulp) a Cab after work. That's not to say that there's no surprises left for the neighborhood stalwart. In November 2017, former Parkside Projects beverage director Paul Ozbirn joined

## Monthly Calendar May

- 3 — Are We Conscious Automata: Being Some Body at Ney Museum
- 5 — Spring Landscape and Wildflower Tour at the Ney
- 7 — HPNA Meeting
- 10 — DRC Meeting
- 11 — Opening of WEST at the Ney
- 11 — Recycling Pickup
- 12 — WEST Reception at the Ney
- 14 — Steering Committee Meeting
- 25 — Recycling Pickup

the crew, reworking a wine program that is just as happy to serve you a crowd-pleasing bottle as it is excited to get you to try something new." See [austin.culturemap.com/news/restaurants-bars/04-02-18-best-wine-program-bars-austin-taste-maker-awards-finalists/#slide=0](http://austin.culturemap.com/news/restaurants-bars/04-02-18-best-wine-program-bars-austin-taste-maker-awards-finalists/#slide=0).



**Tips for the New 51st Street Roundabout.** Construction of the new roundabout at I-35 and 51st Street is nearly complete. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you drive in the area:

- As you approach a roundabout, observe signs and traffic arrows to determine which lane to use.
- Yield to a vehicle, pedestrian, or bicyclist already in the roundabout.
- If two or more vehicles approach a roundabout at the same time, give way to the vehicle on the left. Otherwise, it is first come, first served.
- If there is no traffic in the roundabout, enter carefully but do not stop. If there is traffic present, wait until it clears and then enter the roundabout.
- Avoid stopping in a roundabout except to avert a potential collision.
- Use caution when you are near a bus, truck, or vehicle pulling a trailer. They take more room than smaller vehicles.
- Use your turn signal when exiting the roundabout so other people know your intent.



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## George Boutwell Remembers... ...cont'd from page 1

George had close connections to the early Hyde Park Homes Tours. The Smith-Marcuse-Lowry House was part of the tour three times and the Woodburn House, once. George and his wife Martha placed the Woodburn House on the homes tour in 1980 after it was moved but prior to its restoration. It had previously appeared on the tour as a point of interest in 1979, while it was still in its original location on 40th Street and owned by the Hyde Park Baptist Church. The Boutwells sold the house to Larry and Terry Smith just before completing its restoration, and the new owners placed it on the tour again in 1982.

George commented that, during his time on the Historic Landmark Commission, he felt like a thorn in the group's side because he was the only one actually living in a historic house, and he used his time there to encourage the Commission to ease up on the regulations for renovating older homes.

George published the early homes tour booklets and was the creator of some of the early pen sketches in those tour booklets, in company with Ruth Reeder (HPNA president for the 1983-84 term), Rick Baudoin, Joe Freeman, and Fred Evins, brother of HPNA President Jack Evins - all this despite the fact that George himself has never been on a Hyde Park Homes Tour! George also worked with Grant Thomas on the *Pecan Press* and served as Vice President for the HPNA while Jack Evins served as President.

George has donated a copy of his book, *Texas in My Windshield*, to the HPNA, with the dedication,

**"Lots of good memories  
Keep up the fight!"**

The *Pecan Press* reprints here, exactly as written, the account of the moving of the Woodburn House from *Texas in My Windshield*, with permission from the author.

### Taking on the Big Dogs

Within a few years after we moved into the Hyde Park house, the neighborhood had undergone a revival and many of the historic homes were being restored and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association became an advocate for historic preservation. The forces of development that had been chipping away at the historic fabric of the neighborhood, via apartment and parking lot development were now being actively challenged. One of the major problems in preserving the victorian character of the neighborhood was the Hyde Park Baptist Church (Austin's largest church with over 6000 members) which had gobbled up two full city blocks and was trying to ad more development.



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The Woodburn house before the move

The Church had bought the Woodburn house (the second largest house in the neighborhood, the home of a former governor's daughter and the house featured in the movie *Leadbelly*) and were planning to demolish it for another parking lot. The neighborhood association filed for historic zoning to stop the planned demolition and a long battle erupted. I was vice president of the neighborhood association as well as publisher of the neighborhood newsletter at the time so as you might suspect, in the thick of the fight.

The church hired a law firm to represent them in the battle and the lawyer representing the church got up in front of the city council and asserted that the neighborhood association was just an anti-christian group of hippies and assorted low life, using historic preservation as an excuse to attack the church. What followed his presentation has to be one of the most hilarious experiences I can remember. The president of the neighborhood association came to the podium and said that he didn't quite know how to respond to the lawyers' accusation of being anti-christian and said "My name is Merle Franke and I am the pastor of the First English Lutheran Church." The city council lost their composure and laughed out loud and the hearing went steadily downhill for the church as following speakers for the neighborhood association introduced themselves as attorneys, architects, professors, realtors, a former state senator and other professionals as well as several members of other Baptist Churches.

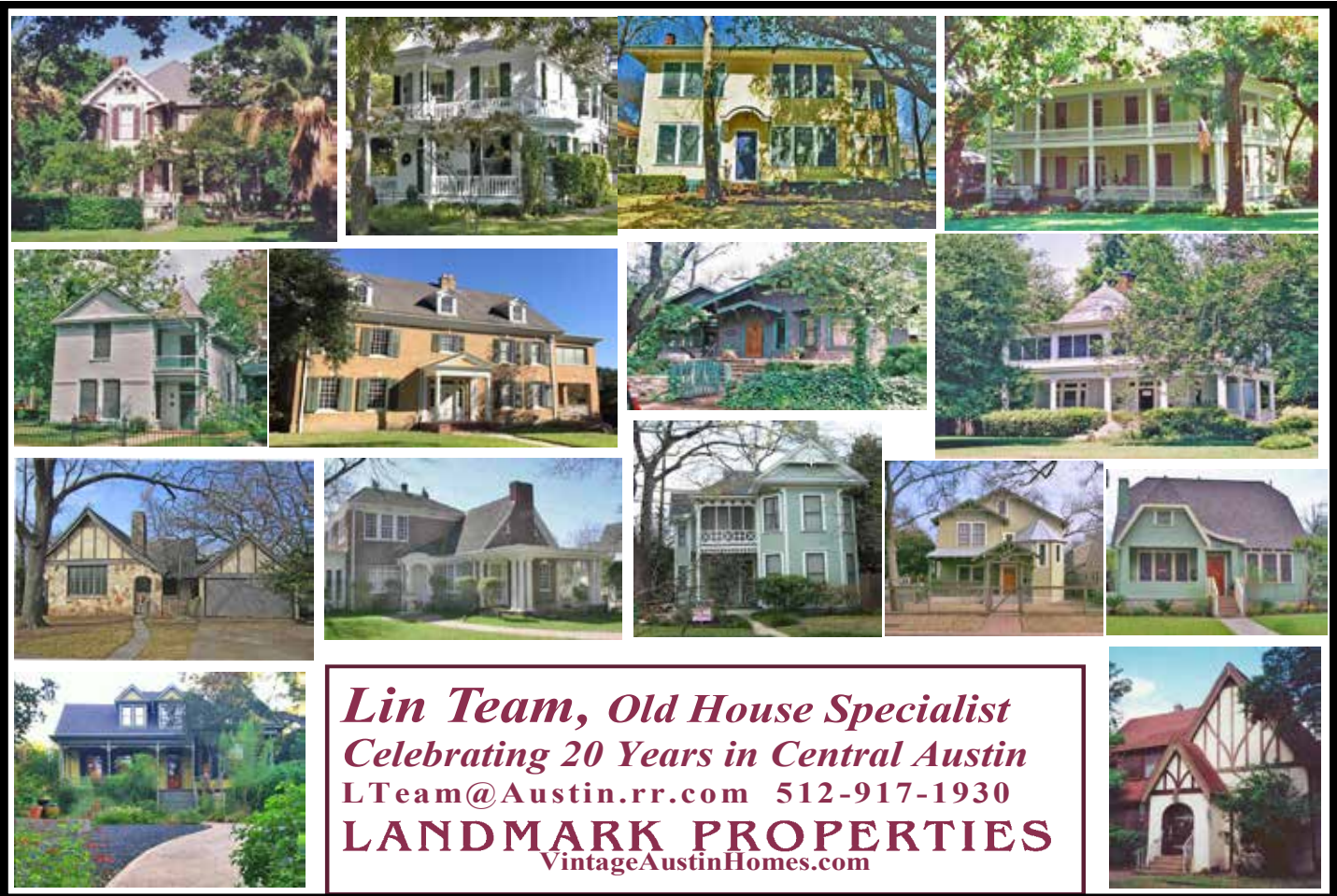
The lawyer for the church had not done his homework and assumed the composure of the neighborhood had not changed from what it had been before the neighborhood revival started. The following two years saw more than a dozen public hearings which the neighborhood association won.

The church had left the house standing open with suspected hopes, that vagrants would burn it down. I had suggested moving the house and had run into a brick wall with the idea because a few influential members of the association were determined to defeat and embarrass the church and had convinced most of the other members to stand with them even if it meant losing the house. I considered the house to be more important than the politics of the situation and decided to proceed with the idea of moving the house. The church had much of the political power structure of Austin including the Governor of Texas included in its membership and much of the money to finance the election of the City Council had come from church members. The news media was firmly on the side of the neighborhood association, so you can see that the City Council was in between a rock and a hard place.

I stepped up at a council meeting and offered to move the house and the City Council jumped all over the idea! It took three public hearings to get final approval for the move and the neighborhood and the church fought me all the way! Both the neighborhood association and the church had dug in their heels and were determined to accept only total victory and neither was willing to compromise. I had found a vacant lot in the neighborhood and had arranged financing and at that point the church decided to go along with my plans and agreed to sell me the house for \$10 if I would move it.

Prior to getting the final approval I had taken bids from three house moving companies and was in shock at the amount they wanted for the move. I was feeling like I had bit off more than I could chew, when a carpenter that I knew suggested I get a price for the move from a man named Bubba Frank. Bubba had been a house mover in Florida and Alabama before moving to Texas and had a reputation for doing the impossible. Bubba showed up at the site and after introducing himself, immediately gave me a price which was just twenty five percent of the lowest previous bid. I was surprised at the quickness of his bid and questioned him on it. Bubba smiled and told me he had given that same price to two of the other house moving companies who had asked him to sub contract the move for them! Bubba was one of the wisest men I've ever met, he was an old fashioned southern Black man who did all of his business on a hand shake (Bubba couldn't read or write) and was a lay preacher

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## George Boutwell Remembers... ...cont'd from page 7

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on Sundays. Although Bubba was illiterate he had memorized most of the Bible from listening to others recite scriptures and I never heard him quote anything incorrectly!

Bubba suggested that he move the house in one piece instead of cutting it into smaller pieces and re-assembling it as I had assumed had to be done, because of the size of the house. He said "that preacher at the Baptist Church knows people that can make that happen!" I took Bubba's advice and told the Baptist preacher that unless we could move the house in one piece, I was going to back out of the deal. The preacher said "give me 24 hours and I'll get back to you!" By the next day we had permission to drop the utility and phone lines which we had been previously been told was out of the question. Some of the people in the neighborhood were opposed to the move and had even gotten a professional engineer to say that the house couldn't be moved and would likely fall apart and if it got to the corner of 44th and Ave. G, it was too big to turn the corner and would fall into the swimming pool at Shipe Park because that corner was on a downhill slope. The press suddenly was being critical of the move and published all of the negatives and were perched with cameras ready to catch the house falling into the swimming pool. Bubba wasn't impressed with the critics and told me not to worry, because he would make fools of them all.

When Bubba got the house to the corner, he pulled the house to the left so that the wheels under the house were up against the corner curb then got out of his truck and poured several cans of motor oil on the wheels under the house, under the wheels of his truck and on the street. Bubba's Father in Law pulled up in another diesel truck and hooked a chain to Bubba's truck and spun it hard to the left sliding on the oil. Bubba grabbed a bag of cat litter and poured it on his truck wheels and on the street, fired up his diesel and pulled forward sliding the house around the corner on the oily street. Bubba pulled forward about half a block on level ground and got out of his truck and took a bow for the cameras. The crowd went wild with applause and the critics crawled off into the darkness! Two more blocks and Bubba pulled the house onto the lot where it would call home!

Two of Bubba's pearls of wisdom that I have employed many times in my life since those days are "ain't no use for you to worry about something you can't do nothing about" and "worrying about what other folks think will just make you miserable, you just gotta do what you know is right". Although Bubba was a preacher, he refused to take money for his preaching because he said "Jesus didn't charge for his preachin and if he didn't, ain't no way I'm gonna. His preachin was a gift to folks and I hope mine is too!" Bubba shared his idea of the judgement day which is as follows:

"On the judgement day, those folks will file into that big church and that preacher will be preaching a fine sermon, when all of a sudden, that doggone air condition gonna break down. The brothers and sisters will dig deep into their pockets and put lots of money in the plate and call the air conditioner man. That air conditioner man ain't gonna be able to fix that air conditioner and it's just gonna get hotter and hotter and hotter in that church and that's gonna be what happens on the judgement day!"

Bubba got the house on a new pier foundation and my crew got the house stabilized, painted, sheet rocked and ready to start interior finishing. A couple rode up on bicycles and said they wanted to buy the house. Jimmy Carter was running for re-election at the time and the man on the bicycle told me that he was an attorney for the saving and loan league and that the Carter administration was going to get interest rates way down just before the election and he said "let me handle all of the details and we'll get this done quickly." Sure enough, interest rates dropped like a rock and the attorney closed the deal in a heartbeat. My saving the Woodburn house got me appointed to the Historic Landmark Commission because the City Council said I was the only person that ever took on the church and the neighborhood association and beat them both! I served on the commission until Martha and I decided to pull up stakes and move to the ranch!

**Editor's Note:** Readers interested in purchasing a copy of *Texas in My Windshield* or George's other works can do so on George's website, <https://www.gboutwell.com/>.

If any long-term Hyde Park residents have pictures of the moving of the Woodburn House, please send them to the *Pecan Press*. We would love to publish them!



# Sixth Annual Hyde Park Egg Scramble...

...cont'd from page 1

Thanks to the generous lead sponsorship by Grande Communications, popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy were free for all at this annual neighborhood event.

HPNA Past President John Williams, Master of Ceremonies, kicked off the egg hunts for the sixth year in a row. First up were the littlest ones, the under-3-year olds – what a great photo opportunity for parents and toddlers! Quick to follow were the 3- and 4-year olds, obviously experienced from previous years in picking up as many eggs as they could handle. And finally, the 5- to 8-year olds lined up across the bridge to hunt eggs on the other side of the creek. After the egg hunts, kids and adults competed in the egg toss event. Large chocolate bunnies were given as prizes to winners for each heat of the egg toss.

Kids young and old played inside the bouncy house and fought their way through the bouncy obstacle course. A balloon twister and face painter, sponsored by Trinity United Methodist Church, amazed the kids with unique balloon creations and face decorations. After the egg hunts, the Egg Scramble Bunny arrived and took pictures with kids in the photo booth, provided by Carolyn Grimes of Coldwell Banker United, Realtors, for the fifth year in a row! As she is likely moving from the neighborhood this year, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Carolyn for being a proud sponsor of the Hyde Park Egg Scramble since its inception in 2013.

For the second year in a row, the Scramble included a big craft table during the festivities – bubbles, coloring, and plastic egg crafts were enjoyed by all. Kids decorated plastic eggs with stickers and made “bunnies” with plastic eggs and pipe cleaners. Shelley Walters from Trinity United Methodist Church manned a trade-in station where kids could exchange the candy inside the plastic eggs for stickers. In-kind sponsors included Walgreens and Bounce Around Austin.



Photo by Michelle Rossomando



Photo by Michelle Rossomando



Photo by Tim Luyet

Thank you to all of our volunteers: Sarah Seidel, Brian Smith, June and Tom Spikes, Danny and Carolyn Bivens, Merritt and Kim Pember, Kim Vo, Shelley Walters, Melanie Tolen, Summer Seibert, Jose Cabada, Delphia Vo, Jolie Grogan, Lily Ryall, Link Pruner, Nels Pruner, Maureen Vo, Carmela Williams, Alicia Cabada-Luyet, Avery Evans, Ali Atkinson, Jack Spencer, Sam Spencer, Sharon Brown, and David Conner. Special thanks to co-Chair Tim Luyet and committee members Sarah Cook, Sandy Kearns, and Ken Ryall. Big shout out to Todd Pruner for providing the PA system and John Williams for hosting and putting together the music playlist. We could not have pulled off this wonderful event without you. And again this year, thank you to all the volunteers from It's My Park! Day for making Shipe Park look so beautiful right before this event.

And finally, thank you to all of our neighbors who came out to enjoy the event. We are thrilled to see the Hyde Park Egg Scramble has become a beloved neighborhood tradition! As for Tim and me, this will be our last year organizing and leading the event. Thank you to everyone who helped us to get it started and to make it happen each year. Anyone interested in taking over the Hyde Park Egg Scramble for next year, Saturday, April 20, 2019? Contact the HPNA Steering Committee.

— By Michelle Rossomando



Photo by Tobias Hunziker



Photo by Tim Luyet

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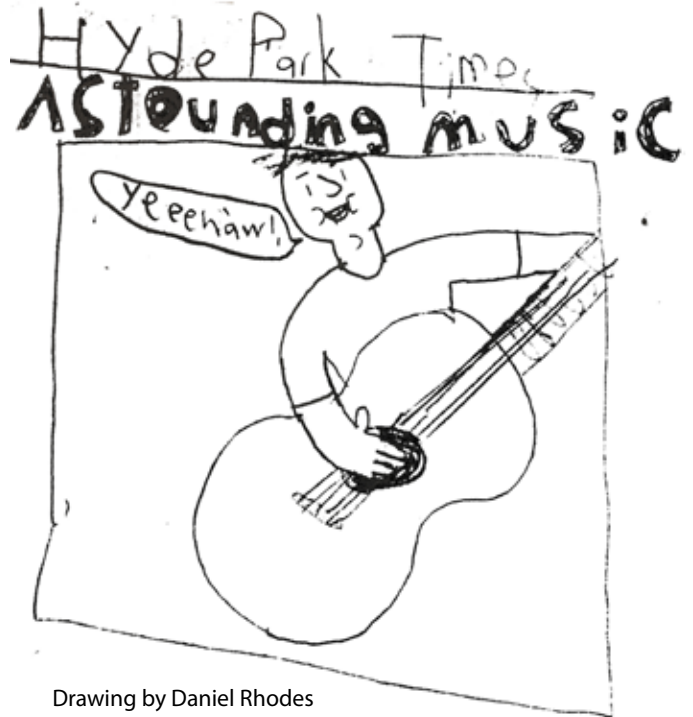
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## Kid's Corner: The Porch Band



Drawing by Daniel Rhodes

Listen up, bluegrass fans! If you want to enjoy local music, then come on down to Avenue D between 42nd and 43rd Streets where a bluegrass band performs every Sunday, rain or shine. Stop by and support the band while listening to wonderful music being performed by an even more wonderful band.

The neighborhood band that calls itself The Porch Band has been playing outside on the porch from roughly 3 pm to 5 pm for 5 years! Now that's impressive. People with instruments can come down and play with them. They're always welcoming people to play. The normal band consists of the following instruments: cello, banjo, banjo guitar, stand-up bass, guitar, fiddle, and - last but not least - the lap guitar.

That's every Sunday, folks. Come on down and have some fun!

- Daniel Rhodes



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# News from the Ney


The month of May, 2018 opens with the return of the museum's recurring series of philosophical talks inspired by the work of Elisabet Ney's husband, Edmund Montgomery.

The talk, *Are We Conscious Automata: Being Some Body*, will take place at 7:00 pm on May 3. In this very thought-provoking discussion, panelists will consider our relationships to — and projections onto — transgender bodies. The speakers will explore the relationship of consciousness to biology, the anxiety surrounding the subjectivity of trans people, and the objective experience of embodiedness. Hosted by philosopher Andrea Perry, the event will also feature Dr. Grayson Hunt, Program Coordinator of UT-Austin's LGBTQ Studies Program, and Eisner Award-nominated comic book author and artist Lilah Sturges. The event is produced with support from UT-Austin's College of Liberal Arts.

On Saturday, May 5, celebrate National Wildflower Week with the museum's annual Spring Landscape and Wildflower Tour. Hosted by specialists in the field (get it?), the tour will begin at the museum's entrance and course the trails, examining the delightful explosion of color, smell, and sound that spring brings to the native prairie landscape re-creation that graces the south half of the museum's grounds. This tour starts at 1 pm and is produced with help from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

The next weekend, the Elisabet Ney Museum will once again be participating in WEST, the annual West Austin Studio Tour, produced by Austin's Big Medium. For 2018, the museum will feature *The Silent City's Sound and Light Bath*, an extraordinary immersive experience installed in the museum's visiting artists' gallery. Participants of all ages will be able to interact with hand-wired musical consoles to alter the experience of the room, in sound and light emanating from hand-cast illuminated resin lamps hung from the ceiling. A truly unique exhibition experience, it will open on the afternoon of Friday, May 11 and close on Sunday, June 24. There will be a reception on Saturday, May 12, from 4 to 6 pm. This is the fifth in a series of intermedia installations by artists Lauren Gurgio, Wendy Mitchell, and Lindsay Greene, and it's supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.

The museum will also shine a special focus on the continuing engagement of Catherine Lee's *Four Constants*, the bronzes that will remain in the landscape for an extended period of time. *The Four Constants* — Constant Trial, Constant Deliverance, Constant Sorrow, and Constant Question — are part of a series of



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monolithic outdoor sculptures. They address the notion of constancy — both of time and place — and question that range between what's temporary and what's permanent. They are all cut, welded, and patinated bronze, and join an earlier bronze work, *Hebrides #6: Clach an Trushal*, on loan from the Contemporary Austin in its Museum Without Walls program, made possible in part with support from the Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation.

Coming in June: The fabulous Annual Art Swap and the first of this summer's Meet Her Hands artists, in the museum's exciting collaboration with #BossbabesATX.



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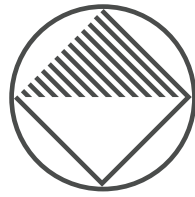
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# HPNA Minutes: April 2, 2018

President Reid Long called to order the monthly meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association at 7:05 pm on April 2, 2018 in the Griffin School at 5001 Evans Avenue.

Before addressing the meeting agenda items, the president introduced three representatives of Home Slice Pizza, who brought complimentary pizza for tonight's attendees. They announced that Home Slice is expanding from south Austin to a North Loop location near Duval, at 501 E. 53rd Street. The anticipated grand opening is early May.

The second item was a presentation on phase one of the Texas Facilities Commission North Austin Campus Construction Project planned for the area bounded by 45th Street, 51st Street, and North Lamar Blvd. The presentation was led by Beverly Silas, principal of a consulting firm specializing in public outreach; also in attendance were Steve Simpson, project manager with Vaughn Construction, and Mark Diaz, project manager with the Texas Facilities Commission. They provided an overview of the master plan, which includes three phases. Only the first phase has been approved and funded by the state legislature. Construction of phase one will begin this June, with final completion scheduled for December, 2020. It will include a nine-story office building (406,000 square feet) and a parking garage for 1866 cars, about 80% of anticipated full-time employees. They explained that the complex will serve as the headquarters for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and will save taxpayer money on lease expenses for office space. (More information about the project is available at [www.tfc-nac.com](http://www.tfc-nac.com).) Their presentation was followed by numerous questions about neighborhood impact. Questions were raised about the height of the planned office building; in response, the speakers asserted that the height was compatible with nearby structures. Of particular interest were potential traffic and flooding problems. Regarding traffic, members voiced concerns about increased traffic volume on 46th Street, which is narrow and does not have sidewalks. Discussion ensued about how to encourage the use of mass transit by state employees and questions were raised about the large number of planned parking spaces, which would seem to encourage more car traffic. The presenters responded that the complex will be on a bus line that connects with the North Lamar Transit Center at Route 183. The bus line servicing the complex runs frequently and takes about ten minutes. Concerning flooding, the speakers assured the audience that the project will enlarge existing water detention ponds. Members reminded the speakers of the need to monitor and clean such ponds. Project representatives also stated that the city plans to update old drainage pipes in the area, although members responded that these are long-term rather than immediate plans.

The next agenda item was an update on ongoing bike lane construction in Hyde Park along both Speedway and Duval. The speakers were Alison Mills ([alison.mills@austintexas.gov](mailto:alison.mills@austintexas.gov)) and Nathan Wilkes with the city's Transportation Department. They explained that the Speedway project is largely installed, with only a concrete island remaining to be constructed near the Hyde Park Baptist Church to enhance the crosswalk. In addition to praise for the increased safety of bicyclists, questions and comments regarding the Speedway bike lanes included observations about increased parking and traffic congestion due to new parking and lane restrictions, the redesign of a traffic circle on 42nd Street from a circle to an oval, and cars driving over cushions designed to separate bicyclists from car traffic. The speakers advised neighbors to call 311 for maintenance issues such as broken or disturbed cushions. Turning to the Duval design plan, much of the discussion focused on the parking prohibition south of 50th Street. The speakers explained the procedures that led to the parking ban on this section of Duval, including a public meeting last fall. Discussion followed about how to prevent cars from veering into the bike lane to avoid the traffic cushions on Duval. The speakers explained that the narrowness of this street limited design options to more effectively segregate the bike lanes. Other audience suggestions included the need for better city code compliance to protect the integrity of bike lanes; more signs, paint, and reflectors to educate drivers about the new bike lanes and improve safety for bicyclists at night; and trimming shrubbery at corners to improve visibility.

The last meeting guest was Ian Tuski with Austin Classical Guitar. He explained that this nonprofit music organization works in sixty Austin schools, serving 4000 young people each week. Their educational mission includes work with the blind as well as residents in juvenile justice facilities. He offered HPNA members complimentary tickets to the group's final concert of the school year on April 28.

Announcements included upcoming meetings of the HPNA Steering Committee and the Development Review Committee. Reid Long adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

– Submitted by Susan Marshall  
HPNA Co-Secretary



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Illustrations from the 1979 Hyde Park Homes Tour Booklet



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## New Additions to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Website!

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association website now includes a Homes Tour section with information about the upcoming tour on Sunday, November 11, 2018. Within the Homes Tour section, you'll find a History subsection that features PDF versions of past tour booklets dating back to 1979! These booklets offer a rich history of points of interest in the neighborhood and detailed accounts of homes on past tours.

Check out the new website Homes Tour section at [www.austinhypark.org/homes-tour](http://www.austinhypark.org/homes-tour) for information about sponsoring the 2018 homes tour and more!

Many thanks to David Bowen and Betsy Clubine for organizing the storage archives and past tour materials, to Lorre Weidlich for penning the introduction, and to Graham Kunze for the wonderful website additions.

If you would like to be involved in the planning of the 2018 Historic Hyde Park Homes Tour, please send an email to [ellie.hanlon@gmail.com](mailto:ellie.hanlon@gmail.com).

— Ellie Hanlon and David Bowen  
Co-Chairs, 2018 Historic Hyde Park  
Homes Tour





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## President's Letter... ...cont'd from page 2

habit completely. Additionally, such a bold transportation program will likely cause its own problems as the system is developed. Construction will likely disrupt transportation lanes and eliminate parking; as new active transportation facilities and mass transportation come online, it will likely lead to reduced parking and fewer transit lanes. We have to be willing to take the good along with the negative side effects in order to grow and advance our city. We must not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good; to paraphrase Gandhi, "We must be willing to be the change we wish to see in the world." No solution is perfect, but we must begin the transition from cars to additional modes of transportation. While we might curse the generations that preceded us for their failure to plan for this day, we can only change the future. Instead, we should finally make the changes that future generations will thank us for making, now before the traffic problems in this city become unsolvable.

At our May meeting, representatives from Cap Metro will be in attendance to discuss proposed changes to the bus routes in the city. We should all push them to ensure that such changes are conducted with a broader perspective that can help to improve our traffic situation.

— Reid Long  
HPNA President



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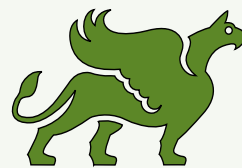
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# Around & About the Avenues

...cont'd from page 5

**Another Successful Ney Day.** Despite stormy weather the day before, Ney Day – April 14 – proved to be warm and wonderful, and the celebration on the grounds of the Elisabet Ney Museum drew visitors from all over the city of Austin. A variety of bands provided entertainment, and booths offered everything



Cecily Sailer reads Tarot

from face painting to Tarot card reading. Congratulations to Director Oliver Franklin for another successful event.



Bluebonnets on Stage

from face painting to Tarot card reading. Congratulations to Director Oliver Franklin for another successful event.



**Asti Trattoria Seeks Funding for Patio.** The Austin American-Statesman reported the efforts of Asti Trattoria to finance a patio through a GoFundMe campaign. “There could be one more patio in picturesque Hyde Park – if you’re willing to lend a hand. The neighborhood’s Italian staple Asti Trattoria is looking to raise \$15,000 to fund the design and development of a corner patio. The restaurant, which opened 17 years ago, warmed up to the idea of a patio after customers repeatedly made the suggestion, the GoFundMe page says. After checking with city permitting, the restaurant decided to make its al fresco dining dreams come true – with a little financial help from ‘friends and family’ of the restaurant, that is.” See [www.statesman.com/news/local/this-hyde-park-restaurant-hoping-go-fundme-can-finance-its-patio/fQqjfa6RbwD9lz2ats6ryNI/](http://www.statesman.com/news/local/this-hyde-park-restaurant-hoping-go-fundme-can-finance-its-patio/fQqjfa6RbwD9lz2ats6ryNI/).



**Elisabet Ney Museum in the News.** VisitAustin recently designated the Elisabet Ney Museum as one of the thirty must-see historic sites in Austin ([www.austintexas.org/austin-insider-blog/post/30-must-see-historic-sites-in-austin/](http://www.austintexas.org/austin-insider-blog/post/30-must-see-historic-sites-in-austin/)). In the words of the VisitAustin staff, “Nestled in the shady hamlet

of Hyde Park is the Elisabet Ney Museum, housed in what was once the German-born sculptress’ home and studio.” The museum was also the subject of an article in online magazine Sight Lines ([sightlinesmag.org/elisabet-ney-improvements-friends-group](http://sightlinesmag.org/elisabet-ney-improvements-friends-group)). The article documents the launch of Friends of the Ney, the museum’s new support group. Member Alison Young states, “Rather than watch the museum struggle, we decided to engage directly with such an inspirational and uniquely Austin cultural asset, in order to see it thrive and blossom into the internationally recognized tourist magnet and community hub that it can and should be.”



**Safety Improvements at 45th and Red River Streets.** The city of Austin will begin construction of safety and mobility improvements at the intersection of 45th Street and Red River Street in late April. The purpose of the improvements is to increase safety and improve mobility by adjusting signal timings, reassigning lanes, and creating dedicated left-turn lanes on three approaches to the intersection. The southeast corner curb in front of Red River Church will also be reconstructed, improving transit operations by providing safer turns for buses. Additionally, a new two-way shared left-turn lane along 45th Street between Red River Street and Bennett Avenue will provide safe space for vehicles making left turns out of side streets and driveways. These improvements, funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond, are being executed in partnership with Capital Metro. The goal is to complete the project during summer, 2018. This is the fourth intersection for which construction is being done as part of the Intersection Safety/Vision Zero program funded by the 2016 Mobility Bond. The 2016 Mobility Bond dedicates \$15 million to fatality reduction strategies for projects listed on the Top Crash Location Intersection Priorities Improvement List.



**In Memoriam.** The *Pecan Press* is sad to report the death of Earl Wukasch at the age of 95 on Sunday, April 15. Earl and his architect brother Eugene, who died years ago, grew up on the corner of 43rd Street and Duval. Eugene owned the Duval Center and designed the buildings. Earl owned the Hyde Park Bar & Grill parking lot and several residential lots south of that on Avenue H. His support for the Hyde Park Local Historic District made a significant contribution toward the percentage of neighborhood support for the district required by the city of Austin. We are saddened by the loss of an early Hyde Park resident and a contributor to the character of Hyde Park.



**Home Slice Coming to the Neighborhood.** The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association would like to thank Home Slice Pizza for providing a delicious variety of pies for attendees at the April HPNA meeting. A South Congress staple, Home Slice is opening a new location at 501 E. 53rd Street. The North Loop location will have indoor and outdoor seating as well as carry out. Opening soon!



# HYDE PARK & NORTH UNIVERSITY HOMES GALLERY



## 4211 AVENUE F

Spacious 1923 Victorian house plus garage apartment on oversized lot, 75' x 125'. House has 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 LIV, screened porch. Apartment is 1 BR, 1 BA. Bonus workshop.

Listed at \$1,150,000



## 4301 AVENUE D

One of Hyde Park's original grand residences. 1914 Craftsman style home on over-sized corner lot in heart of historic district. 4 BR, 3 BA, 3 LIV. Wrap-around porches.

Listed at \$1,185,000



## 4506 AVENUE C

1910 Folk Victorian with many recent updates— foundation, roof, plumbing, wiring. 2 BR, 1 BA plus detached 1 BR/ 1BA casita/guest house.

Listed at \$459,000



## 4302 AVENUE G

Charming 1920s multi-family investment property located in prime location near Shipe Park. Three separate units, on-site parking, many recent updates.

Listed at \$750,000



## 2311 SHOAL CREEK BLVD.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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