

December Meeting



The Meeting is a Party and the Party is the Meeting!

When:

Sunday, December 18
6:00 - 7:30 PM

Where:

Charlotte Herzele's home at
3916 Avenue H

Remembering Susan Kerr

Susan Kerr, good friend, gentle neighbor, mother, wife, and scholar died on Saturday, November 12. Only a few short months after retiring from U.T. in 2010, she was diagnosed with the cancer that eventually overcame her. Throughout her ordeal she remained resilient, calm, resolved, and loving qualities that she could claim for her entire life.

Susan was born in West Virginia, but moved to Austin when she was eight years old. She graduated from Rice University, and later earned a master's degree from the University of Indiana. This was followed by a PhD in English literature from the University of Texas at Austin. For many years prior to her retirement, she taught English as a second language in the International Office of the University of Texas.

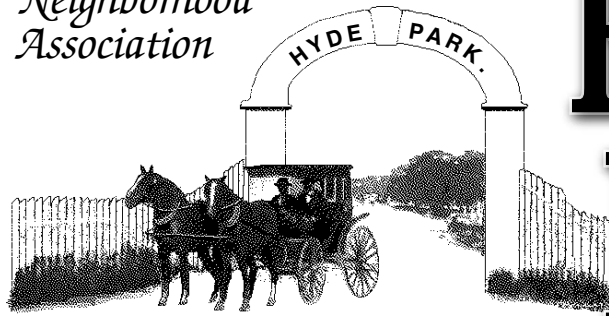
Susan was devoted to her family: husband John, son Andrew and his family, and daughter Ellen. It was always clear that they were her joy and her treasure, but she

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37th Fire Station Festival
Thanks & Photo
Essay begins pg.12

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

December, 2011 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 37, No. 12

A Lasting Peace: Ten Year Sentence for the Hyde Park Tire Slasher

On Wednesday, November 9th, 2011, the jury did exactly what the prosecutors plead with them, on our behalf, to do. They were asked to "protect us from him."

The Trial

A picture was painted, based on Tommy Joe Kelley's own admissions and based on prior brushes with the law, of how he chose to spend his time: He chose to spend it in conflict with the neighborhood, with the police, and in creating tools used to vengefully perpetrate tens of thousands of dollars in damage to our neighbors' tires, indiscriminately. They were shown the implements created and used for the purpose of tire puncturing. They heard the statistics of reported punctures in the area which fit with the all-too-familiar sight we have seen here for well over a decade, and the facts that these reports historically fell when this long time and sole suspect was jailed, which was often. They were given the testimony of a witness to this destruction, who saw Kelley puncture tires with his "sticker." Tommy Joe Kelley was sentenced to the maximum penalty for this case, likely giving us 10 full years of peace, provided we show up at his parole hearings. I'm sure we will.

Admissions of Guilt

Perhaps we may be able to glean a little more of his motives and personality based on Kelley's statements in court, some of which

I have not heard reported, which I was witness to. You may have heard his admission that he once punctured tires because he wanted to be jailed, in order to have access to needed medical treatment. He did admit to being angry much of the time. He admitted to feeling persecuted much of the time -by APD, by HPNA members, and others. He also stated that the community's view of him was faulty, but that he felt this was due to "human weaknesses."

We have lived among a man who was certainly unhappy and distrustful of others. He did not trust lawyers, which is why he chose to represent himself. There was no one he could call to the stand to defend him. He subpoenaed a great many people, all of whom I believe he knew would speak against him. Perhaps he thought he could prove bias among the community and hoped it would convince the jury to be doubtful that he was the culprit, despite the evidence against him. He is a man who has frequently been jailed, and who, it seems, wanted to be jailed - for short periods of time. This took effort and cunning, considering the volume of damage we experienced.

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From the President's Desk:

I am delighted to introduce our new graffiti patrol chair, Pete Gilcrease. For several years this committee chair had been vacant and HPNA had no organized graffiti abatement effort, though some HPNA members have continued individual efforts to remove graffiti while the committee was inactive. Doris Coward in particular deserves recognition for consistent efforts in this area. Ruben Sandoval, the coordinator for the city's graffiti abatement program, has provided us with their guidelines for graffiti abatement and I will be happy to forward that information to anyone who requests it.

As many of you know, this past month a jury found the tire slasher guilty and sentenced him to 10 years in prison. The tire slasher was representing himself in court and summoned me to be a defense witness which was strange since I had never interacted with him previously and because I had no direct experience with the tire damage. His questions to me included what steps we had taken to catch the tire

slasher, whether there was someone we suspected of being the tire slasher, why we suspected him and why it was that he was arrested for trespassing so frequently in our neighborhood. He was under the mistaken impression that we had obtained a stay away order against him.

The Yarborough Public Library asked me to announce that they are having a Winterfest event on Saturday December 3rd from 12:30-4 p.m. Their announcement reads, "Starting at 12:30 p.m. the Capitol City Highlanders will perform in our parking lot then will be marching inside to break all the rules we have about noise in the library. Later the Allendale String Quartet will wind things down with lovely chamber music. At 1 p.m. the Winterfest Bazaar begins with different non-profit groups that use our meeting room sharing what they do at the library. This will be a great opportunity to join a new group or get interested in a new hobby. There will be holiday snacks and presentations from different groups to sit in on."

In late October there were a couple of instances where pedestrians in Hyde Park were ticketed for crossing 45th St. at Avenue G during the recent Austin Police Department enforcement effort concerning pedestrian violations. I asked APD for clarification of what the rules are. Lt. Ely Reyes provided the following explanation of the rules pedestrians must follow when crossing streets: "A pedestrian may only be cited under this statute if they cross at a location other than a crosswalk that is between two adjacent intersections that have traffic control devices. For example, a pedestrian can be cited

for crossing midblock Congress Avenue between 8th and 7th St. There are traffic control devices on Congress Avenue at both 8th and 7th St. An example where they could not be cited would be a pedestrian crossing the middle of the block between Avenue A and Avenue B on 45th St. There are no traffic control devices on 45th St at Avenue A or Avenue B. However, a pedestrian may still be cited for crossing midblock if they

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765
<http://www.austinhypark.org>

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• Dorothy Richter

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• Lynne Hohlfeld <lhohlfeldcpa@yahoo.com>

Additional Steering Committee Members: • Mark Fishman
• Stan Kozinsky • Eric Strumberg • John Moore • David Conner
• Kevin Heyburn • Michael Nill

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AISD • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H 458-8096

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

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Beautification • Robin Burch <robinburch@gmail.com>. (903) 780-5275

Children's Programs • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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Crime & Safety • Heather Freeman, <hdozierfreeman@yahoo.com>

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

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

HPNA Steering Committee

Committee

Mark Fishman (2010-2012)

Stan Kozinsky <skozinsky@swbell.net> (2010-2012)

Eric Strumberg (2010-2012)

John Paul Moore (2010-2012)

Michael Nill (2011-2013)

Kevin Heyburn (2011-2013)

David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com> (immediate past president)



fail to yield to a vehicle, but that citation would be Pedestrian FTY-ROW to Vehicle. The Ave. G scenario would also be one in which a pedestrian can legally cross at that intersection." FTYROW stands for "failure to yield right-of-way."

Finally, I was advised by a couple of members that amending our bylaws to give anyone a permanent place on the steering committee likely runs afoul of laws governing associations. A resolution from the floor that was approved at our October general meeting instructed the steering committee to initiate such an amendment. The steering committee plans to obtain legal advice before proceeding.

— Lisa Harris
 HPNA President
 <Ljharrisus@yahoo.com>



Correction Dept: The October Meeting Minutes published last month omitted the announcement of HPNA's newest Steering Committee Members, Michael Nill and Kevin Heyburn.

Susan Kerr Remembered...

...cont'd from page 1

was also always interested in news of other's families and friends. Her memory for details and events going on in other's lives never ceased to amaze me.

She was a true scholar, born and bred, coming from a family of smart and accomplished people. She had great curiosity about life and the life hereafter and was recognized for her published articles, essays, and book reviews, chiefly on Christian art, in journals ranging from America magazine to the Journal of Computers and Mathematics with Applications. She presented papers at the annual conferences of the California Missions Study Association, and at the Medieval Institute Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She also contributed articles to a number of books including "San Diego, Alta California and the Borderlands." She was active in both the state and the national ESL associations. A few weeks before her death, she learned that her article on the Dominican churches of Guatemala and Chiapas had been accepted for publication in a Mexican scholarly journal.

Susan was a very spiritual person. Her life was completely framed by her devotion to the Catholic Church, its saints, feast days, teachings and liturgical beauty. But hers was not slavish devotion: once I remember her telling me that she offered "sermon critiques" to the priests at her parish. I don't think they had the nerve to take her up on her offer, but that was Susan: a teacher and a gentle guide, always. She was a lay contemplative member of the Benedictine oblate of St. Scholastica Priory in Petersham, Massachusetts. Being a lay member of a monastic order requires a commitment few of us could understand, but with Susan it was not a heavy mantle, but one that she carried out with great joy.

Long-time residents of Hyde Park, Susan and John were some of the first neighbors I met when Jack and I and our girls moved to Avenue F over 26 years ago. Her daughter Ellen became best friends with my daughter, and throughout their years at Robert E. Lee Elementary, they formed a team that

Continued on page 5

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment 2011-12 Membership		HPNA Membership Info
Name _____ Phone _____ Address _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events. Email _____ Dues (per person) <input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____ <i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i>		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.
Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 Make checks payable to HPNA.		



We Welcome Your Submissions to Pecan Press

Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry*) by the 15th of each month to:

Editor, Pecan Press
 <pecaneditor@gmail.com>

*Send your poems to:

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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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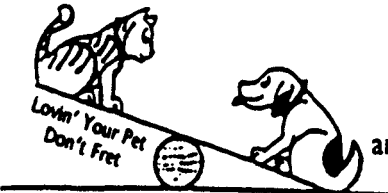
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Hyde Park Holiday Party: December 18th

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) invites you to celebrate the holidays together on **Sunday, December 18th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Charlotte Herzele opens her beautiful home at 3916 Avenue H this year for our Hyde Park Holiday Party. Charlotte's home is a special gift to our neighborhood and her generosity is appreciated.

Generosity brings to mind all the volunteers throughout the year who work to support our neighborhood. My most recent experience is the Fire Station Festival. While we had an impressive lead team, there were many, many volunteers executing on the plans. This holiday party is dedicated to our volunteers. You know who you are.

Come to this party, volunteers, and see the appreciation for all you do from your Hyde Park friends and neighbors. Friends and neighbors, please come to ensure our volunteers know we appreciate them. Let's celebrate the holidays together.

Greg and Sarah Bontempo of NeWorlDeli will cater the event serving hors d'oeuvres and beverages. For that sweet desire we have this time of year, please bring your favorite finger-food dessert. There will be tags at the tables to label your dish with your name. So often another neighbor is delighted by the dish and wants to compliment the giver. I. Jay Aarons will be tending the bar again (Thank you, I. Jay) and will be reminding us that only non-staining beverages may be taken into the home. So if red wine or hot chocolate is a must have for you, we'll have a spot for you outside the home.

Also, we are supporting Helping Hand Home for Children at 3804 Avenue B again this year. Please bring a new gift or a cash donation to help the Home continue to help children. Linda Pennington (Thank you, Linda) obtained their wish list for us. Please do **not** gift wrap items as the staff must inventory as gifts are received. If you want to give a gift to the children and cannot attend the holiday party, contact Linda at 451.2027, 4011 Avenue G.

Now, to the list of new (not used) items needed for the children:

- Target Gift Cards • Wal-Mart Gift Cards • TJ Maxx Gift Cards • Photo books • Diapers (sizes 0-3) • New Baby Clothes (0-12months) • Car Seats (Infant-Toddler)
- Shower Radios • Games for Wii and Playstation systems (ages 8-13) • Skates/Rollerblades and pads (ages 8-13) • Password Journals -very popular with the girls • Manicure/pedicure supplies for Pamper Time • Digital Cameras for children (Toys R Us has these in the \$20-30 range) • Movie Theatre Tickets

And if you haven't yet joined your neighborhood association, HPNA, bring \$5 and as you pick up your name tag at the front door, let them know you want to join. Let me know if you need additional information. I so hope to see you at the party.

— Deaton Bednar,
<deatonbednar@grandecom.net>

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Susan Kerr Remembered...

...cont'd from page 4

would essentially be running the school, from a kid's perspective, by the time they were in sixth grade.

What I remember about Susan the most, and I'm sure this was part of her vocation as a lay contemplative, was that she was always fully present with you when you were visiting with her. She lived the "slow food movement" before it was trendy.

With Susan, you were encouraged to take your time, to have a cup of tea, to eat some of her wonderful cooking, and to tell her what was going on in your life. She always wanted to know.

Susan's first round of chemotherapy involved an extended stay at M.D. Anderson Hospital. When at last she was allowed to return home in early spring, I remember her saying over and over how she couldn't wait to get back to Hyde Park, and her lovely home at 4209 Avenue F. All she wanted to do was to sit on her porch and smell the smells and see the light through the trees and watch people walk down the street. "Life!" she said, "Being home in Hyde Park is the most healing thing there is." Though weakened by her treatment, her whole spirit seemed to revive by being home. And for the past 36+ years, home meant Hyde Park.

Susan was buried on November 17, in a plot near the old Spanish missions in San Antonio. John's family, being among the early Anglo settlers in that city, managed to secure rights for interment there. (Historical side note: Two of John's great-grandfathers died at the Alamo.) In writing this, I'm remembering my last visit to Mission Concepción two springs ago: Gregorian chants were mysteriously playing from speakers in the portico next to the sanctuary. The last of the elderly friars in residence there had filled dozens of pots with blooming geraniums. The mesquite trees were in bloom, and a Mariachi band was warming up to play a wedding procession. It was a beautiful, time-out-of-time setting, and one that is just perfect for Susan. There she is near her beloved Franciscans, close to a sacred monument of Tejano and Catholic culture, and as always, close to God. Dear Susan, may you rest in peace.

— Jill Nokes
4200 Avenue F

SEASON'S GREETINGS

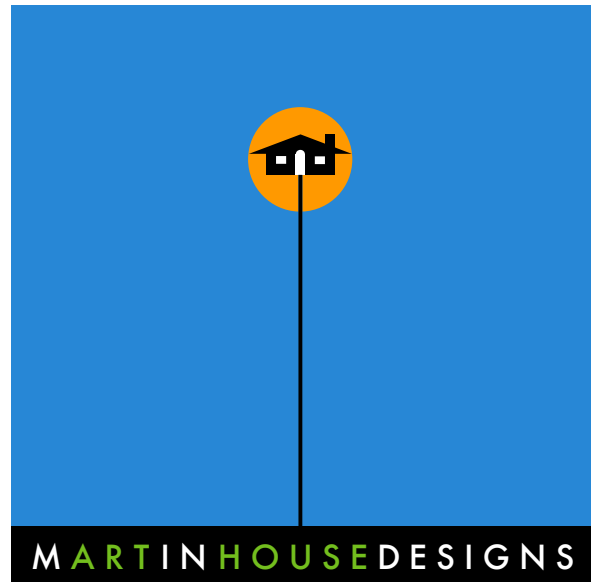
During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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Letters Dept.

Against Short Term Rentals

My husband and I are 30-year residents of Hyde Park and members of HPNA. We love our neighborhood for all the reasons that make it a vibrant community.

As a result of the discussion derailed by commercial interests at the last HPNA meeting and the discussion at the November 14 steering committee meeting, I believe that it's vitally important for all homeowners who live in Hyde Park to have more information about commercial short-term rentals (CSTR).

The growing number of houses rented to strangers for fewer than 30 days at a time will have definite effects on the fabric of our precious community. Replacing an owner-occupied home with a CSTR removes support for the community in terms of schools, activities such as our homes tour and park projects, and the good experience of knowing neighbors who may become friends.

Picture the house next door to you with a couple, a family, or friends active in our community. Then imagine the house sold to an absentee landlord who rents to hundreds of guests per year.

Our lovely B & B's, garage apartments, and rentals in owner-occupied homes are not commercial short-term rentals and, therefore, are not affected by the Austin Neighborhood Council Resolution.

Here is a link to the Austin Neighborhood Council Resolution, so we can all better understand the situation.

www.ancweb.org/docs/resolutions/Revision_10262011_STRs.pdf

We're all in this together and what a great place to be!

— Sharon Brown

Short Term Rentals have Benefits

When my wife and I first moved to Austin, we turned to short term rentals to become familiar with a few areas of the city to make our decision on where our home would be. We ended up staying in a short term rental in Hyde Park and fell in love with the neighborhood. We loved the old historic homes and the friendly people, but without the opportunity initially to live in the area by staying here for a few weeks we may have never moved into the neighborhood. We purchased a home on Avenue F near Hyde Park Baptist Church almost two years ago. It was in such terrible condition that there was an active demolition permit on the house when we bought it, and many neighbors thought the only option was to tear it down. During the months that we restored the home, we were surprised and encouraged by the positive comments we received from neighbors on the improvements we were making. Despite the amount of work we have done, we still aren't finished and are constantly working on some project to improve the property.

We didn't want the home to fall into disrepair, so we decided a short term rental was a great alternative. With short term renting, I'm always at the house and I'm able to regularly make any repairs that may be needed. You don't have that type of control with long

Continued on following page

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term tenants. Some will argue that we choose to short-term rent only because we are able to make more income. But, in reality, because we have to invest far more money in upkeep of the property to short-term rent it, the extra income we generate goes into improving and caring for the house. I wouldn't be able to do that with a long term rental and the house would probably suffer because of that, just like a lot of other long term rentals do.

There are many misconceptions about short term rentals. Entire neighborhoods are not being consumed by them. Only one tenth of one percent of the homes in Austin are short term rentals (one out of every thousand homes). There are only 370 listed on HomeAway in the entire Austin area and only seven in Hyde Park. The average owner only owns one. We aren't big corporations coming in and buying up all of the homes to use as short term rentals. In a lot of cases people simply don't want to deal with the hassle of renting their garage apartment to a long term renter and instead want to have the right to rent it out a few times a year to make additional income.

There are so few short term rentals in Austin and in Hyde Park that it's not going to change the character of the neighborhood or how we interact with our neighbors. Personally, I enjoy knowing my neighbors, but there are still plenty of them that I have never met and I look forward to becoming friends. This neighborhood is full of diversity and that's one of the reasons why it's such a great place. I've become acquainted with more of my neighbors because of my short term rental. A large percentage of the people that are interested in staying are families of people from this neighborhood.

Short term rentals are not a commercial use of property any more than long term rentals are. We are generating income as a rental property the same way that someone would by renting their property on a long term basis. The length of the lease does not change the character of the home or its residential use. Renters and property owners should have the right to determine the length of their own leases. This should not be for the city to decide or for one neighbor to decide for another. We pay full property taxes just like everyone else and should have equal property rights.

Some people have argued that the people who stay at short term rentals throw parties and disturb neighbors but the truth is that long term renters can throw parties and cause disturbances without much recourse. That's simply not allowed at short term rentals. We don't rent to anyone that would have a party, a wild event, or a large number of guests. We've put too much time, money, and energy into the property to take a chance with it so we don't tolerate any negative behavior. Every short term rental owner that I know feels the same way.

I can understand how there is concern about short term rentals since most people are just becoming aware that they exist thanks to the internet and sites like Austin-based HomeAway, but short term rentals have been around as long as long term rentals. I hope that people can look past some of the fear tactics that are being used against short term rentals and understand how they benefit the neighborhood. Instead of focusing on taking away our neighbors' rights, I would hope we can focus more on being good neighbors to one another. We're not scary people and neither are our tenants. We're your neighbors and we care about the neighborhood too.

— Pete Gilcrease



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Tire Slasher Convicted...

...cont'd from page 1

Incidences of tire puncturing as many noticed, were significantly more prevalent in the winter, around the holidays. Indeed, I had new reports, verified to be of the type known, every day he was not jailed this past winter. This led to increased police presence and increased time for him in jail during those times, as well. I can't help but wonder if he wasn't cold, and wanting some place warm to be, if only while the bitterest days of winter lasted. I can't also help but wonder what help would have been available to him, if he had ever been willing and able to accept it.

Once he had been found guilty by the jury and the sentencing phase of the case began, he chose not to fight the sentencing "enhancements." He chose not to make the prosecutors prove he was the same man convicted previously on other charges (perhaps under a different name, as he has many aliases). He affirmed that he had indeed committed those crimes and there was no point in trying to prove otherwise; he admitted guilt to those prior incidents. He then became quite quiet and remained so for a time. The jury was not in the room then to hear that admission, but they did later hear that he did not contest those charges.

After much pleading from his counsel, and a reminder from the judge that this would be the last time he could speak to the jury, he decided upon a few words, only just prior to sentencing: He said that the case against him was exaggerated and largely circumstantial and to please take that into consideration when determining his punishment. Upon hearing his sentence, Kelley expressed his desire to appeal. Judge Kocurek notified him that she felt he did not have grounds for appeal.

Community

A big "Thank you" to the Prosecution Team (Jason English, Rob Drummond and Kathryn Scales), to so many at APD, and to all who contributed time, research, eye witness accounts of the suspect and personal accounts of vandalism. Thank you to HPNA for providing the platform upon which we could raise awareness and spur action. Thank you also to the Jury for this relief we had sought so long and so enjoyed for much of the past year. The legal system we had almost lost faith in, which prompted our commitment of \$10k towards hidden camera equipment, has not failed us.

As you may remember, after 16 years we were blessed to have APD's Detective Hoduski assigned to this case. He built this and related cases against Kelley, some of which are still on the docket, from the ground up, based only on evidence already collected over the last few years. Evidence older than that was no longer prosecutable, unfortunately. Perhaps the duration of our agony and the path to resolution of it may shed some light on the need for ample staffing at APD, not only of "beat cops," but also of detectives.

— Heather Dozier Freeman
Hyde Park Crime and Safety Chair

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Proposed 43rd & Duval Streets Intersection and Safety Improvements

HPNA, December 5, 2011

DRAFT

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association resolves that the Hyde Park Plaza project as outlined in a color rendering, indicating reverse angle parking on Duval Street, relocation of public sidewalks, pedestrian crosswalks on Duval and E. 43rd Streets, outdoor seating areas, bicycles lanes and parking, and alignment of parking lot driveways on E. 43rd has our support. We request that the City of Austin seek funding for this project as soon as possible to improve the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists in this heavily traveled local intersection and to foster outdoor seating and community use.



Background: This project came about in 1998 when the Partners for Livable Places visited Austin and held a workshop in the Hyde Park neighborhood to discuss public spaces. Simultaneously, the City of Austin was planning and implementing traffic calming programs in the neighborhood. In 1998 the City of Austin prepared drawings for this project and City funds were budgeted. Since it was thought that this project would move forward immediately, it was not included specifically in the Hyde Park Neighbor-

Continued on following page

hood Plan Action Items. The project has been revived by the business owners and owners of the commercial property and has been presented to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, Hyde Park Contact Team and Hancock neighborhood Association for their participation and contribution of ideas. The project achieves not only the major goal of calming traffic and more safely accommodating all modes of transportation at this intersection, but it also incorporates private property improvements including more usable public gathering spaces and outdoor seating areas. It relates to and achieves some measure of a number of Neighborhood Plan Action Items.

#23 Complete sidewalks both sides of various streets including Duval. (Action item 5)

#27 Permit outdoor seating as accessories to restaurants w/o additional parking where they are proposed in conjunction with a relevant transportation project.

#28 Add lighting along major pedestrian routes including 43rd St. (Action item 6)

#30 The City of Austin should continue to present significant plans for improvement to any streets in Hyde Park to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association / Planning Team.

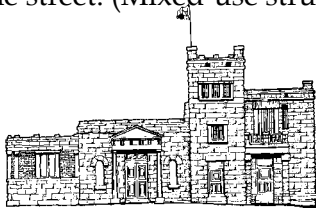
#32 The speed limit on Duval Street should be changed to 30 MPH. This is a major route to UT and Lee Elementary and is heavily used by bicyclists.

#34 Ensure safe crossings to other natural green spaces including Hancock golf course.

#38 Key intersections should have curbs painted for no parking to address visibility at 40th/Duval, Park Avenue/Duval, and 42nd and 44th adjacent to Guadalupe.

#43 Provide bus shelters at 39th/Guadalupe, 46th/Guadalupe in conjunction with Triangle development and at 43rd/Duval.

#53 Place storefronts and building entrances at the front property line to reinforce the pedestrian character of the street. (Mixed-use structure. Design Guidelines.)



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Thank You Fire Station Festival Contributors

The 2011 Fire Station Festival is now a memory. However, thanks to our photographers, Jackson Brooks (6th Grade at Lee Elementary) and Liz Lock (Adam's House Bed and Breakfast) we have photos in this issue of the *Pecan Press* to help us remember special moments.

And yet, what we can't see readily at the Festival, allowing us to remember, are the local organizations working with our volunteers creating the Fire Station Festival experience for us. This article is to ensure that you know who those organizations are so that you may frequent their businesses and thank them for supporting our neighborhood in such a fun way.

Fresh Plus sells us sodas, ice and other supplies at cost.

Grande Communications provides funding for the music and a significant portion of the children's activities each year as well as lending us tents and tables.

Hyde Park Bar & Grill brought a large plate of gourmet sandwiches and beef tenderloin piled high and then stayed to serve refreshments to everyone.

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association is the major contributor funding the Festival.

The Montessori Centers loans us child-sized picnic tables each year.

Quacks bakes for us each year and this year provided a big pan of brownies.

Trinity Methodist Church loaned tables and chairs.

Michael's West Lake sold us children's prizes and crafts with the Teacher's discount this year.

Walgreen's brings crafts, supplies and people to help children create a unique, reuseable trick-or-treat bag each year.

Wheatsville Co-op donates each year and this year provided apples and Cheddar Bunnies, "green" prizes for best costumes and the fishing booth, and freezer space to store our ice cream.

Your Fire Station Festival Committee is already thinking about 2012 as the year of the Best Fire Station Festival ever. Be sure to join us on that day and make new memories.

— Deaton Bednar
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Now that Miss Ellen is gone, her nieces are selling her house. It needs updating from the ground up, but it has good bones and spacious rooms. The original character is largely intact. There are three bedrooms and one bath, a generous living room with a fireplace and built-in bookshelves, a formal dining room and a breakfast room with build-in table and china cabinet. It is pre-inspected so buyers can see what it needs to bring it into tip-top shape again.

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HPNA General Meeting

Minutes, November 7, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Lisa Harris.

The meeting began with an announcement from Doris Coward regarding the Airport Blvd Redevelopment Initiative. Doris attended an Oct. 26th meeting of the Airport Blvd Advisory Group and invites HPNA members to email her if they want more information on the Initiative at: <dcoward@mail.utexas.edu>. This development affects the Ridgetop and North Loop neighborhoods bordering Hyde Park. Additionally, neighbors are encouraged to attend the Airport Blvd Mobility Corridor Study Open House on Tuesday, Nov. 29 th from 6 to 8 p.m. at 2921 East 17th Street, 2nd Floor.

The first official item of business was a presentation by David Conner of the historic items found in the Williams/Mansbendel House (3820 Avenue F). After Valerie Mansbendel Williams died in 1976, these items were moved to the attic and David recently went through them. Items displayed and discussed included the following: marketing photos of Hyde Park in its rudimentary stages, newspaper clippings, clothes, purses, photos, Shipe family books, postcard correspondences between family members from Europe, hand-sewn quilts, wall art hangings, souvenir matchbooks, 1965 UT championship glasses and more. Of particular interest were topographical drawings made by William T. Williams during WWII while he was stationed in Normandy from 1944 to 1945. David promised to display more of the items at the Hyde Park Homes Tour. He remains open to suggestions regarding the handling of these historical documents and artifacts.

The second item of business was a presentation by Karen McGraw and Bick Brown on the improvements at the 43rd and Duval commercial center. Karen McGraw provided an update on the traffic calming plan, originally conceived in 1998, with color orienting map and diagram of the public space and safety features. This new plan includes reverse angle parking, an innovation which Bick says is favored by the City of Austin. The idea behind the plan is to create a more functional corner at Duval and 43rd Street, enhancing the space for pedestrians and motorist. The prominent features were described as narrower streets, bulbed street corners, removal of alley parking and increased public space, including a common area.

The CIP Planning Committee heard the 43rd & Duval and are considering funding these improvements if money is allocated by the City. Wanda Penn mentioned that the bus stop in front of Dolce Vita needs shade/cover and that perhaps money can be found in the City's heat sink prevention effort. Karen mentioned that discussions at the City around a 2012 bond election will begin in January, which could be a possible source of funding. Discussion also arose around enforcing parking restrictions in the lots behind the 43rd and Duval shops, as many bus riders currently use the lots to park in for the day.

Continued on page 18

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November Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 16

The third item of business was a presentation by Maurice Anderson and Blake Tollett concerning short term rentals. Tollett, member of the West Austin Neighborhood Group, stated that the City’s Planning Commission created a working group to discuss short term rentals (STRs), which has proposed new regulations. The regulations make a distinction between homesteaded STRs, where the owner is renting their primary residence (or accessory unit) for short periods of time, and commercial STRs, where the property owner uses the property solely for rentals year round. Tollett claims that commercial STRs is a use prohibited by City Code, the way it is currently written. City Code defines “residential property” as being utilized on a “non-transient basis” and “transient” is defined as utilized for less than 30 days, except in the case of bed & breakfasts. A resolution has been crafted by ANC, which recommends that homesteaded STRs should be allowed (and can be rented up to 60 days per year) while commercial STRs should be prohibited.

Next Helen, a resident of Southwood, spoke emphasizing that fewer residents and increased commercial home usage leads to changes in the community, such as fewer families with children to attend the neighborhood schools and fewer registered voters to determine district outcomes. Helen continued by informing the meeting of further problems: proper taxation of these STRs is not collected, there is no manager on the premises, there is no check of identification and there is no Code enforcement. At this time there are about 500 STRs in Austin, despite only 66% hotel occupancy. Apartment rental is at 98% so those STRs could provide for long-term renters.

Maurice Anderson, a member of the Allandale Neighborhood Association, continued by stating that a neighboring property to his has been turned into a STR. His experience is that approximately 500 people have utilized the STR in the last 14 months. He urged Hyde Park to ask City Council to place a moratorium on new STRs. Questions followed regarding taxation – state law requires STRs to pay hotel occupancy tax. The possibility of “grandfathering” existing STRs has been recommended by the Planning Commission working group, if the proprietors are current on paying their hotel occupancy taxes. However, the ANC’s resolution states that “grandfathering” is not an option because this usage is not within City Code.

Deirdre Earls, a STR owner of a property on Avenue D made comments in opposition to the ANC resolution. She stated that Zilker Neighborhood Association voted against the ANC resolution. She also stated that she is not an absentee landlord and insists on leasing requirements in her STRs that are more strict than can be provided in a long-term lease. A man from Houston who owns a STR also spoke against the ANC resolution. Karen McGraw mentioned that the City has not upheld its own Codes, nor will it enforce the Codes. She quoted the definition that zoning is “not of people but of property.”

Continued on page 20

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November Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 18

The fourth item of business was a presentation by Ari Witkin regarding the Austin Marathon. Ari reminded the meeting that the Austin Marathon will be held February 19, 2012 on a route similar to previous years, closing southbound Duval from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Although approximately 20,000 runners and an equal number of spectators are expected to participate, those running through Hyde Park number about 6,500. Although traffic complications will occur on race day, please check <www.youraustinmarathon.com> for maps of closures and detours. Northbound Duval will remain open, Lamar Blvd. will be open, and drivers can use Westover & 29th Street to reach MoPac. Officers will direct traffic at intersections as they have in the past, and 311 will also be available for directions. Anything else and any complications can be addressed by Ari, 476-7223, or <ari@youraustinmarathon.com>. Wanda Penn described past difficulties with this run through the neighborhood and she encouraged the race officials to learn from each other to improve this race and all the races in town. Catherine Moore also mentioned the interruption of bus service in years past being an issue. Ari stated that although race staff have met with Capital Metro, they have the last word on providing bus service.

Crime - The trial of accused tire slasher, Tommy Kelley, began on Nov. 7th and resumes Tuesday, Nov. 8th at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Kelley is acting as his own attorney. Some neighbors attended the beginning of the trial and many were subpoenaed. Tommy Kelley currently remains in Del Valle jail.

Graffiti - Pete Gilcrease is the new chairperson of the Graffiti Committee. Neighbors commented that a call to 911 can lead to quick graffiti removal. Dorothy Richter mentioned that graffiti was found on many "4 Way" intersections signs.

General Updates - Linda McLellan of Avenue G has applied for a historic home designation. She presented her case 9-26-11, and had unexpected opposition from a neighbor. She requested that neighbors assist her with information regarding exterior changes, so she can strengthen her case. Linda has been working with Karen McGraw and she emphasized that all changes are in line with historic design.

Lisa Harris mentioned that the position of Hyde Park representative to ANC has been vacant and a member of the neighborhood association is welcome to take it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31.

- Ashley Schweickart,
HPNA Co-Secretary



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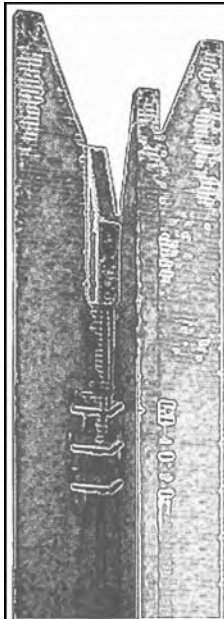
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Help Wipe Out Hyde Park Graffiti

My name is Pete Gilcrease and I'm the new graffiti coordinator for Hyde Park and I'd love to have your help to keep our neighborhood graffiti free. I'm organizing volunteers that would like to help spray paint over or remove graffiti in any area of Hyde Park. You can claim as small or as large of an area that you want. It could be just a block or a side of a street around your own home. I know people are busy, so you can decide for yourself how often that you clean the graffiti in that area and how much time you devote to it. There's no pressure and it can be a lot of fun. Even a little help goes a long way. I'd be more than happy to train you in what you need to know in order to remove graffiti and even help you acquire the supplies that you need. Please contact me at pgilcrease@gmail.com or 817-313-3896 if this is something that you would like to help with. Thank you for your help keeping our neighborhood clean!

— Pete Gilcrease,
HPNA Graffiti Coordinator

Clean Up After Your Dog Signs available!

You may recognize these signs posted around the neighborhood. If you'd like to have one for your yard, please contact me directly at annsgraham@gmail.com or 458-8096 and arrange to collect one. One sign and stand is \$5, which pays HPNA back for the cost of production.

A special note for dog owners and dog walkers! It's important (and lawful) to clean up after your dog. While you're at it, please carry the dog waste home and deposit it in your own trash can, not those of your neighbors. Some neighbors don't need to take their trash out every week, and even if they did, it's not courteous to leave your dog's refuse in someone else's can.



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4206 Avenue B

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Just Listed at \$379,000



608 East 41st St.

Artsy & eclectic 1930s home overlooking Hancock Golf Course. 4BR, 3BA, 2LIV & 1DIN plus screened-in porch. Two master suites. Native gardens. Corner lot. 2-car carport.

Listed at \$525,000



4001 Avenue C

The Mary Lowry House, an historic landmark in Hyde Park. Classic Victorian style built in 1903. Over 2,000 SF with 2BR, 2.5BA, 2LIV, 2DIN on double corner lot. Detached garage.

New Price \$539,000



800 East 44th Street

High-end remodel of classic 1941 Craftsman cottage on corner lot. Deluxe gourmet kitchen with commercial stainless appliances. Spa-like baths. Open floor plan with 3BR, 2BA, many upgrades.

List Price \$399,500



817 East 38th St.

Traditional all-brick one-story home on tree-shaded lot across from Hancock Golf Course. 3BR, 2BA, 2LIV & 2DIN. Family room with large wood-burning fireplace and built-ins. Two-car garage.

List Price \$349,000



503 East 41st Street

Beautiful 1920 Victorian home on oversized lot with pool, patio, tree house & chicken coop. 3BR, 3.5BA, 4LIV, 1DIN. High ceilings, stained glass windows, long leaf pine floors. Garage & workshop.

Just Listed at \$629,000



101 West 32nd St.

1925 brick Tudor Revival style home on corner lot in Aldridge Place. Updated kitchen and baths. Flexible floor plan with 4BR, 3BA, 2LIV, 1DIN. Fireplace, arched windows, French doors.

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