

September Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 14, 2015

Where: Trinity Methodist Church
4001 Speedway, in the chapel

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for September 14

- ♦ Introduction of Candidates for HPNA Officers and Steering Committee
- ♦ Flooding, featuring representatives from the City of Austin Watershed Department
- ♦ Vote on Resolution for Renaming of Lee Elementary School
- ♦ Vote on whether the HPNA should enter into a Restrictive Covenant with Griffin School

Please Note: Date & Location Have Changed

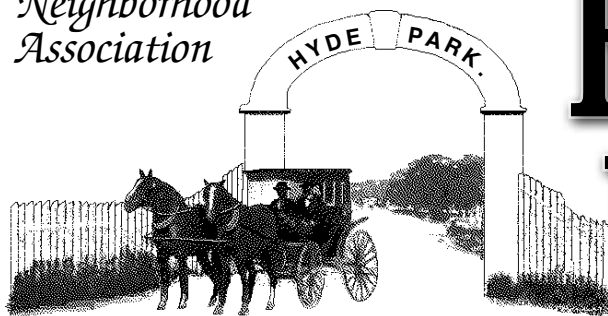
Kid's Corner: Preservation Austin History Hunt

Welcome to the Pecan Press Kid's Corner where you can find out about kid happenings in Hyde Park. Feel free to submit anything kid related, including event info, kid's drawings, stories, comics, songs, poems, what have you! ppkidscorner@yahoo.com.

Preservation Austin's Education Committee, chaired by longtime Hyde Park resident Ann Graham, will hold an architectural scavenger hunt for K-5 children and their parents on Saturday, September 26! The History Hunt will run from 9am-noon with the Elizabet Ney Museum as its home base. Teams will follow clues to six (top secret) stops throughout the neighborhood, learning about architectural elements such as gables, columns, and roof types. Each stop will have games and activities

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*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

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Fulfill Our Promise and Rename Lee: A Viewpoint from a Parent of Black Students at Robert E. Lee Elementary

Editor's Note: At the September HPNA meeting, the membership will have the opportunity to vote on a resolution to support a change of name for Robert E. Lee Elementary School. The Steering Committee requested a statement from a stakeholder. We thank Dave Junker, Lee Elementary parent, Campus Advisory Council (CAC) member, and UT professor, for offering the following article.

I recently asked my 9-year-old daughter who Robert E. Lee was. Her answer sounded typical for a kid her age. "He was a great leader," she said, and after further probing, added, "He fought in the Civil War, I think."

All of our five children are smart, and like any concerned parent, I want them to do well in school and learn their history. For us, however, there is an extra burden to this that makes her answer not just incomplete but unacceptable: 1) Our children are all African-American and 2) they attend a school named for Robert E. Lee, Confederate hero and figure-head of the Lost Cause.

What's more, my wife and I are white, which makes our family a living embodiment of our country's promise of freedom and equality, a promise Lee fought to deny to those, like my kids, with black skin.

Slavery is what the Civil War was about (read any of the 13 articles of secession), and it's what Robert E. Lee fought to preserve. If Lee had prevailed in that fight, would our family even exist today? Or only as master to slave, with our kids like property to be bought and sold, kept ignorant and illiterate, with "no rights a white man is bound to respect"?

If our 3rd- and 4th-graders don't fully grasp the implications of their school name, they soon will. Our shy and sensitive 8th-grade daughter, for example - a proud Lee alumna and two-time winner of the AISD African American Heritage Award - is reading *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* for her summer magnet-school project. To her, and us, this dehumanizing picture of slavery simply cannot be reconciled with the image of Robert E. Lee, the great leader, the hero, and the namesake of her white-majority school.

Those who named the school in Lee's honor in 1939 may have had no problem reconciling these things. But this is not 1939 and this family is not fine with this.

Continued on page 13



Coming This Fall

Along with, we hope, cooler weather and some rain, the months ahead bring some of Hyde Park's most cherished events.

On October 18, look forward to our annual Fire Station Festival, at which we come together to celebrate keeping the Fire Station open back in 1969, when the city wanted to make it the victim of budget cuts. That led to the founding of the neighborhood association and the beginning of the modern history of Hyde Park.

On November 8, attend the 39th Hyde Park Homes Tour. Better yet, volunteer to help. The tour committee needs researchers and writers, publicists and photographers, house captains and docents.

This year, the focus of the tour is small houses.

September Meeting

Our September meeting will be an important one; it includes three issues important to the neighborhood: flooding, Lee Elementary School, and Griffin School. Two of them will require the vote of members. We ask that you review the articles in this newsletter about those issues and come prepared to participate in the discussion and cast an informed vote. In addition, the Nominating Committee will be introducing the candidates for our October election. Make note of the changed date and location: due to Labor Day, our meeting is on the second Monday of September (September 14) and at Trinity Methodist Church.

cream cones and dishes scooped up and served by our willing volunteers, Adrian Skinner, Kathy Lawrence, and Reid Long. An excellent way to wrap up the summer and move into the fall season and school year!

— Kevin Heyburn & Lorre Weidlich
HPNA Co-Presidents

Pecan Press

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Serving Ice Cream... and Eating it, photos by Lorre Weidlich



Ice Cream Social

The day was hot, the ice cream cold, and a good time was had by all. Kids of all ages loved both Sukyi McMahon's puppet show story time and the cool sweet ice



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Proposed Agreement between Griffin School and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

Editor's Note: At the September HPNA meeting, the membership will vote on whether the HPNA enters into a restrictive covenant with the Griffin School. This article summarizes the restrictive covenant and answers questions Hyde Parkers might have about the agreement. To read the actual covenant, go to http://www.austinhypark.org/wp-content/uploads/HPNA_Griffin_School_Restrictive_Covenant-2015.pdf.

Griffin School is currently seeking a variance and conditional use permit (CUP) to allow it to have up to 125 students. As it grows into its property, the school is seeking to minimize or eliminate any possible negative impact its growth could have on its immediate neighbors. Accordingly, Griffin School is offering to enter into a restrictive covenant agreement with HPNA to solidify several mitigation measures it has agreed to employ with regard to the school, traffic flow, and parking and to lock in the total number of students it will have at this site in perpetuity.

The proposed agreement would be binding between HPNA and Griffin School and would obligate Griffin School to the following:

- Cap enrollment at any secondary school on the property at 125 students.
- Require all students to park off-site during the school year at the Ridgetop Baptist Church Parking Lot at 701 E. 51st Street, except students with physical handicaps or approved special circumstances.
- Restrict its drop-off and pick-up vehicles from parking curbside in the neighborhood in front of neighborhoods homes. Drop-off and pick-up cars that need to park may only do so in the school's off-street and on-site parking or at the Ridgetop Lot (used as a "cell phone lot" for parents).
- Implement a one-way traffic flow plan which will require all Griffin School traffic during the school year to travel south on Martin Avenue and north on Evans Avenue.

- Support any residential application for residential parking permits on Martin, Evans, and 50th, including issuing a letter of support for it and paying the application fees.
- Issue parking permits to all students who drive to school during the school year and implement an enforcement plan with penalties for violation of the parking and traffic regulations.
- Hire a Traffic Monitor to guide traffic flow and parking at pick-up and drop-off at the start of each school year.

Monthly Calendar

August

- 4 — Recycling Collection
- 14 — HPNA Meeting
- 18 — Recycling Collection
- 20 — Portrature in the Park at the Elisabet Ney Museum
- 21 — HPNA Steering Committee Meeting
- 26 — Preservation Austin Hyde Park History Hunt

To ensure compliance with the enrollment cap of 125 students and other parts of the agreement, Griffin School will post a Letter of Credit or Performance Bond with the following conditions:

- The amount will be \$10K.
- Griffin School agrees that the fee to obtain a bond to stop use of the property is only \$100.00.
- Griffin School agrees that the prevailing party in any lawsuit is entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees.

Continued on page 10

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Membership

• Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside 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.

Name _____ Phone _____

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We Welcome Your Submissions to Pecan Press

• Send your articles, letters, and photos by the 10th of each month to the HPNA Steering Committee at pecanpress@austinhypark.org.

Opinion articles and 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.

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HYDE PARK AREA: ANNUAL SALES IN REVIEW

	2012	2013	2014
NUMBER OF HOMES SOLD	76	79	74
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$401,513	\$477,040	\$470,565
AVERAGE SQUARE FOOTAGE	1,606 SF	1,773 SF	1,565 SF
AVERAGE SOLD \$/SQ FT	\$257.20	\$284.11	\$316.36
MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET	34 DAYS	44 DAYS	29 DAYS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for Single Family Residence taken 12/31/2014 from the Austin MLS. For detailed market information about your home, contact Sam Archer, Broker.



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The Arts in Hyde Park

Drew Xanthopoulos and *The Sensitives*



Drew Xanthopoulos

Five years ago Hyde Park filmmaker Drew Xanthopoulos saw a photo essay in the *New York Times* that changed his life. The story featured photos of men and women who suffer from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), also known as Chemical Sensitivity (CS) and Environmental Illness (EI). As documented in the *Times*, MCS is a mysterious condition that forces its sufferers to retreat from contact with the world and live lives separate from their communities and families. Sufferers can develop severe migraines, rashes, fatigue, and loss of motor and speech skills when exposed to ordinary things like cleaning products, pesticides, and electronic and wireless devices. When they go out in public, they often wear face masks to protect them from real or perceived toxins in the environment. After reading the photo essay, Drew decided to make a documentary about MCS.

A tall, lanky Montanan who came to Texas to attend the University of Texas film school, Drew Xanthopoulos is genuinely interested in people. After graduation he decided to stay in Austin, where he works as a full-time film director and cinematographer. A resident of Hyde Park for 5 years, he often starts his day with coffee at Quack's, where he has become familiar with many of the characters who frequent 43rd and Duval.

During the three years after he saw the photo essay, Drew talked to experts about MCS, did his own research, and took hours of film footage of MCS sufferers and their families. He also consulted with his neighbor on Avenue D, Dr. Kate Musemeche, a medical doctor who became a great resource when he began working on his documentary.

Drew eventually decided to focus his film, *The Sensitives*, on four people: a computer engineer in Kansas who lives apart from his wife and children in a sealed room covered from floor to ceiling with shiny foil; twin brothers living in isolation on the plains in Arizona; and a woman who has recovered from MCS and now advocates in Washington, D.C. for those who still suffer from it. His film explores how they live with their fears, how they cope with their isolation, what life is like for their families, and how their spouses, children, parents, and friends support them.

While finding people to profile for his film was not difficult, there were some unique challenges in communicating with them. For instance, during the filming, his subjects asked him to wear special clothing and use specific natural soaps. And sometimes they refused to sit in the same room with him while he asked questions because they were afraid he was carrying environmental toxins on his body.

Drew wants his documentaries to avoid passing judgment on the men and women he profiles. He wants his audiences to form their own opinions, and he hopes his films' audiences will become genuinely interested in the people whose stories he shares. He knows that many people will think his film's subjects have mental rather than physical problems and that his film is about people on the margins, folks outside the mainstream. But Drew thinks the challenges people with MCS face in their lives make them natural subjects for a documentary.

The filming of the documentary is done, funded through grants, a Kickstarter campaign, and donations through the Austin Film Society. The editing and post production process has just begun.

Drew welcomes your questions. You can reach him at drewx.filmworks@gmail.com. You can view a teaser of the film at bit.ly/SensitivesTeaser. And if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to help the completion of the film, you can make your donation at bit.ly/SensitivesDonate.

– Kevin Heyburn

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(Effective September, 2015)

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Exploring Hyde Park: **Austin's Moonlight Towers**

“Before they were erected, many city residents predicted the 24-hour light would cause severe overgrowth of gardens and lawns: Farmers said that the giant corn and beans would be impossible to harvest, that grass would have to be cut with an axe, and that chickens would lay eggs 24 hours each day. Fortunately, none of these dire predictions came to pass.” (*Texas Architect*, October, 1998)



Hyde Park Moonlight Tower in 1895

What was the subject of all this trepidation? Austin's famous moonlight towers, at the time, a strike against darkness and crime, and today, unique in the nation.

The 1890s saw an electrical boom in Austin. City movers and shakers like Mayor John McDonald had visions of Austin growing into a bustling industrial city, and harnessing the Colorado River for electricity was a major move in that direction. The vote by the populace to build a dam drew new residents and developers to Austin, including Kansas resident Monroe Shipe. Austin Dam was completed in 1893. The cotton mills it was originally planned to power never materialized; instead, the dynamos installed in the powerhouse of the dam powered an electric streetcar system (one of Monroe Shipe's enterprises), a municipal electric utility, and the new moonlight towers. Austin Dam was short-lived. It was washed away in a flood in 1900, only seven years after its completion.

The towers themselves were second-hand, having been decommissioned and sold to Austin in 1894 after a period of operation in Detroit. Originally manufactured in Indiana by the Fort Wayne Electric Company, each tower stood 150 feet tall on a 15 foot foundation, and each illuminated a 1,500 foot radius with its six lamps. Maintenance personnel accessed the lamps using manually-powered elevators inside the towers.

Hyde Park's moonlight tower, at 41st Street and Speedway, has the distinction of having been the first moonlight tower to actually operate. In May, 1895, before the city generators were complete, Col. Monroe Shipe

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used his own generator to power the tower and illuminate Shipe's new streetcar suburb of Hyde Park.

The towers originally had carbon vapor arc lights – a continuous spark between two carbon electrodes. Their glare was overwhelming. "Arc lights were so bright that people would actually bring out umbrellas at night in order to shield themselves from the glare. The lights also buzzed loudly like a swarm of bees, and as the carbons burned, they would drop shreds of burning ash on the people below." (Bruce Hunt at <https://notevenpast.org/city-lights-austins-historic-moonlight-towers/>) The arc lights required daily maintenance because of the speed with which the arcs burned down the carbon electrodes. Over time, the lamps were replaced by more modern technology: in 1925, incandescent lights, and in 1936, mercury vapor lamps. During World War II, the separate switches that controlled the mercury vapor lamps, one at the base of each tower, were replaced by a central switch, to allow for a city-wide blackout in the event of an air raid. Today, the towers use metal-halide bulbs.

Several writers have postulated that the desire for nighttime illumination resulted from the notorious serial killer that the Austin press dubbed the "Servant Girl Annihilator". By Christmas of 1885, the annihilator had killed five women, all black. Two more victims, both white, were murdered on Christmas day. The husbands of the final two victims were eventually tried for the murders, but both were freed, one by a hung jury and the other after an appeal. The murders stopped at that point, the killer was never identified, and the case remains one of Austin's most sensational to this day. The moonlight towers appeared ten years later, a long enough period to suggest that the link between them and the murders was tenuous at best. However, they did create a feeling of safety. "There was even speculation that the streetlight could eliminate the need for law enforcement entirely. Moonlight towers were sometimes nicknamed "policemen on a pole"." (Bruce Hunt at <https://notevenpast.org/city-lights-austins-historic-moonlight-towers/>)

The towers received national recognition with the release of Richard Linklater's 1993 movie *Dazed and Confused*. Filming took place in West Enfield Park, where no moonlight tower actually stands. The plot revolved around a group of students who, on their last day of school in 1976, meet at a moonlight tower to party. In the film, several of the students climb the tower. While the movie tower was a replica, built to be accessible, the more challenging real Hyde Park moonlight tower has actually been scaled. Mark Oppenheim, in his 2014 *New York Times*

article, "Austin's Moonlight Towers, Beyond 'Dazed and Confused'", interviewed former Hyde Park resident Kivett Bednar, who stated, "A lot of the kids would just get drunk in the neighborhood and end up climbing it. I climbed it three or four times, and twice naked."

Only 17 of the moonlight towers remain. They were designated as Texas State Landmarks in 1970, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, and designated as State Archeological Landmarks in 1986. In 1993, Austin dismantled the towers for restoration. Their reinstallation in 1995 was celebrated with a city-wide festival.

From their possible roots in the serial murders of the late 19th century, through the period of old Austin nostalgically evoked by *Dazed and Confused*, to modern high tech Austin, the moonlight towers have stood as sentinels to Austin's unique character. In the words of David Thomas ("The Complete Guide to Austin Moon Towers" at <http://austinot.com/austin-moon-towers>), "It's comforting to know that despite gentrification and the californication that's been affecting our city, unique iconic pieces of history like our moon towers

have remained as reminders of Austin's past."

Sources:

"Austin Moonlight Towers" contributed by Annetta Black at <http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/austin-moonlight-towers>

"Austin's Moon Towers, Beyond 'Dazed and Confused'" by Mark Oppenheimer (February 13, 2014) at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/16/travel/austins-moon-towers-beyond-dazed-and-confused.html?_r=0.

"Episode 150: Under the Moonlight" produced by Avery Trufelman and posted by Roman (January 27, 2015) at <http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/under-the-moonlight/>

"City Lights: Austin's Historic Moonlight Towers" by Bruce Hunt (February 4, 2011) at <https://notevenpast.org/city-lights-austins-historic-moonlight-towers/>

"Moonlight Tower" at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moonlight_tower

"Moonlight Towers - 1895" at <http://www.austinpostcard.com/moontower.php>

Texas Architect, October, 1998

"The Complete Guide to Austin Moon Towers" by David Thomas (November 20, 2014) at <http://austinot.com/austin-moon-towers>

"The Rise and Fall of the Austin Dam" by Bruce Hunt (July 9, 2011) at <https://notevenpast.org/rise-and-fall-austin-dam/>



Hyde Park Moonlight Tower Today, photo by Lorre Weidlich

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Around & About the Avenues

Save the Date! Plan to attend the Hyde Park Fire Station Festival on Sunday, October 18th, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Gather at 3:30 p.m. at Shipe Park to participate in the parade. We are celebrating 41 years of a successful partnership - HPNA, our neighborhood, and our beloved Fire Station #9 at Speedway and 43rd Street. The Fire Station Festival Committee is working towards another great event with new ideas to further tap into our capacity for fun. More information to come in the October *Pecan Press* and at <http://www.austinydepark.org/events/fsfestival/>. Think about your Halloween costumes! Think about new and used books to donate to the Fire Station Festival book collection! Think about the friends and family you want to join you this year at the Festival!



Fire Station Festival Recognized by Austin Fire Department. In a posting on the Austin Fire Department Facebook page dated August 1, 2015, the Austin Fire Department celebrated the 86th Anniversary of the opening of Fire Station #9



Fire Station #9

in Hyde Park opened. It still stands today and is one of the focal points of this legendary Central Austin neighborhood. In fact, there is an annual parade and festival centered around the station! This year marks the 41st one and it's a great time if you've never been. Feel free to stop by 4301 Speedway on Sunday, October 18 from 4-6 p.m. and bring your family!" To see the original posting, go to <https://www.facebook.com/AustinFireDepartment/>.



Waller Creek Conservancy. Those concerned about the future of Hyde Park's creek should look into this organization, which recently conducted a series of informational meetings around the city. According to its website (<https://www.waller-creek.org/>), "Running from Waterloo Park at 15th Street to Lady Bird Lake, Waller Creek has the potential to become Austin's vital green artery. Waller Creek touches many of the things that shape Austin's identity, including UT, the Texas Capitol grounds, a growing medical complex, our famous music and entertainment district, Austin's Convention Center, Rainey Street district, Butler Hike and Bike Trail, and Lady Bird Lake. Imagine this 1.5 mile area connected with a series of parks and trails through the heart of downtown." For

information, call the Conservancy at 512-541-3520 or email at info@wallercreek.org.



Hyde Park Becomes Increasingly Popular as Film Location. This time, filming took place on the 4300 block of Avenue H. The project was a full-length film entitled *Ripped Van Winkle*, the story of two stoners that get so high they fall asleep for 30 years, then need to deal with life as responsible 47-year-old adults. It might even remind you of some people you know.



Avenue H Filming, photo by Lorre Weidlich



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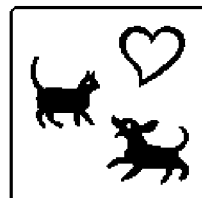
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Letters Dept.

Letter to the Editor

Dear HPNA:

I have been a resident of Hyde Park near 45th and Avenue A for about 13 years. I read your most recent article about the Memorial Day flooding and wanted to add my pictures and opinion to the discussion.

As you can see, the water rose rather quickly from just below the car bumpers in the background to above them. I have not seen the water come up this high in 13 years. We have noticed more flooding in our alley between Avenue A and Guadalupe ever since the Triangle was opened and most especially with the recent development. It does not seem a coincidence that flooding has increased along Guadalupe and Avenue A ever since the Triangle moved into a greater development with the new condos facing Lamar and the Rehab Hospital facing 45th street.

— Charlie Sawtelle
4406 Avenue A #2



Flooding on Avenue A, photo by Charlie Sawtelle

Griffin School Agreement... ...cont'd from page 3

The document will be executed by Griffin School and HPNA and will be recorded in the real property records of Travis County.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Agreement

The following have been the questions most frequently asked about the restrictive covenant agreement Griffin School proposes to enter into with HPNA, along with answers from Griffin School:

1. *Why is it necessary for the HPNA to enter into a restrictive covenant agreement with Griffin School? Since they are seeking City permits, shouldn't the City enforce the enrollment cap and all the terms of this agreement?*

ANSWER: With regard to the maximum 125-student enrollment cap, the agreement serves as "belt and suspenders" for the HPNA. Although the city will be the party that can and should enforce the

Continued on following page



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enrollment, the agreement gives HPNA the ability to enforce the cap itself if the city fails to do so.

With regard to the other terms of the agreement, because they are terms or agreements that would help the school operate more compatibly with the surrounding neighborhood but that are not related to development requirements in the City Code, the City will not enforce them.

2. *Is the restrictive covenant agreement binding in perpetuity?*

ANSWER: The entire restrictive covenant agreement is binding in perpetuity on Griffin School unless HPNA and Griffin School jointly terminate it or something happens that the parties agree should cause it to terminate automatically (as spelled out in the document). The cap on enrollment, because it concerns the permitted use of the land, will “run with the land” so it will be binding on all future owners of the property. The rest of the terms in the document, because they are agreements specifically about the operation of Griffin School, will not “run with the land” so they will not be binding on future owners of the property.

3. *Will the restrictive covenant agreement be recorded in the Travis County Official Public Records?*

ANSWER: Yes.

4. *What happens if Griffin School violates the agreement? What recourse does HPNA have?*

ANSWER: If Griffin School violates the agreement, HPNA would have the right and grounds to bring suit against the school to ask a court of law to force Griffin School to comply, to pay, or both, for any damages resulting from the non-compliance.


5. *What is the purpose of the letter of credit or bond?*

ANSWER: The purpose of the letter of credit or bond is to provide HPNA with retainer funds to hire an attorney and get a lawsuit filed in the event Griffin School violates the Agreement. These funds are not intended to cover the entire cost of a lawsuit. They are intended to make it possible and easy for HPNA to initiate a lawsuit if there is a violation.

In addition to the bond, the agreement provides that a minimal injunction bond is necessary if HPNA has to seek an injunction (whereas normally the amount of the injunction bond is decided by the Court) and that the prevailing party to a suit is entitled to recover reasonable attorneys’ fees from the other party.

6. *Is there a way to require Griffin School to keep the Ridgetop Baptist Church parking lot lease in perpetuity?*

ANSWER: No. That said, as a part of the Agreement, Griffin School is (1) seeking to obtain a long-term written lease agreement with Ridgetop; (2) agreeing to notify HPNA immediately if the lease is terminated for any reason; and (3) agreeing to use its best efforts to quickly obtain replacement parking.



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Rename Lee Elementary... ...cont'd from page 1

It has been more than 50 years since the last legal barriers to integration were removed in Austin schools. Yet this figure hovers shadowlike -there on the façade, there on the marquee, there in the stately portrait - as if to cast doubt on the rightness of racial progress itself and the very dignity of black lives.

This school has been great for our family. We should want more black families to send their kids here. But the name does us no favors. Changing the name would not change history, only a symbol at odds with our nation's creed and our community's values.

A new name, whatever it is, can be a renewal of that enduring promise, a promise that says it is right for my family to exist and it is right that all our children should live and learn together to reach their fullest potential.

If you support a name change for Robert E. Lee Elementary School, sign the online petition created by a group of Lee parents: <http://chn.ge/1H6LSqq>.

You can also email the AISD trustees and superintendent to indicate your support: trustees@austinisd.org and superintendent@austinisd.org.

For more information or to get involved, join the Facebook group, Rename Robert E. Lee Elementary.

- Dave Junker

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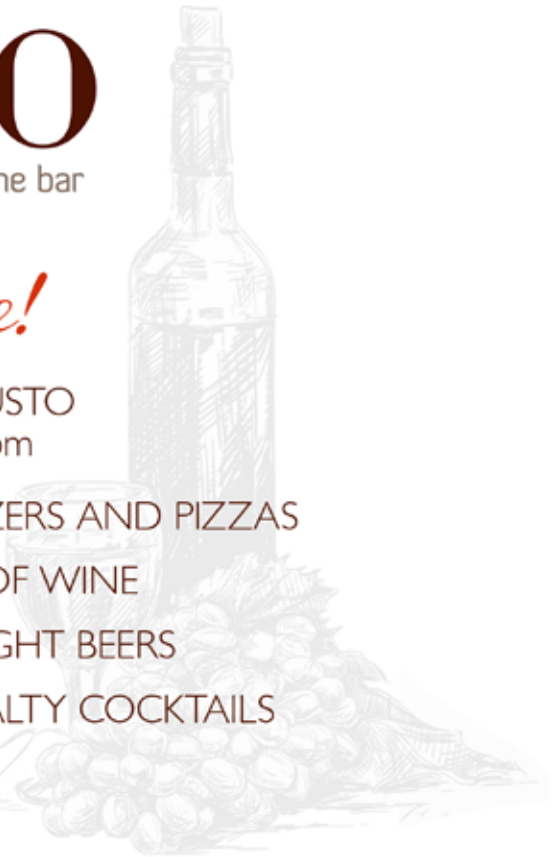
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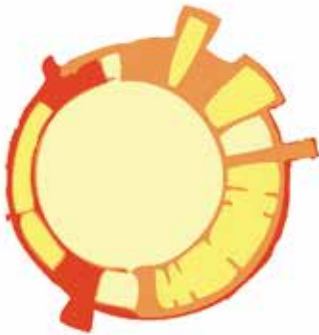
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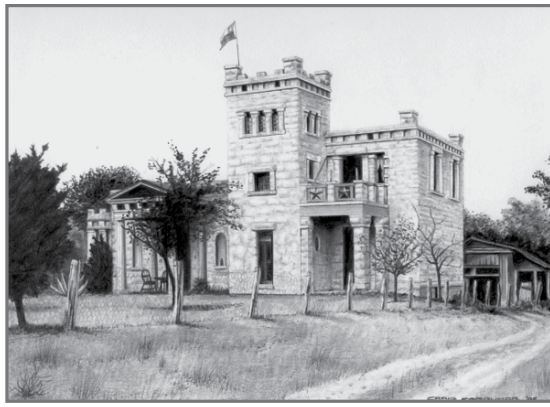
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News from the Ney

On Sunday September 20, 2015, the Elisabet Ney Museum will host another of our annual festivals, *Portraiture in the Park!*

One of Elisabet Ney's greatest strengths as an artist was portraiture. As you may know, almost all of the art we have here at the museum is portraiture in one form or another. Ney was a firm believer in the potential of a remarkable portrait to tell the story of a remarkable man or woman. Often that story was intended not only to inform but also to inspire the viewers to find greatness within themselves. She took great pains to delve into the character and personality of the individuals she sculpted, in order to tell their story. As you also may know, we've intentionally removed most of the label texts, so that the pieces could essentially speak for themselves.

So with *Portraiture in the Park*, we explore portraiture as a storytelling medium. How does the story of a person get told in portraiture? And how is that story told most effectively? Does the portrait have to be an accurate representation, or can it be an amalgam of information of many kinds? Taking it a step further, like colors we are not trained to see, are there methods of portraiture that we haven't yet defined? And finally, who gets to tell the story?

So come enjoy *Portraiture in the Park*, where you get to help us explore these questions. Whose portrait do you want to make? What would you say and how would you say it? If it's your own portrait, what stories would you tell? And of course, how? Think OUTSIDE the box! Find out through music, demos, exceptional art activities, caricatures, and more! Picnic in the park from food trucks while you're here!

Note too that this is part of the Austin Museum Partnership's Austin Museum Day festivities! All the museums in town will feature special programming, so make a day of it.

We look forward to seeing you here! Admission as always is free.

304 East 44th Street, (512) 458-2255, Noon - 5pm.

As we enter into fall we think of folks returning from summer vacations and of children returning to school. Let us also think, at this time, of returning to God - of making real and intentional efforts to bringing our hearts and minds and bodies and souls back into right relationship with God.

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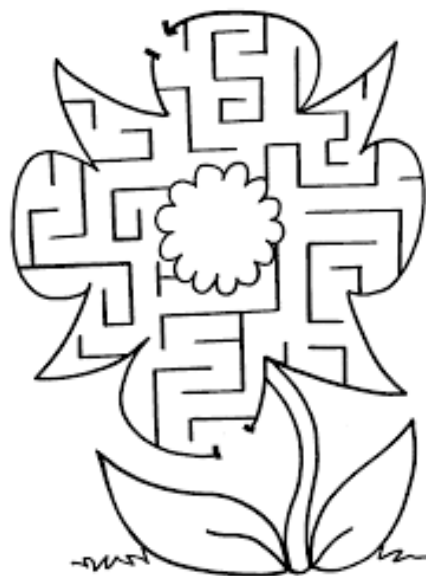
ranging from sack races to hula hooping. Refreshments will be provided. Prizes donated from local businesses will be awarded to the race champions and given out at door prizes!

The event is based on San Antonio's Amazing Race, held every year by that city's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). Former OHP Planner Sara Luedena, now a Project Design Assistant with the Texas Historical Commission, sits on Preservation Austin's Education Committee and is leading the History Hunt's planning. "This architectural scavenger hunt gets kids out into their city – focusing on different historic neighborhoods – and really makes them think about and interact with the built environment in a way they often are not exposed to in school until college or even graduate programs. Using clues to find all of the stops along the race route, the kids start to recognize and identify architectural features while also learning about the history of the city. This event was always so much fun and so engaging in San Antonio that I wanted to start holding a similar race for kids in Austin!"

Preservation Austin is excited to inaugurate this first History Hunt in Hyde Park, one of Austin's most historic and best-preserved neighborhoods. It's also one of the densest and most walkable, making it a perfect setting to engage families with their built environment in a healthy and active way. A win-win for cultivating little preservationists.

The History Hunt is free and open to all. RSVP to programs@preservationaustin.org by Friday, September 18 to reserve your space today!

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One of my friends keeps a flock
of exotic chickens.
He's had them for years,
hatched hundreds of delights
for neighborhood children.
Chicks peeped, cheeped and popped round corners,
and – here's what matters –
they grew up to supply breakfast.

A stylist at Duval Haircutting,
Adam gave eggs, brown and green, to customers
who loved getting food along with beauty.
We all need Adam, our professor of the coop.

— *Elzy Cogswell*

The Edge of Doubt

There's always
that edge of doubt.
Trust it.
That's where
the new things
come from. If
you can't
live with it,
get out because,
when it's gone
you're on automatic,
repeating something
you've learned.
Let your prayer be:
Save me from
that tempting
certainty, that
leads me back
from the edge,
that dark edge where
the first light breaks.

— *Albert Huffstickler*
Sept. 24, 1988

BESOS

Besos are kisses
Maybe that one gives his missus
The sunlight can kiss
So can the dew
Sometimes los besos make it better
Sometimes a kiss can kill
As in the kiss of death

Los besos no nos molestan
Incluso los que no son solicitados
Pero si los invitamos
Siempre hay la posibilidad
De que vienen con la muerte

[Kisses do not bother us
Even if uninvited,
But, if we invite them
There is always the possibility
That they include death]

Besos are kisses
And when the love is true
No exchange of pesos,
Or any currency, will do,

When the sunlight
Dapples the day
With snitches, here and there
The kiss of dew is gone, by then
Sunset makes a veil,
Besos/kisses given then,
Are likely to prevail.

— *Herzele*
5/5/13 revised 6/13/15



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Hyde Park Neighborhood Planning Contact Team Minutes

Co-Chair Adrian Skinner opened the meeting at 7pm, Monday, July 27. He welcomed new members and reminded those attending that the HPNPCT communicates using the Hyde Park Neighborhood Yahoo group and the Contact Team Yahoo group. Quarterly meetings and meeting minutes are posted in the Pecan Press. He encouraged folks to join these groups and keep up on the news.

Outreach Opportunities

After the May and June floods in the neighborhood, the Contact Team discussed increasing outreach efforts to renters so that we can better understand and represent these stakeholders. So that broader representation of the neighborhood can be achieved, discussion also included outreach to business owners and non-resident property owners. The CT does not have a budget, so any efforts would be volunteer led. Mity Myhr, Dwane Barnes, and Rachel Kitko volunteered. If anyone is interested in joining the outreach subcommittee, please contact Mity Myhr (myhr_steds@yahoo.com).

HPNPCT Bylaws: Review, Discussion, and Resolution to Vote

Discussion was led by Bylaws Committee Chair, Reid Long. He began by recognizing the hard work of the Bylaws Committee members. After presentation and discussion at the meeting, the CT will vote at its next quarterly meeting, October 26, 2015.

Long walked the CT through the bylaws section by section, pointing out where changes were mainly editorial and where they changed CT policy or process. He then took questions about proposed changes.

Once a few more editorial issues are addressed, the bylaws draft will be sent to Margaret Valenti, the CT representative at the City Planning Office. If she recommends substantive changes, those will be sent out well in advance of the October quarterly meeting. Long will also ask Margaret Valenti how to contact the Waller Creekside Apartments and inform them that they are now part of the HPNPCT.

Most discussion focused on the concern that the bylaws enable the CT to develop a more representative membership and that the CT reach out to gather more opinions in the neighborhood, beyond those

Continued on following page

expressed at meetings. It was requested that the CT explore the possibility of an online polling system that, while not a binding vote, would allow a broader range of opinion to be expressed and help more neighbors feel included in the discussion.

In response, Long agreed to add language to the CT Mission Statement at the beginning of the bylaws that pledges the CT to seek out broader opinions through different means (on line, door to door canvassing, or other realistic means, given budget constraints).

Following discussion, Long moved that a vote be held to add a vote on the bylaws (with further non-substantive changes and with notification of any substantive changes requested by the City) to the October 26 agenda.

19 voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstained.

Deed Restrictions: Discussion of their Legality and Enforceability

Mity Myhr presented information she learned from Carol Gibbs, a neighborhood liaison in the Planning Office, about deed restrictions. Neighbors on the Yahoo group had expressed concerns about the illegal racist elements in our deeds.

Gibbs informed Myhr that the city does not recognize deed restrictions because many of the restrictions are illegal and no longer apply. To change them would be a State process, probably through the Office of the Secretary of State. Neighbors would need to hire a lawyer and gain almost 100% support through a petition process to make the changes.

September Votes

Resolution for Renaming of Lee Elementary School

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association recommends that the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees rename Robert E. Lee Elementary School. The Board, after citizen and stakeholder input, should select a new name that reflects the values of the neighborhood and city. See related article, page 1.

Should HPNA Enter into a Restrictive Covenant with Griffin School?

The HPNA Steering Committee recommends approval by the membership to enter into a restrictive covenant with Griffin School related to increasing its enrollment to 125 students. See related article, page 3.

The CT reached a consensus that such a process would be time consuming and expensive and would distract from other important issues that need to be addressed.

Announcements

Reid Long asked that anyone with questions about the bylaws contact him directly by email (reid.long@gmail.com).

The HPNA Ice Cream Social will be held August 3 at 7pm at Shipe Park. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Hyde Park Homes Tour committee will hold a planning meeting on August 16 at Vino Vino when it opens. Those interested are invited, particularly those with marketing or photography skills. The Tour will take place on November 8.

Neighbors were also invited to enjoy weeknight Happy Hour at Hyde Park Bar and Grill, which is now offering \$5 plates!

The next quarterly meeting of the Contact Team will be October 26, 7-8:30 pm, Trinity United Methodist Church.

All residents, renters or tenants, property owners, and business owners in Hyde Park are encouraged to become members of the Contact Team and participate in discussions. An agenda will be posted two weeks before the meeting.

Corrections or additions to the minutes should be forwarded by email to Mity Myhr, Contact Team Secretary, at myhr_steds@yahoo.com.



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310 EAST 35TH STREET
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4808 AVENUE F
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