

July Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 9, 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 July 9th

- ❖ Officer Vargas with an important report on recent crime in our neighborhood
- ❖ Homes Tour update/wrapup



Libby Malone, Community Affairs Coordinator for Grande Communications, presents a contribution of \$2,400 to HPNA

HPNA Meeting Minutes: Monday, June 4, 2007

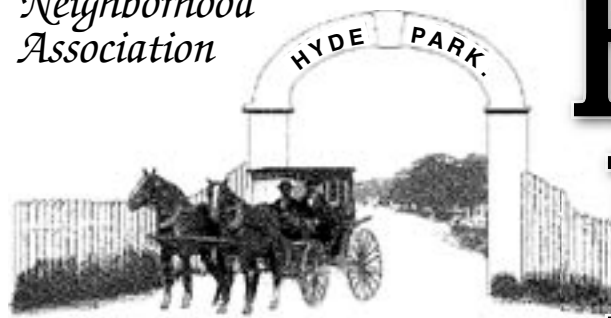
President Elaine Meenehan called the June 4, 2007 meeting of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to order.

Libby Malone, Community Affairs Coordinator for **Grande Communications**, presented a contribution of \$2,400 to HPNA. For additional information regarding this generous gift, please refer to page 12 of the June 2007 issue of the *Pecan Press*.

Next, Andy Sawal invited

Continued on Page 2

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

July, 2007 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 33, No. 7

2007 Homes Tour: Preserving Diversity and Character



Chairs await visitors on the lawn of Austin State Hospital prior to the 2007 Homes Tour. Photo by Lorre Weidlich. A Homes Tour 2007 photo essay begins on Page 12.

Another Homes Hyde Park Homes Tour has drawn to its conclusion, and, while final figures are not yet available, it appears to have been financially successful. More important, it showed off the best of Hyde Park. In the words of Former Chair Alan Marburger, "I believe our Homes Tour has done a good job of showing how ... diversity survives, and how our neighbors' individual personalities are reflected in their homes while (their homes remain) sympathetic to the architectural character that we choose to preserve."

I want to thank all of our homeowners - Nick and Linda Van Bavel, Blinda McClelland and Howard Liljestrand, Chris Brown and Lindsay Nakashima, Michele Grieshaber and Michael Klug, Melissa and Andrew Shea, and the

**Crime Prevention &
Neighborhood Watch
to be the Major Focus of July's HPNA Meeting**

(see Crime Report, page 6)

Continued on Page 4

From the President's Desk:

In the famous words of Colonel John "Hannibal" Smith from the A-Team, "I love it when a plan comes together." And did it ever. The 32nd Annual Hyde Park Homes Tour was a wonderful success. The weather cooperated, ticket sales were up, temperatures were down and a good time was had by all.

Throughout the weekend, I heard positive comments from visitors and volunteers alike. The writing in the booklet was particularly remarked upon. The transportation was greatly appreciated. The music was entertaining. The house selection was wonderful. Everyone was so friendly. All in all, it ran like a well-oiled machine.

What you may not appreciate is that it takes a tremendous amount of time, energy, effort and organization to put on the Homes

Tour. For the second year in a row, Lorre Weidlich bravely led the mission and put on one of the best homes tours in history. There are a thousand details to oversee: transportation, press, sales, photographs, house selection, research, booklets, posters, music, vendors, advertising, parties, house captains, docents, tour guides and well... the list just keeps going. This is no small feat. It took a small army of volunteers to make it happen... 341 of them, to be exact.

For those of you unable to make the tour this year, you missed out. All of the homes were outstanding. Thank you to all of the homeowners who opened their homes to the public. This event would not have been successful without you.

Although the final numbers are not in yet, it looks as if the Homes Tour was a financial success as well. Last year, approximately \$12,000 worth of tickets were sold. This year, over \$14,000 were sold, thanks in part to internet sales. I believe that is a record-breaking number.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's tour, but I would especially like to thank Lorre, who provided the mission, vision and organization that made this such a huge success. Thank you, Lorre!

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



June Meeting Minutes... ...cont'd from page 1

neighbors to attend a kid-friendly party hosted by the Concordia Redevelopment group. The party was set for Saturday, June 9.

Susan Moffat presented information regarding the Wal-Mart planned for Northcross Mall. She moved that members support the letter sent to the Mayor and City Council Members by the Steering Committee on April 16, 2007. This letter urged the Council to support the efforts of **RG4N (Responsible Growth for Northcross)** in its efforts to shape a positive future for its neighborhood. Lisa Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried. Then Susan moved that members support a Resolution for Citywide Boycott of Wal-Mart. Lorre Weidlich seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried 16 to 3.

Then Mark Price and Marya
Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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

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 Denise Girard, P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

Mail Ad Artwork to:
 Robert M. Farr <rbfarr@austin.rr.com>
 7500 Chelmsford Dr. Austin, TX 78736

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

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 Herb Dickson - 400 Towne Park Trail • 206-4426
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June Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 2

Crigler, from the Travis Central Appraisal District, spoke about the recent **property tax appraisal increases**. Mark addressed the increases in land values versus improvement values. He noted that with the 2007 appraisals, Travis CAD reviewed the land values and found that these values as compared to the improvement values needed to be increased. He also noted that there are a number of possible items to take to the appeal of your appraisal: recent settlement statement, appraisal by an independent appraiser, contract for sale or listing agreement, contractor plans, engineer reports regarding the foundation, and photographs of the property - inside and outside. They estimated that Travis CAD will receive approximately 52,000 protests this year. After their prepared presentation, both Mark and Marya answered several questions.

Catherine Moore, speaking for the Development Review Committee, announced that Historic Landmark Commission initiated historic zoning for the property at **511 West 41st Street** and rejected the demolition request. Committee members are working with the owners of the buildings in an effort to develop an appropriate plan for the property.

Sharon Majors provided an update on the **Local Historic District** effort and noted that it's not too late to volunteer to be a Block Captain.

After an informative evening, Elaine adjourned the meeting.

- Pam Whittington HPNA Co-Secretary
<pamw46@yahoo.com> 452-9776



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Dues paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	Date _____
All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.		
		Make checks payable to HPNA. Bring to HPNA meeting, or send to: Doris Coward HPNA 4810 Red River St. Austin, TX 78751

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.

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Homes Tour 2007

...cont'd from page 1

collective owners of the restoration-in-progress on 41st Street - for their willingness to open their inspirational homes to the public. Without their cooperation, there would have been no Homes Tour.

There would also be no Homes Tour without the legion of willing volunteers who sell tickets, guide tourgoers through the houses, and guide them on the tour buses. I thank all of them on behalf of a grateful neighborhood. My special thank you goes to the members of the Homes Tour Committee. It was a joy to work with them.

Another special thank you goes to the Austin State Hospital and Barbara Kelly, the ASH Community Relations Director. The relations between Hyde Park and ASH have historically been close and cordial, and this year's tour enabled both to reaffirm those bonds of friendliness. I thank all of the participants of the neighborhood fair on the grounds of ASH - the talented artists, the wonderful musicians, and the food and beverage vendors. Of special note is that this was the first time that the Austin Children's Museum has been a participant, but I hope it will not be the last.

Finally, my appreciation goes to all of the lemonade sellers and the Hyde Park Presbyterian Church, which gave free water to tourists at the Schenken-Oatman house, for making the route a more pleasurable one to travel.

I wish next year's chairman as positive an experience as I have had this and last year working with all the bright, creative, energetic, and dependable people whose efforts have combined to make the Homes Tour the artistic and financial success that it has been these two years. I will be cheering on his or her efforts from my retirement!

— *Lorre Weidlich*
2007 (and 2006!) Homes Tour Chair

ps: Editor's Note: Finally, and especially, thank YOU, Madame Chair!

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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

If you are a member of the Hyde Park Online discussion group, you are already well aware of the recent crime wave in the neighborhood. If you are not a Yahoo member and would like to join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HydeParkAustin/> and click the "join this group" button on the right. When you register as a Yahoo member, you can get newsgroup messages in your normal email program. If you don't want to sign up for Yahoo, but would like the messages, send an email to HydeParkAustin-owner@yahogroups.com for help. You can also find information on www.austinhydepark.org

The recent crimes have included homes being burglarized in the middle of the afternoon by busting in the front door, vehicles being broken into and/or stolen, "suspicious characters" asking for work, bicycles being stolen, a woman attacked on the street by a passing truck and even potted plants being taken from front porches. Through the neighborhood emails, neighbors are being informed of what types of crime are happening, where they take place and descriptions of the criminal. This has been an invaluable resource helping us to become more aware of suspicious behavior on our streets.

With the renewed interest in wanting to stop this criminal activity and an increase in members on the listserv, we feel it is a good time to reactivate the Neighborhood Watch Program. At the July 9th HPNA general meeting, APD will make a presentation on basic elements of the Neighborhood Watch crime prevention effort, and answer questions about what is being done and what we can do to help make our neighborhood a safer place to live. You will have an opportunity, at the meeting, to sign up as a volunteer who is trained to recognize and report suspicious activities. Crime prevention involves all of us looking out for each other. Please plan to attend the meeting to learn how you can help combat crime in Hyde Park.

It has been mentioned that August 7, 2007 is National Night Out and that the Neighborhood Association might want to host an event at Shipe Park. This can be discussed at the HPNA general meeting in July and could be a kick-off for the Neighbor-


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hood Watch program. On this night, events promote crime and drug prevention awareness and offer an opportunity for strengthening police and community relationships. Residents are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with neighbors, police officers, EMS and fire fighters.

I hope that you all have a safe and crime-free summer and that, if you do experience a crime-related activity, you report it immediately to the police. The Hyde Park APD District Representative is Officer Rick Vargas. He can be reached at 974-5801 or by email at <ricardo.vargas@ci.austin.tx.us>. As always, we need to do our part by securing our homes, vehicles and bicycles and removing any temptation that a passer-by might see.

– Carol Welder, HPNA Crime and Safety Chair
459-6205
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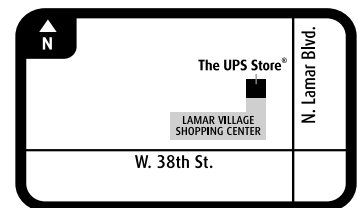
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Update: Proposed Hyde Park Local Historic District

There are many things that make Hyde Park special. One is its historical character. Another is the extraordinary efforts that Hyde Park residents have taken to preserve the character of our neighborhood. The fight to preserve Hyde Park began before I arrived here thirty years ago and has continued to this day.

For as long as I have been here, we have wanted a local historic district to preserve our houses, but Austin did not have this sort of zoning overlay. So, neighbors used the tools that were available -- historic zoning for individual houses, the creation of two national historic districts and the NCCD. Many neighbors practically lived at the city offices in order to protect our neighborhood. In spite of these efforts, too many houses were lost.

Now, Austin finally has a local historic district ordinance. Once again Hyde Park is leading the way in neighborhood preservation. The ordinance requires at least 60% approval in writing from all property owners. This is stricter than in other Texas cities, yet we are determined to achieve this status.

Some wonder why we need a local district when we have a national one, and the short answer is that National Register designation is primarily an honor with no ability to regulate alterations to historic buildings or even to stop their demolition. The Austin Landmark Commission conducts a nonbinding review of such changes within a National Register district, but it can only offer advice to property owners.

Local Historic District status will give us many advantages, including:

- Recognition of Hyde Park as an important part of Austin's history.
- The preservation of the character and diversity of Hyde Park.
- The stabilization of housing values along with the possibility of tax advantages and special remodeling loans.

Some wonder about the disadvantages. Certainly for anyone who wants to tear down a historic house, this will be a disadvantage. Others are concerned that options for remodeling and additions will be limited. I can assure you that the district we are crafting will allow compatible remodeling and additions. The main concern will be with the street view. Interior changes will not be affected. Below is a quote from Terri Myers of Preservation Central, who is our consultant on this project. In response to questions some have had about the district's impact on noncontributing properties, Myers writes:

"Even now, if your property is historic but noncontributing in a National Register District it has to go to the Landmark Commission for review, so it wouldn't be any different in a local district. The main difference is that currently, the Landmark decision is nonbinding. Under a Local District, review of old and new, contributing and noncontributing, would be mandatory and the decision binding. It could be appealed to the Board of Adjustment.

Continued on page 14

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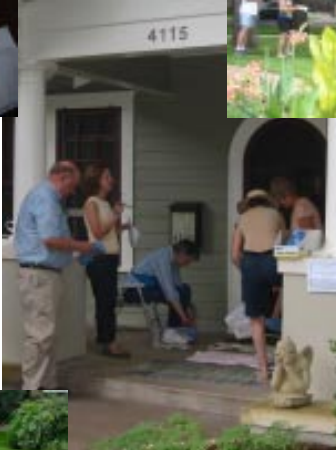
Hyde Park 2007 Homes Tour: A Shady – and a Rainy – Sanctuary

Photos by John Hunt and Lorre Weidlich



Docent Jack Taylor shows Tour Guide Jeff Woodruff the Schenken-Oatman House

The Crutchfield House



The Rhodes House

The first tourist!



Looking down on tourists from the Curl-Crockett porch

The Wright-Dunlap House



Lemonade, anyone?

The Dickinson House



Hyde Park Presbyterians set up a water tent outside the Schenken-Oatman House





The grounds of ASH



On the ASH porch: Ticket Sales and ASH Volunteers



Artists John Bittick and Martha Adams

A representative from Around Austin supervises one of their tour buses



View from the third floor of ASH

What's a little rain with houses to be seen?



Music at the houses



Bluegrass on the grounds of ASH



The Tree Tender

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Nickey Bishop

Local Historic District...

...cont'd from page 10

Anything that takes place in a Local District comes up for some type of review. I don't know if some things can be approved administratively or not — possibly. But this won't add an additional step to historic buildings — they always had to go to the Landmark Commission unless the city approved administratively. For nonhistoric properties it might add that extra step. I think Steve Sadowsky, the city's preservation officer, can make administrative decisions about nonhistoric properties and they would not have to go to the full Commission. However, they all have to go to the Preservation Planner regardless of age or status for him to decide whether they need to go to the Landmark Commission or not."

In other words, if you have a noncontributing property, you will not be forced to change it. However, if you need to get a building permit, remodeling and additions would need to be reviewed. Most likely the city and the neighborhood would want the changes to be compatible with the neighborhood. That does not mean that they would want to change a post-1960 house into a faux Victorian or craftsman.

Finally, I do not see this as the kind of historic district that will enforce such strict requirements as color choices. These are common on the East Coast. As wonderful as those Eastern neighborhoods are, I don't think that is appropriate for Central Austin. Some of us chose this neighborhood because we value this diversity and do not want to live in a cookie-cutter area. We will soon be forming a design standards committee. If you have opinions about this issue, then I would encourage you join this committee. This is our neighborhood and this is our opportunity to create the kind of district that we want.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns.

– Sharon Majors, Chair, Proposed Hyde Park Local Historic District Committee
<sharonmajors@gmail.com>



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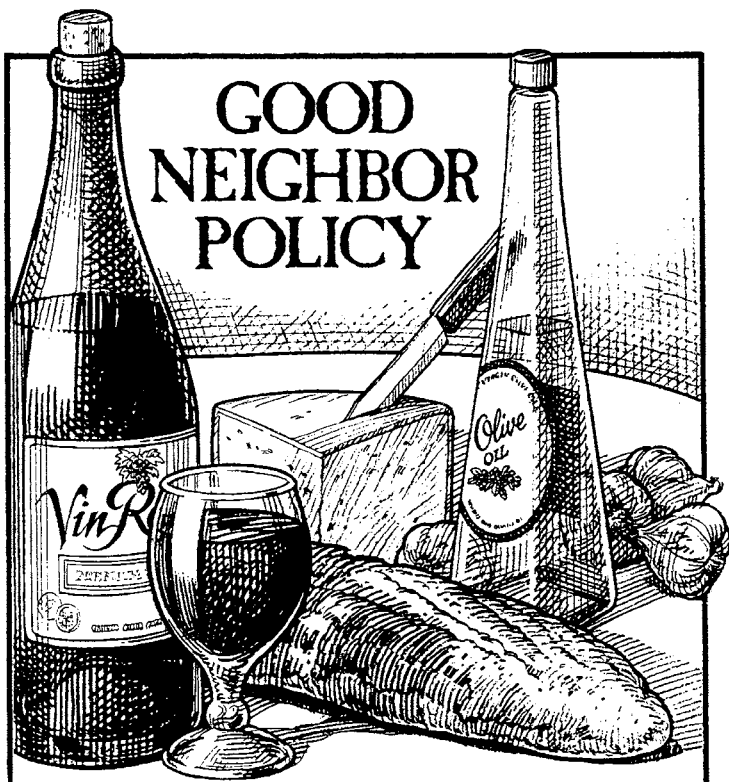
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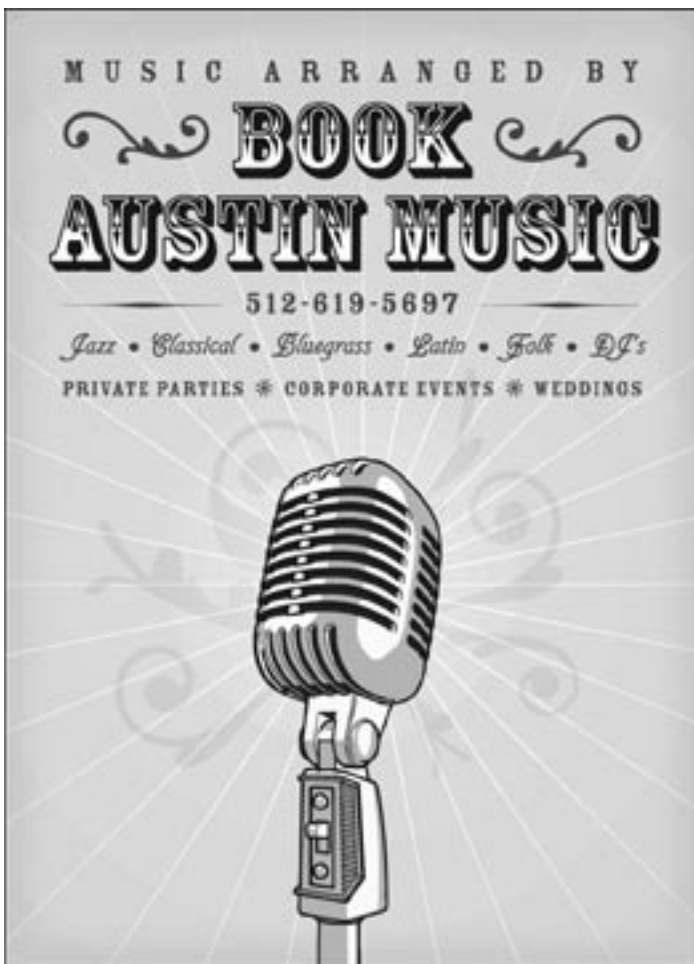
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floodlines 2007: until next year...



Jaclyn Pryor and Julia Smith. photo by Larry Freilich

floodlines 2007 has come and gone. This year's performance, the fourth in a seven year cycle, performed on Sunday, April 22nd, was once again enchanting and deeply moving. Director Jaclyn Pryor remained true to the initial inspiration for the piece, but by making a special effort this year to reach out to the Hyde Park community, the piece felt more "of" the neighborhood. It was rewarding to catch both surprise and delight ("Did you see that?") along with comments like, "floodlines...Oh I've heard of that". And then there were the friends gathered in lawn chairs waiting and watching as the processional passed along 43rd Street. It was a neighborhood in anticipation.

All of us involved would like to thank everyone whose participation and contribution made a difference to the success of the event. Special thanks to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association who welcomed us at multiple monthly meetings to share our enthusiasm for the project and to engage their interest. Below is a list of the many Hyde Parkers (with a bit of a stretch of the boundaries) who played a role...apologies if I have overlooked anyone...with particular accolades to Jaclyn Pryor, director, and Sean P. Jenkins, stage manager!

Arlen Johnson, Madeline Marabella, Jack Steiner, Derek Young, chauffeurs; Zeke Barbaro, Zoe Freilich, Gwen Lewis, LaDonne Lloyd, Jessica Scheick, Sam Schonzeit, Doug Simmer, Julia Smith, Meg Sullivan, Cameron and Christian York, Dustin Wills, actors; Larry Freilich, photographer; Merek Johnson, videog-

Continued on Page 17

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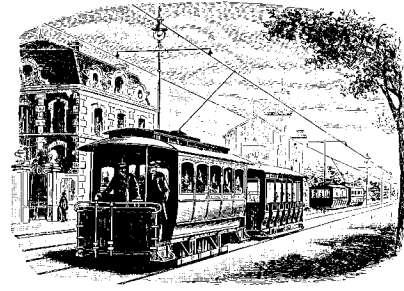
floodlines 2007...

...cont'd from page 16

rapher; the families of Avenue D between 42nd and 43rd; Sharon Freilich, Paul Bonin-Rodriguez, Grant & Margot Thomas, and Elaine Meenahan.

In addition, the following businesses and individuals made unique contributions: EcoClean of Austin, dry cleaning services; Fresh Plus, ice; Lee Gresham, East Side Pedal Pushers, vintage bike; Hanson Medical Supply, walkers; Ann Harkness, tandem bike; Elizabeth Hummer, wedding dress; Ted and Chris Huston, memorial yard on Avenue D; Hyde Park Presbyterian Church; Alan Marburger, vintage bicycle; Carolyn McFarland, Susan Kirk, vintage perambulator; Susan Moffat, seamstress extraordinaire; Dorothy Richter, walker; Simon, tandem bike; UT Costume Shop; Verbena Floral Design, daisies; Whitehall Co-op, large spoon; Whole Foods, beverages & victuals; Yellow Bike Project, vintage bike; Kay Bryant, Alyssa Harad, Emily Rogers, Jack Steiner, Madeline Marabella, Eric Hassell, Molly McCommons, Derek Young, Volvo 240s.

All of us involved would like to say a very special thank you to the neighbors of Hyde Park, whose curiosity is never sated.



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Honey Bees

Honey bee colonies can often be found in wall voids, chimneys or attics. To keep bees from entering a structure, seal all holes found in walls, cracks in window framing, knotholes or cracks between wood and brick junctures. If bees are already within a wall void, DO NOT block their entrance as it could lead them into the home.

When honey bees move into a building, they should be removed as soon as possible. This can be handled by a bee keeper or pest control company. Once bees have been in place over three weeks, they produce honeycomb and honey. If honeycomb is present, the wall should be opened and all comb and honey removed to avoid secondary invaders such as cockroaches, moths or other bees.

There has been much media recently on honey bee colony collapsing disorder (CCD). Many honey bee colony deaths have been reported over the last few years and while it's still unknown what is causing the deaths, it is thought that there are numerous factors contributing to CCD. Initial studies show many disease organisms present, but none are the singular cause of the deaths. For more information on colony collapsing disorder see : <http://honeybee.tamu.edu.hot_topics/colonycollapse.html>.

Hyde Park Poets —

Crossword Puzzles

1 across: a fence support
1 down: what you do at recess on and on you read up and down, backward, inking in letters , filling spaces, meeting the challenges of some insidiously evil mind that works to make you, me, all of us feel at first dumb as a 1 across even if we're just trying to 1 down. And if we do it online we have to 1 across.
>From the mind of the devious one, it's just a way to 1 down with us. Why, why, why do we continue? Probably because we're still hoping to get 1 up on the guy who created the things.

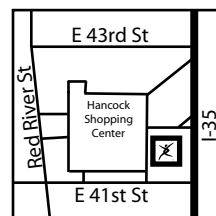
— Nancy Taylor Day
June 16, 2007



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Just Folks

We name each other, where we live, country, state, county, city, part of city, neighborhood. Tinier and tinier designations, words which hold a Thesaurus of meanings. So, I claimed to be a Westerner, better in my list of definitions than a Southerner. But so many years living in the south part of a city in the central part of a state that is clearly very south, my words, and yes, my voice, have changed. Some of the edges have just worn off words, and phrases that once seemed humorous now have meaning, deeply understood. But here, in the south part of a city in the central part of a state that is clearly sitting south of most of this country, there is a weave of voices, a roiling of words, a spicy mix, and even in the most educated mouths, certain words spill forth, like delicate burps, accepted because they are home folk, like biscuits and tortillas and grits.

— Nancy Taylor Day
April 5, 2007

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Larry Bucher — Ave G



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Letters Dept. —

In Praise of our Moderator

Dear Editor,

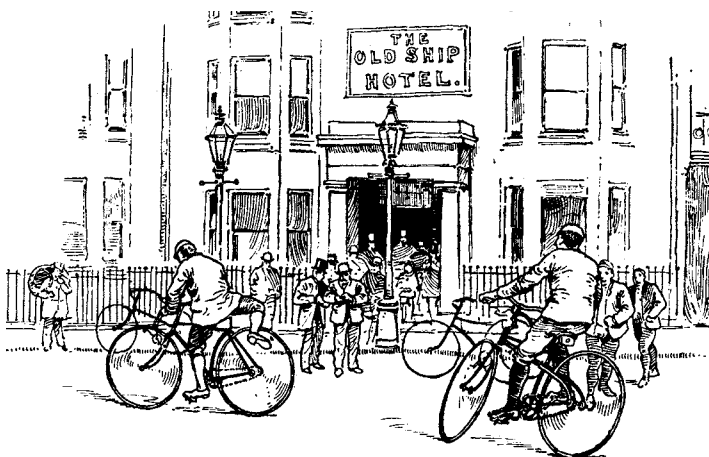
Speaking as a neighbor who was not even able to attend the recent Shipe Pool picnic, I want make sure William Cook knows that his neighbors are both aware and appreciative of his efforts on our behalf. Although we are blessed with many in HP, neighbors like William are not a dime a dozen; he both has great ideas and is willing to ensure that they are implemented. Thank you also William for the time and effort you continue to put in on the list serve. The recent thefts are only one example of how important and useful such a communication tool is to a neighborhood. And now that we have so many more people signing up, you not only don't complain about the extra work, you are excited to see the expansion. May you continue to get lots of rest and have lots of stamina. A Grateful neighbor,

— Wanda Penn

Coffee Shop, Early Morning

So pretty: all her secrets tucked inside her power suit. Something so very stirring about women on their way to work, the morning spread out around them, arrayed in the day's finery, minds on the day ahead. Why is this so sexual? Why do I think of the warm flesh enfolded in this austerity? I imagine morning showers, dressing before a mirror, flesh disappearing into fabric while features contract, compress into their morning mould. I sit and watch them feeling peaceful suddenly, feeling the rightness of things as they move past me poised and exotic. Yes, truly it's a woman's world. I wouldn't have it any other way.

— Albert Huffstickler
6.6.2000



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Fleas

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If you find fleas in your home and you do not have a pet, inspect the attic and/ or crawl space to see if wildlife has moved into the area bringing fleas with them. Remove wildlife with traps and then treat the area with an insecticide labeled for fleas. You may also want to seal the area so that wildlife cannot move in again.

If you are a new homeowner with no pets and have fleas, it is possible that the previous owners had pets. Fleas can remain dormant for several months, but will become active again when they sense vibrations of new hosts.

When you find fleas on a pet, you most likely will need to treat the pet, inside the home and the yard (depending on where you allow your pet to go). Treatment should be targeted to areas where your pet likes to hang out.

There are many things you can do to help reduce fleas without the use of chemicals. Vacuum regularly, getting under furniture and along baseboards. Make sure to dispose of the vacuum bag in an outdoor garbage can at least once a week so the fleas do not hatch out and reinfest the home. Wash pet bedding in hot water. Bath your pets regularly and use a flea comb to remove fleas. Avoid walking pets in known flea infested areas.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.





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Address: **608 East 46th Street**

SOLD

Listed For: **\$345,000**

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Address: **4519 Depew Avenue**

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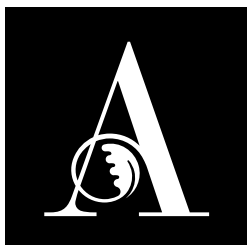


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