

December Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 3, 2007

Where: Hyde Park United
Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Who: YOU and your neighbors

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for December 3rd

- ❖ Watching out!
- ❖ No crying!
- ❖ No pouting!
- ❖ He's coming!

See you there!

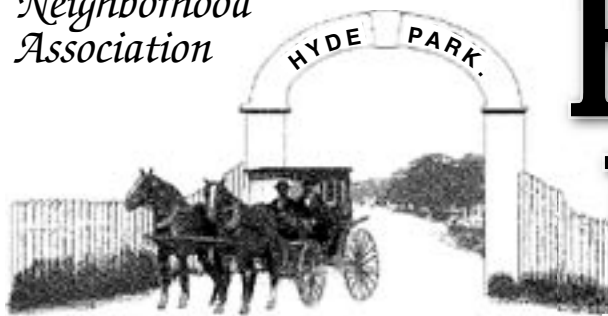
Minutes of Nov. 5, 2007 HPNA General Meeting

The Monday, November 5, 2007 meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association was called to order by President Elaine Meenehan.

The first agenda item was the introduction of our new **police liaison, Armando Rodriguez**, Senior Police Officer and Central West District Representative. Officer Rodriguez assured the group that the Police Department was working to handle the recent burglaries and break-ins that have been occurring in the Hyde Park area. He mentioned that they had stepped up patrols and were using undercover and plain clothes officers in the area in addition to the regular patrols. Officer Rodriguez stressed the importance of staying alert and reporting any suspicious activity to the police. He said neighbors should watch out for each other. Officer Vargas, our previous liaison, encouraged the neighbors not to let their concerns get out of proportion. He also emphasized the importance of keeping houses and

Continued on page 3

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

December, 2007 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 33, No. 12

Yo, Ho, Ho! You're Invited!

Hyd Park Holidays Party will be held **Friday, December 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Woodburn House Bed & Breakfast, 4401 Avenue D. The HPNA invites you to come and share your own special holiday spirit with your neighbors. The officers and leaders of the Association and the gracious owners of the Woodburn House, Kristen and Noel De La Rosa, will be on hand to greet you.



If you didn't attend last year's event, you missed out on a very special party and don't want to make the same mistake twice! Bring your own special dessert treat for others to en-

joy. We'll have name cards to identify your dish so that you will hear all the wonderful compliments people give them. There will be delicious food catered by Greg Bontempo - owner of New World Deli - as well as beverages.

Children are welcome and we will have fun activities to keep them entertained during the party. Watch for more details about the event on our listserv at <HydeParkAustin@yahogroups.com>.

If you have any non-Christmas holiday decorations to loan Kristen and Noel, the help would be much appreciated. Let's make it a 'Holidays' party, rather than just a Christmas party. Please contact them at <woodburnhouse-austin@hotmail.com>.

We hope to see you there!

- Deaton Bednar
HPNA Social Chair
<deatonbednar@grandecom.net>

Mother's Rises from the Ashes

Hallelulah, praise Mother Earth and pass the BBQ tofu! With little fanfare, Mother's Café reopened (sans garden) on Tuesday, Oct. 23. Word got out quickly, though, and fans of the venerable vegetarian restaurant were soon waiting for tables to open up in the thoroughly rehabbed dining room.

The 27-year-old Hyde Park institution had been closed since March 7, when it was seriously damaged by a fire. After the initial cleanup, the building sat dormant for months while the property owners dealt with the af-

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From the President's Desk: _____

Sidewalks, Anyone? Everyone?

Over the past several years, several members of our community have tried to work with the City to generate a plan to create more sidewalks in Hyde Park using the City's sidewalk matching program. The HPNA voted on multiple occasions to provide money for this effort. However, very little progress has been made to date, due to several factors, including price. As an example, working through the City, it would cost \$38,000 to install a new sidewalk on one side of the 3900 block of Avenue C. Just one block!

Many of our neighbors have installed sidewalks on their own over the years at a cost of much less than the estimate that the City gave us. The HPNA would like to see more of this. The Steering Committee is currently discussing a sidewalk incentive program for 2008 that is actually feasible. We are still in the planning phases, but will likely initially concentrate our

efforts on qualified priority sidewalks that were published in our NCCDs (both North and South).

If sidewalks are your passion, we are looking for someone who would like to head up this new initiative to help determine guidelines and administer the process. If you're interested, please contact <elaine.meenehan@gmail.com>.

Have a safe and happy holiday season! I hope to see everyone at the Holiday Party on December 14th!

— Elaine Meenehan
 HPNA President
 <elaine.meenehan@gmail.com>



HPNA Membership Info

All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

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 the designated boundaries.

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.

Pecan Press

The Pecan Press is published monthly by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas.

Note: Each month's ad and editorial deadline is the 15th of month preceding publication.

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Contributors

Glen Alyn, Candy Gray Becker, Cynthia Beeman, Laurence Becker, Deaton Bednar, Mary Collins Blackmon, George Bristol, Chris Brown, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Kathryn Bryn, Mark Burkhardt, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Nicole Caspers, Kitty Clark, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Rob D'Amico, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Don Davis, Lynn Denton, Pam Dozler, Russell Duke, Cathy Echols, Merle Franke, Gregory Free, Larry Freilich, Robert Garrett, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Rachel Hector, Ben Heimsath, Sandi Heimsath, Sarah Scott Howard, Albert Huffstickler, Liz Jones, Barbara Kelly, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Bo Kersey, Susan Kirk, Anna Kotecki, Dennis Lensing, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Brook Meggs, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wanda Penn, Cecil Pennington, Peter Pfeiffer, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Steve Sadowsky, Sheree Scarborough, Jaime Shimkus, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Clay Smith, Jenna Stephens, Julie Strong, Kathleen Strong, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Lorre

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

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HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

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Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, skywash@austin.rr.com.....

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Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C.....206-0729

Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G.....452-5117

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment 2007-08 Membership

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All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.

Minutes of the Nov. 5, 2007 HPNA General Meeting. ...

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cars locked. When asked about taking photos or videos of suspicious activity or catching a burglary on video, Officer Vargas said these could be used as evidence. Because many of the perpetrators of the recent crimes touch only the items they carry away, there are seldom any fingerprints. Photos and videos could tie a perpetrator to the crime.

Some of the audience raised questions about other neighborhood concerns, including the speed of vehicles on 38th Street and reckless driving. The officers said that the Police Department rotates patrols to various areas, and they would call attention to this area. The neighbors were told that reckless drivers

had to be caught in the act by police officers. There was also discussion of whether a correlation could be found between the issuance of building permits and burglaries. The officers said that it would be a time consuming process. When Wanda Penn asked if volunteers could help in the checking process, Officer Vargas said they should be able to since the information is online.

Next, Project Manager Charles Muela from the Public Works Department, Certified Arborist O.B. McKown, and City Arborist Michael Embesi presented information about the **water and sewer line relocation projects, in the Shadow Lawn area of Hyde Park - Duval to the west side of Avenue F and between 38th and 40th Streets.** This area has no alleys and water and sewer lines are in back yards, making it difficult for the City to provide needed service. This project will relocate the water and sewer lines to the streets and move the laterals so they can connect to the new mains. (Laterals are the pipes that connect the house to the water and sewer mains.) After the meeting, Project Manager Charles Muela clarified the project boundaries and that there would be work outside of Shadow Lawn. "The project covers two neighborhoods... Hyde Park and UT/40th. So the work area is pretty spread-out; in general it will cover from 45th on the north to 32nd on the south. And just east of Guadalupe to Harmon just west of I-35. More specifically, the area of focus will include Avenue A and east to Peck. The northern boundary will be 45th Street and on the south 35th Street."

City Arborist Michael Embesi reviewed the current tree ordinance, which is 25 years old. Before projects begin, trees are surveyed and evaluated to assure that proper protection is provided. Trees with 60 inch or greater circumference are considered protected trees. If you cannot reach around a tree, it is probably eligible for protection. A tree with 20 inch diameter will have a 20 foot root zone. Because factors on each lot vary, the arborist will be working with both property owners and the contractor to provide protection for the trees in the construction areas. Mr. Embesi also talked about the proposed Heritage Tree Ordinance, which would provide additional protec-

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

Judith S Girard
Financial Advisor

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Note: The Pecan Press will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.

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November Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 3

tion for trees that are native to the area and have a 24 inch diameter. These trees would have greater protection, including higher fines and penalties for not complying with the ordinance.

O.B. McKown will be the onsite contact, working with the contractor, plumbers and the property owners during the construction period. There are 76 addresses affected by the project. The contractor will be working with the property owners to reduce the impact of the project. Mr. McKown will be the arbitrator if there are disputes between the contractor and the property owner about the placement of lines and protection of trees. He said there are a number of things that can be done to protect trees, including having the plumber or the contractor to do hand digging or tunneling in some areas. O.B. can be reached at 974-6330 or <ob.mckown@co.austin.tx.us>.

Project Manager Muela explained that sewer line relocation was necessary for the City of Austin to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. This project must be completed within the next year. Extensive work has been done during the design phase to bring the lines into compliance as well as address concerns of the property owners. The contractor will have a licensed, certified arborist working on the project as well as the City of Austin arborist to protect roots as well as the tree itself. If it is necessary to cut driveways or sidewalks, the panel that is cut will be replaced rather than putting a patch over the cut. Mr. Muela can be reached at 974-7142 or charles.muela@ci.austin.tx.us if property owners have concerns or need additional information.

This project is expected to start in the spring of 2008, probably between February and April. The contract has not been finalized, but as soon as this is done, the City will be setting up meetings so that property owners can meet the contractor and superintendent and get a better understanding of how the project will proceed.

Next, following a resolution presented by Catherine Moore of the Development Review Committee, the HPNA voted unanimously to oppose a waiver request by the **El Dorado Market** at 5001 Airport Blvd. which would have allowed the sale of alcoholic beverages. The vote reflected support for a section of the City Code prohibiting such sale within 300 feet of a church, hospital or school -- in this case, Ridgetop Elementary.

John Paul Moore then introduced Mary Collins Blackmon, Director of the **Ney Museum**, who presented an update on the **restoration project** at the museum. The restoration is intended to return the museum to the configuration and appearance of

Continued on next page

"Formosa," the former studio of Elisabet Ney. The restoration includes the building and landscape personally designed by Ney. The landscape restoration is to include the natural prairie grasses and wildflowers, the original course of Waller Creek and wire fencing of Ney's time. Reconstruction of Ney's stable and servant's quarters is also included. Because the Ney is not only a City of Austin Historic Landmark, but also an official project of the Save America's Treasures program of the US Department of the Interior and a Texas Historic Landmark, both of which are funding the restoration, plans must be reviewed and accepted by these groups. Ms. Blackmon expressed her appreciation to HPNA for the help and support that the group has provided through the years. Both John Paul and Ms. Blackmon encouraged neighbors to stop by the Ney and look over the plans so the neighbors may better understand this large, complex project. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the president.

– Celeste Cromack, HPNA Co-Secretary
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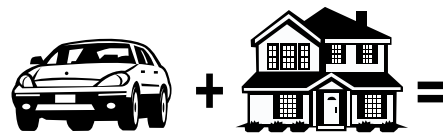
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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

I would first like to start by saying thank you to those neighbors who are on alert and calling in suspicious behavior. A joint effort of neighbors and police officers working as a team can make a difference in reducing crime and increasing arrests. The neighborhood listserv has been very helpful in raising awareness by informing neighbors of criminal activity and providing descriptions of potential burglars.

As a reminder, with the approaching holiday season, criminals will be on the look out for items which can be easily stolen. APD informs us that many times, a crime is committed when the opportunity presents itself. Please keep your valuables out of sight in your cars and in your yards. It is also advisable to close your blinds at night, so that passersby cannot see what you have in your homes (flat screen TV's, computers, etc). If you purchase a new TV or computer, please keep the boxes out of sight until garbage pick-up day. When criminals walk or drive through the neighborhood, they look for signs of new purchases.

The Neighborhood Watch Program continues to grow. We now have over 35 Block Captains. Jenna Stephens has kindly offered to head up this program. Her email address is jenna_stephens@yahoo.com. If you are interested in getting involved or have questions about Neighborhood Watch, please contact her.

Our new APD District Representative is Officer A J Rodriguez. He can be reached at 974-4527 or by email at armando.rodriguez@ci.austin.tx.us.

I would like to close by saying that I love living in Hyde Park because it is truly a community. I hope that we can preserve this wonderful asset by all being good neighbors and looking out for one another. How can we expect outsiders to respect us or our belongings if we don't respect those who live around us? We can all make this a safer place to live by taking pride in our homes and in our yards. Please pick up litter when you see it, call 311 to report graffiti, keep your dogs inside if they bark, and report any suspicious activity, no matter how small you may think it is.

Happy Holidays!

– Carol Welder
459-6205
<cjwelder@msn.com>

HYDE PARK

Distribution Update

In the wake of a recent slight stroke, and after many years of faithful service, former Woodburn House proprietor and long-time Hyde Parker Herb Dickson is stepping down from his post as Distribution Coordinator for the *Pecan Press*. Stepping up to succeed him, we are pleased to report, will be Rimas Remeza of 4105 Avenue F. Along with best wishes for a speedy recovery, we send heartfelt thanks to Herb for all he has contributed to the newsletter and the neighborhood, and thanks as well to Rimas for the unglamorous but vital role he has agreed to play.

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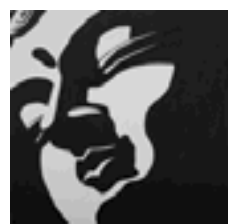
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Mother's Rebuilds...

...cont'd from page 1

termath: insurance claims, cost analyses, design plans, contractor bids, permits and the like.

"But once we started, it took only six weeks to get up and running. It moved like a road runner!" says Anne Daniels, who, along with John Silberberg and Cameron Alexander, operates the business in the rented space at 4215 Duval.

The restaurateurs dedicated countless hours

and energies to reopen Mother's. The damage was so extensive that the roof had to be replaced and most of the interior demolished. That, however, was the silver lining: "Since everything needed to be redone, it presented the



Melty Mascots: Anne Daniels displays salt and pepper shakers that survived the fire. Photo by Mike Kintner.

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Mother's Rebuilds...

...cont'd from page 8

opportunity to make things look better overall," Silberberg explains.

Among the changes, the rough cedar paneling was replaced with sheet rock and paint, the floor is now stained concrete instead of tile, and the wait station was redesigned. "We think it looks cleaner and more up-to-date."

At the same time, the partners wanted to recapture the cozy vibe of the original. In this writer's opinion, they succeeded.

The need to comply with building codes also brought pluses: The restrooms meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and with new insulation, air conditioning and lighting fixtures, Silberberg says, "We will be cooler in the summer and have a lower electric bill (we hope!)."

Jumping Hurdles

The relaunch hasn't been entirely smooth. The opening was delayed by a day, and several weeks later the restaurant was forced to close for half a day, in both cases because of problems with exterior water and sewer pipes.

In addition, it was a more difficult process to obtain a permit for reconstruction of the charming garden area, which had been destroyed, than for restoration of the building. But Daniels reports good news: Work on the garden is finally underway and it should be open by Christmas.

That's important, because the garden accounts for a significant portion of the restaurant's capacity. Before the fire, total seating capacity was 30: 12 tables inside and 18 in the garden. At present, there are 16 tables inside and 4 outside by the entrance (weather permitting).

Another challenge has been hiring and training the mostly new staff. While six of the former wait staff have returned, only one of the regular shift cooks remains. By way of analogy, Silberberg says, "Our customers had been waiting over seven months for us to open. Our new guys showed up for driver's ed class and were thrown into the Indianapolis 500!"

Despite the many changes, Mother's is still, unmistakably, Mother's. Perhaps most important, the menu is largely intact. The award-winning Bueno Burger and palate pleasers such as spinach lasagna, artichoke enchiladas and weekend brunch items are all there. The only items lacking are a few carryovers from when the partners also operated the West Lynn Café (spring rolls, linguini al greco and farfalle gorgonzole) but Silberberg says all will probably return to the menu.

And what future plans do the partners have for Mother's? Silberberg laughs: "You mean like a day off?"

Mother's Café is open Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For information, call 512-451-3994 or visit www.motherscafeAustin.com or www.myspace.com/motherscafeAustin.

— Jaime Shimkus
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holiday season. Enjoy the special atmosphere of the former 1892-1907 Elisabet Ney studio and Ney's portraits from life of European and Texas notables during hours when the museum is rarely open. The museum has arranged a special Children's Corner around one of Elisabet Ney's fireplaces with a collection of Father Christmases, dolls from around the world and a Children's Christmas tree. There will be music and refreshments as formerly enjoyed by Elisabet Ney. The Elisabet Ney Museum is located at 304 East 44th Street. Regular hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 10 PM – 5 PM, and Sunday noon – 5 PM. Free admission. For further information, call 458-2255.

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Hyde Park Poets — Remember

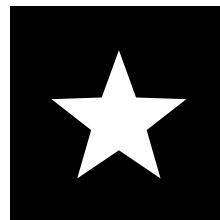
Remember
when the moon hung
like a thin round slice
of white bread
in the velvet night sky
dotted
with blurred-silver stars?

Remember
when the jungle-green grass underfoot
slid you into
a wonderful place
with a stained-glass sky
deep enough to sink in?
When you could slide down
the cool limestone rocks
and land in the blue-green creek?

Look
and now the city turns
the night sky an angry yellow-orange
and the glowing white-bread moon
just pales down to a single snippet
among the nonexistent stars.

Continues page 16

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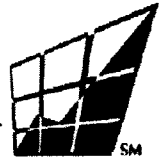
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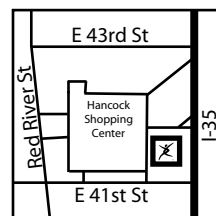
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Hyde Park Poets cont'd

Look
and now our heating earth's grass
is dry and yellow and bent
and the deep stained-glass sky
cracks away
and shows a pale gray blanket
smothering and drying the slick limestone
to a baking crumbled slab.
Now the creek is a mudded old stew
with bits of board
and old pop tabs.

What if
we polished the moon back
and painted the night sky with velvet dark blue?
What if
we scattered out new blurred-silver stars
and gathered up the old
and baked them with glaze paint?

What if
we tended our grass
and slid it back
to its jungle green?
What if
we glued together
our stained-glass sky
and deepened it to its rich and original state?

Continues page 18

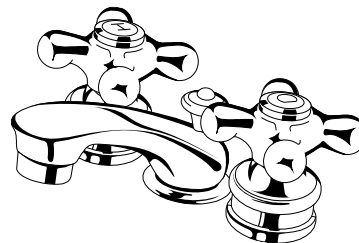
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The Children's Christmas Pageant happens at 7pm on Dec. 16. Choir and hand bell choir also perform.

There's an HPUMC Christmas Concert Dec. 23, at 7pm. All of the church's musical groups will perform!

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule:

5pm - Families invited to gather and decorate Christmas cookies.

5:30pm - Family-Friendly Children's Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion. Each child receives a flashlight "candle" and Christmas book.

7:00pm - Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion.

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"... and the star which they had seen at its rising went ahead of them until it stopped above the place where the child lay."

Matthew 2:9

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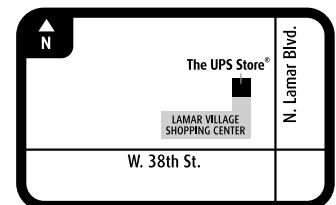
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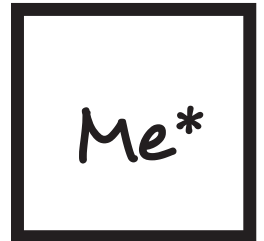
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What if
 we slickened our limestone
 and carved it back
 to its towering shape?
 What if
 we took out the pop tabs
 and soggy old boards
 and dipped our creek
 with a blue-green paintbrush
 to let it run free?

What if we really did?
 We have the polish and glaze paint
 and stained glass and glue
 and deepness and slickness
 and watercolors.
 Those are the things
 that will push us back
 into when
 we had
 what we had
 that
 we
 Remember

— Natalie Ray (age 9)



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Address: **912 East 37th Street**

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Charming bungalow w/bright 1/1 garage apt. Just remodeled. Features custom kitchen cabs., granite counters, new appliances, hrdwd flooring, recent int. paint, lrg dining & laundry, lrg 50' X 150' lot, 2 car garage. Apt has sep. laundry room/hardwood flooring/central heat and AC. Very private.



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Address: **4530 Avenue H**

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Listed For: **\$419,000**

Amazing 3/2 on a corner lot. Lee Elementary. Classic bungalow remodel with 2 living areas and 2 dining rooms. Hardwood flooring, glass fronted cab./stainless Jenn-Air cooktop, period lighting and hardware.



Address: **5002 Avenue H**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$525,000**

Historically inspired recent construction (2001). 3020 square foot 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom with a great two car garage and an automatic gate off the ally. Modern design & period charm. Hardwood flooring/tall ceilings/granite counters/arts and crafts interior detailing/huge family room.



Address: **4406 Avenue D**

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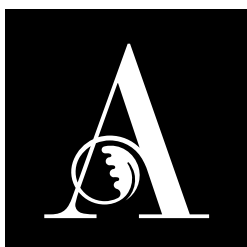


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