

July Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 12, 2010

Where: New Location
Groups for the Elderly cafeteria
3710 Cedar Street

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 12th

- ◆ John Lipscombe, Assistant County Attorney, on Prosecution
- ◆ Update on Hyde Park Local Historic District
- ◆ Update on Caswell/Ridgetop Local Historic District
- ◆ Possible new use of Triangle property at 45th and Guadalupe
- ◆ Review of Homes Tour

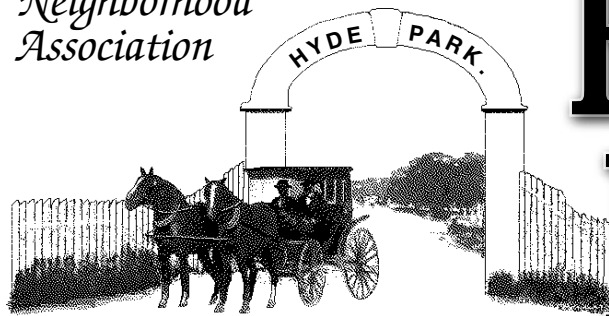
Opening Day for Shipe: All's Cool at the Pool!

The 3rd Annual Shipe Pool Opening Party held on Saturday, June 12 was another successful event bringing members of our neighborhood together for free food (250 hamburgers, veggie-burgers, & lots of watermelon), free music (The Lost Pines Bluegrass Band), swimming & "heated" conversation (next time I think I'll move the grilling operation under some shade!)

Funding for the party was provided by Grande Communications & the HPNA. Money collected from the sale of very cool "Shipe Park" T-shirt & other donations will be held by the Austin Parks Foundation & will be used for future improvements to the park.

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*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

July, 2010 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 36, No. 7

Wrapping Up: 2010 Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour

This past Fathers' Day weekend Hyde Parkers put on their 34th Annual Homes Tour -- an event that featured historic homes, one of the oldest public buildings of Texas, and Hyde Park homes that have been simultaneously restored and modified revealing secret stories and surprising innovations. Our homeowners Charlotte Herzele, the Jack Hohengarten family, John Mayfield, Karen McGraw and Alan Marburger, and Mike Mullen and Kathleen Monahan generously shared their houses with us.

The team that engineered this formidable enterprise included the house selectors - Margot Thomas, Peter Maxson, and Alan Marburger; our amazing web site developer and manager Robin Silberling; our sponsor/advertiser maven Carolyn Grimes; our entertainment organizer Deaton Bednar; our bus narrator guru John Paul Moore; our music coordinator Mary La Touf; our ticket coordinator Cyndi Collen; our talented photographer Carol Burton; and house captains David Conner, Deaton Bednar, Sharon Majors, Sam Lyon, and I. Jay Aarons. The beautiful booklet this year is due to its editor/compiler Ashley Donahue and the considerable talents of contributing writers Clay Smith, Peter Maxson, Sally Robey, and Kristen Remeza. We also had the support and dedication of the HPNA Steering Committee, ably led by our President David Conner.

In addition to these fine folks, we had the support of the entire



It All Started Here: Main Building, Austin State Hospital, photo by Karen McGraw.
See Photo Essay pgs. 12 and 13

Hyde Park community volunteering as docents in the houses and on the buses, selling tickets, and doing myriad other tour-related activities and tasks. Pat yourselves on the back for a job well done, neighbors, and please express your gratitude to all of our sponsors — with particular
Continued on page 3

From the President's Desk:

Kudos, and Questions

Hello Neighbors, on behalf of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Steering Committee, I want to express our appreciation to the Hyde Park Homes Tour Committee Chair Barbara Gibson, committee members, homeowners, docents, volunteers, writers, and the sponsors on making the 2010 Homes Tour a success this year. I was a house captain, and the tour allowed me and others to meet many new families that recently moved into the neighborhood. We invite these new families to join the HPNA!

Meanwhile, on the neighborhood history front, I am currently in the process of transferring the HPNA records from the rental storage into our new office. Luckily, many of the neighborhood records still exist from the 1970's to date. I am in the process of reading many old issues of Pecan Press and the

steering committee minutes (ie. handwritten).

In the coming months, I will be doing research and will be following up on the some questions I have:

- Do you know what the 'Christmas Potato' is?" Is this tradition still going on around the 'hood?
- Does anyone know who wrote this for February 1984 Pecan Press?

In Memoriam: Student Condo Craze

As the condo gush slows to a trickle, Can developers still make a nickle? Perhaps if, in their labors, They'd confer with their neighbors, They might end up in less of a pickle.

(Author unknown) *

• In July 1980, some neighbors expressed concerns about seeing Shipe Park turning into an open-air barroom. Beer cans and litter have been found on the grounds. Was this ever resolved?

• Did Jack Evins ever find his copy of the 1980 Homes Tour Booklet?
• I cannot believe that the W. H. Badger home on Speedway was threatened by demolition at one time. Just a comment.

• Are people still skinny-dipping down at Ms. Ney's pond?
• Does Dorothy's Richter's trick for preventing ice cube evaporation in automatically defrosting refrigerators still work? She suggests that you place the ice cubes in plastic bags prior to defrosting the refrigerators.

• Did the house at 4013 Speedway get relocated somewhere in the Hyde Park neighborhood? It appears Hyde Park lost a future landmark at 4111 Speedway.

• Who was is Squirrel Nutkin?
• Did you know Grant Thomas, our Pecan Press editor, was once considered a "playboy?"
See you at the next neighborhood meeting !

— David Conner

HPNA President

<daypaycon@yahoo.com>

* *Editor's note: The author of the Student Condo Craze limerick was Grant ("Playboy") Thomas*

Pecan Press

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Wrapping Up: 2010 Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour...

...cont'd from page 1

attention to our presenting sponsors Suzanne Pringle of Avenue One Properties and Libby Malone of Grande Communications. Special thanks also to Cindy Reed of the Austin State Hospital for allowing us to include the State Hospital Administration Building and for being so accommodating to us.

As with each Homes Tour, we learn new lessons which will be applied for the next event. David Conner has kindly agreed to lead the charge for the 35th Annual Homes Tour, and I encourage all of you to give him the support you have given me. This event is most important for the community ties that it promotes and for representing the true essence of neighborhood that we who are lucky enough to live in Hyde Park are privileged to experience on a daily basis.

- Barbara Gibson, 2010 Homes Tour Chair



Musicians On Tour: Hard at Work or Play, both actually...

(above) Members of The Lost Pines fiddle around.

(right) P.K. Sax has it made in the shade.

Thanks to Mary LaTouf for arranging Tour music, and to Karen McGraw for these photos. See 2010 Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour Sampler, interior shots of the featured homes on pages 12 and 13



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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association General Meeting June 7, 2010

Eric Dusza from the City of Austin Public Works Department gave a presentation about the City's new **Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP)**.

The NPP was recently established to provide a mechanism to assist neighborhood groups in developing, resourcing and executing small- (under \$75,000) to medium-(\$75,001 to \$150,000) sized improvement projects in the city's right of way, or on city-owned property. It's also intended to provide assistance to neighborhood groups in identifying, qualifying and applying for various federal, state, and/or private funding opportunities. The NPP consists of two funding subprograms: the **Neighborhood Cost Share Program (NCSP)** and the **Grant Assistance Program (GAP)**. Applicants will share in the cost of the project with a minimum of 40% of small projects and 25% of the total project cost. The cost sharing can come from cash contributions, market value of in-kind services, or a reasonable estimate of donated labor ("sweat equity"). Funding for the NPP will come from the city's Public Works budget, or if it's park-related it will come from the city's Parks and Recreation Department budget. It offers an opportunity for neighborhood groups to instigate projects such as traffic calming, sidewalks, pocket parks, bicycle lanes, curbs and gutters, and tree planting. Detailed information on the program, the guidelines and application process are available at <www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/downloads/npp_program_document2.pdf>. Notice of Intent applications are being accepted now, the review process will start in July. Mr. Dusza's presentation was followed by Q&A.

Next, Travis County Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt talked about ideas for improving **tax appraisals**. She noted that with regard to state and local tax burden as a percentage of income, Texas does pretty well compared to other states. Texas ranks 43rd among the states with regard to tax burden as a percentage of income. The overall tax burden as a percentage of income is hovering at about 8.4% as opposed to the national average of around 9.8%. She said that when you consider our heavy reliance on property taxes, her concern is also for the flip side of that page showing that 37% of Travis county residents are cost burdened and paying more than 30% of their income for housing. She suggested that we might inject progressivity into our property tax schemes. Taxing entities have some tools for progressivity such as the homestead exemption, the over 65 and the disabled

Continued on following page

exemptions, the agricultural exemptions and various other tools. Since the Travis Central Appraisal District is completely independent of taxing entities, she thinks that exemptions are where performance can be improved more than appraisal. Some of her specific ideas for improvements are: 1) The City of Austin could add a homestead exemption (presently, Travis County has that exemption, but the city does not); 2) Taxing entities should look at indexing over-65 and homestead exemptions the way they work now, they are not sensitive at all to income; 3) Create a "circuit-breaker" clause where if you can prove you are burdened over a certain percentage of your income by property tax, you'd qualify for a rebate; 4) Create land bank districts to try to help people who can no longer afford their homes because of property taxes. In these districts you'd pay tax on the home value, but not land value. In conclusion, her presentation included some data and many ideas to get a discussion started about reviewing property tax valuation in this area.

Next was an announcement by Avenue B resident Mity Myhr Clay that she and neighbor Robert James will be on the Citizen Communication portion of City Council agenda on Thursday, June 10 to ask for correct enforcement of the **North Hyde Park NCCD**. A local developer is planning to construct a duplex at **4605 Avenue B**. The duplex (3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths each side) violates the North Hyde Park NCCD for parking, driveways and carports. The NCCD does not permit driveways and carports on the front of the house. The city reviewers permitted the plans despite these problems. Neighbors' efforts to stop the construction have, at the time of this meeting, been unsuccessful. In addition to the issue at 4605 Ave. B, the neighbors are concerned that future enforcement of the NCCD will be more difficult if this project isn't enforced.

HPNA President David Conner then announced that the Steering Committee has conditionally agreed with a current proposal by Don Adam of Rehab Care and Allan Brown of Prevarian Hospital Partners for a **rehabilitation hospital**. It is proposed for the northwest corner of the **Triangle project** just west of the drainage detention area (along 45th between Lamar and Guadalupe). His next announcement was that Preservation Central has completed the initial survey for the Caswell/Ridgetop area and has delivered the report. Neighbors will review the report and hopefully initiate a Local Historic District project in the near future.

The meeting at our temporary meeting place, Austin Groups for the Elderly, was adjourned with plenty of daylight left.

— Denise Girard,
HPNA Co-Secretary

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The Local Historic District Corner

Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local historic districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: <lweidlich@mail2sevenspaces.com> or 300-2228.

It looks like July is going to mark a significant step forward for our Local Historic District. The City of Austin has finally decided on a course of action. Out of concern that the process is legally airtight, the city has scheduled a meeting to enable people who live in the proposed district the opportunity to suggest input into the Design Standards we finalized approximately a year ago. By the time you read this column, the meeting will already have taken place, but everyone who lives in the proposed district will have been notified by the city in plenty of time to be able to attend.

It doesn't end there. If things proceed as we hope, the Hyde Park Local Historic District will be on the July agenda of the Historic Landmark Commission. Because each month's agenda is only assembled after the previous month's meeting, we don't know for sure, but you can access the agenda by going to <www.ci.austin.tx.us/cityclerk/bc_info_center.htm>, selecting Historic Landmark Commission from the list, and then selecting the correct agenda. I will also post our appearance on the Hyde Park Notice list. Come to support your Hyde Park Local Historic District.

— Lorre Weidlich
Chair, Hyde Park Local Historic District



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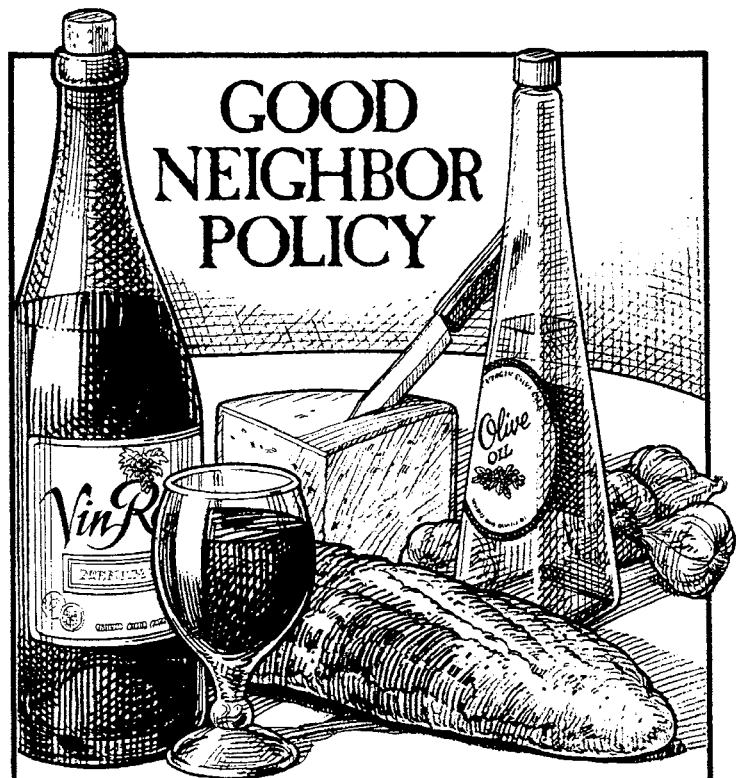
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Shipe Pool Party...

...cont'd from page 1

Thanks to all the folks who helped out:

Alison Young (T Shirt sales and donations handler)

Pat Ferguson (Grill master)

Adam Wilson (Tables, chairs, coolers and more!)

Diane Bailey (Food support)

Clif Wright (poster and T Shirt artist and procurer)

Mary LaTouf (music agent)

Libby Malone and Grande Communications (Benefactor)

Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (Benefactor)

William Cook (setup and cleanup and lots of other stuff)

Lorre Weidlich (photos)

Robin Seiberling (general support in all areas)

Susan Kerr (general support in all areas)

According to neighbor & Shipe Park volunteer, Alison Young, "Ever since Shipe Park was dedicated in 1928 and continuing until around the 1980's, it was a cultural epicenter alive with concerts, neighborhood fairs, holiday festivals and social gatherings. We hope to bring these traditions back and make Shipe Park a valued gathering place in our rejuvenated neighborhood."

That sounds like a plan - so watch for future happenings & contact me with any ideas or efforts that you think might continue improvements at Shipe Park.

Thanks,

– *Mark L Fishman*

HPNA Shipe Park Committee Chair

<mlfishman@gmail.com>





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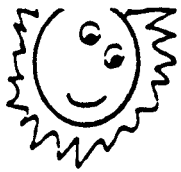
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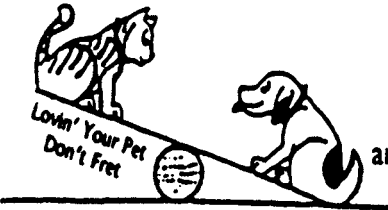
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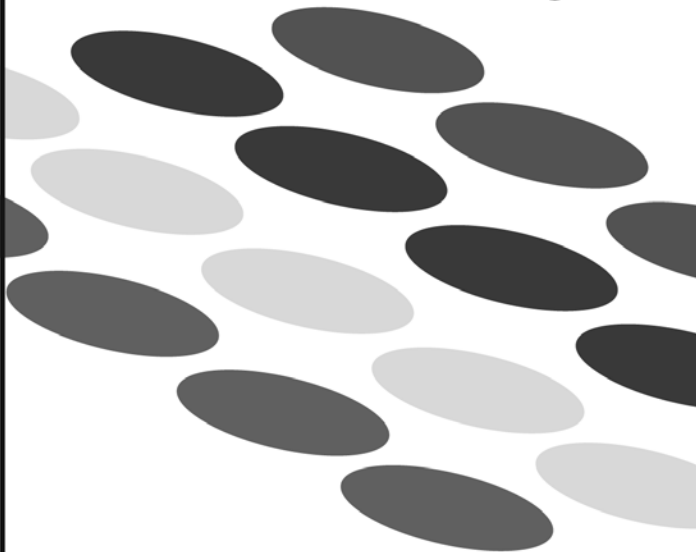


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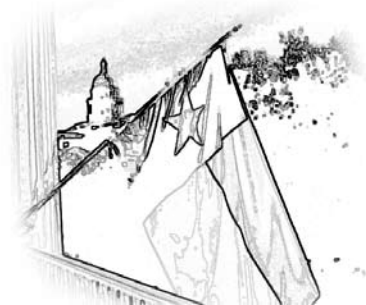
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Long-Time Hyde Parkers Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Neighbors are invited to come celebrate with long time Hyde Park fringe residents Laurence and Rosanne Becker as they mark their 50th wedding anniversary with a benefit concert on August 28th by the Texas Musician of the Year for 2010, Sara Hickman, and others.

The concert will take place at the University Presbyterian Church beginning at 7 PM. Alex Coke, well known jazz musician, and the Becker's daughter Amy Becker, soprano with the Chicago Symphony Chorus and teacher of middle school music, will also perform during the evening. The benefit concert is open to the public and donations of any size will be joyfully accepted for the UPLIFT (University Presbyterian Living In Faith Together) program which gives aid to persons in need of assistance with food, rent, utilities, etc. and people who have recently been released from prison.

Laurence, his sister Virginia, and their parents moved to 507 Park Blvd (just 4 houses East of Duval) in 1939 when 45th Street was the North edge of Austin.



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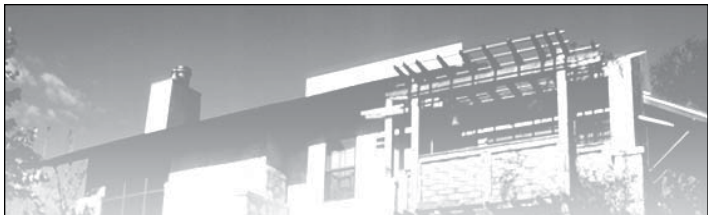
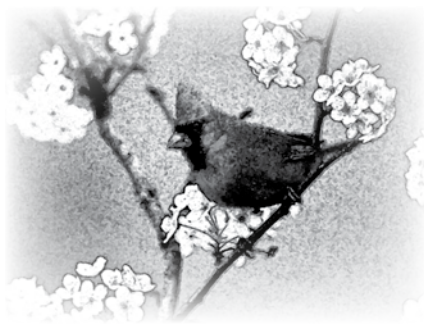
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clever creature.
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in the astonishing moments
which stumble through your day,
but in between, since we can't fly
and we sing only poorly,
do what we do best
and count the birds.

— Elzy Cogswell



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If you live in the 03 zip code and you are considering downsizing but can't ever imagine leaving the neighborhood, you need to consider a condo at 1605 Pease Road.

5 units, 3 2BR/IBA and 2 1BR/IBA units will be available this spring. The units are under renovation and landscape improvements are under way.

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Hohengarten Home, 1414 Avenue H, photo by Carol Burton

Mayfield Home, 3824 Avenue H, photo by John Mayfield.



Austin State Hospital, photo by Carol Burton

Herzele Home, 3916 Avenue HI, photo by Carol Burton



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Mullen-Monahan Home 3215 Duval, photo by Carol Burton



Marburger-McGraw Home 4313 Avenue C, photo by Carol Burton



*3rd Annual
Shipe Pool
Opening Party*

June 12, 2010



Around the table



Mark Fishman & William Cook attend the grill



John Kerr enjoying the party



Smokin'

Photo essay and all photos by Lorre Weidlich

Music from
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David Conner
chows down



Cynthia Lyon and her
daughter enjoy the pool

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Austin Poetry Society: Open Microphone

On July 22, 7:00-9:00 p.m. the Austin Poetry Society holds another open microphone in NeWorldDeli, 4101 Guadalupe. Featured poets will be Dillon McKinsey, editor of *Ardent*, and Barbara Carr, author of the Ancestor Series of poetry books. Guest host will be Herman Nelson. The open mic follows featured readers, so bring poems to read.



Hyde Park Poets —

A Green Umbrella

Neither mechanical design
nor pragmatic utility
release me from fripperies.
I recognize a fact in everyday time.
Umbrella existence and even greenness
touches me deeply though it makes no sense.

That's where the wonder lies.
The clean being of any one object
invades my mind, sacrosanct,
to form a faith no one denies.
Let me contemplate this one
divine idea and know it's also mine.

— Elzy Cogswell



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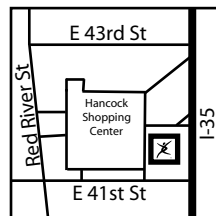
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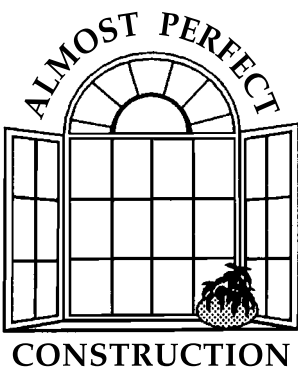
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Hyde Park Poets —

The Alchemist's Confession

I drag across this paper
the blunted graphite of intellect
watching clumps of charcoal flow,
hoping for a glimmer in the dross.

Then, I find in dusty words a golden star.
The gift comes down to me from Midas.
Every day I receive some new idea.
I don't know whence it comes.

— Elzy Cogswell

An Ode to Austin's Hyde Park

This is the kind of place where someone
may come out in the cold
to hear what the sun has to say
to the clouds at twilight.

People hang window boxes here
so they can see the passion of petunias
and they outline their sidewalks
with annual flowers for the joy of planting.

They run through the streets
for aerobic pleasure, often
following a happy dog on a leash,
or scooting a stroller before them.

You can sense that all around you
in these houses, children receive
comforting words, nourishing love,
and the attention they deserve.

A year here is sorry when it's over,
and you can tell from the glow
of holiday lights that hopeful colors
wait eagerly to see someone grow up.

— Elzy Cogswell



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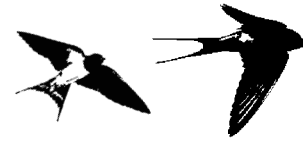
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Hyde Park Poets — 



Barn Swallows in Shipe Park

Too fast you fly above the grass.
Knee-high, you can't be nailed by eye
or held beneath the microscope of curiosity.

I have seen you when you'd share
the vision of your formal wear,
the tuxedo which you and only you display,
distinguished by the gayest breast
borne by feathers anywhere.
Yet not in pride do you pass by.

Like burly builders you mold a nest
and hook it secure on girders,
under bridges, upon any sheltered wall.
The mud cup nursery you attach
by avian magic, safe from us
and other earth-bound creatures,
soon makes a cradle for naked chicks.

It's only natural,
the way you look, the things you do,
but when I reflect on nature in your light,
your soul implies with perfect honesty
that something greater may watch too
as we do, with love.

— Elzy Cogswell

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Vintage Properties Available



508 Texas Ave - One-owner family! This 1935 storybook Tudor style brick house has two bedrooms, one bath, wood floors under carpets, all with the charm of grandmother's house, at the corner of Texas and Liberty Streets. Four blocks to Lee Elementary, 10 to UT. **\$429,000**



4311 Avenue F - Vintage 1922 bungalow with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, new foundation, updated electrical and plumbing, updated kitchen, formal living and dining, large master (could be family room); rear deck and storage building that is potential studio. Near Shippe Park, Hyde Park amenities. **\$439,000**



400 West 37th - This 1912 classic bungalow has original wood floors, high ceilings, trim and hardware; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal living and dining, utility/office, attic with potential, alley access, recent roof, yard and sprinklers. Lazan Pargaman 750-5599 **\$359,900**



3911 Duval Street - Updated 1917 bungalow has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, high ceilings, wood floors, modern kitchen with skylight; 1549 sf house, and detached 245sf studio; 7500sf lot has room for garage apt. Walk to Hyde Park amenities, bike or bus to UT. **\$399,000**



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Hyde Park Poets —

Waller Creek at Shipe Park

The whole park is just one square block,
but a creek runs through it,
severing tennis court from basketball hoops.
Hyde Park neighbors start
fledgling trees near the playground.
Ancient trees shade the pool which slakes
our thirst for coolness in the summer.

Massive oaks remember early neighbors,
those first free Texans who followed the creek.
Wanderers took therapy from rivulets
singing over limestone ledges.

Perhaps Elisabet Ney, ingenious cultural oddity,
took advantage of the shade
to perform miracles in marble,
or, on less industrious days
spread a picnic under the branches.

Trees near Waller Creek,
happy to see us at peace,
imbue this place with a spirit
which sets this ground apart.
Like imagination, holy leisure
creates for children a wilderness
as real as Yosemite,
as universal as Central Park.

— *Elzy Cogswell*




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Address: **4509 Avenue D**
Listed For: **\$279,000**

FOR SALE

Stylish bungalow in fabulous location. Features include recent paint and refinished floors and large heavily treed yard. Amazing location, just a block from Shipe Park, and just blocks from Hyde Park area shops and restaurants. Don't miss this bargain in highly desirable Lee Elementary



In partnership with solesforsouls, I will be donating 200 pairs of shoes for those in need with each real estate transaction. Check out soles4souls.org to see how you can get involved! I will be having an art show/ silent auction of my paintings at Quacks during July with 100% of the proceeds going to solesforsouls.

Address: **1407 Brentwood Street**
Listed For: **\$399,000**

FOR SALE

Amazing Crestview Remodel. Over 2400sf 5 bedroom and 3 bathroom home. Beautiful hardwoods, fully remodeled kitchen, designer color scheme, recent carpet, and HVAC. All on an over-sized lot with towering trees and a private deck. Plenty of room for a large family AND a home office.



Address: **3512 Clarkson Ave**
Listed For: **\$179,000**

FOR SALE

CENTRAL AUSTIN AT A BARGAIN PRICE, Cute 2/1 home on private tree covered lot that backs to a creek. Close to downtown, UT, the new Mueller district with it's extensive hike and bike trail system and new retail development, and an amazing collection of local restaurants. Well maintained and updated and features hardwood flooring and central heat and air conditioning.



Stanberry & Associates is committed to being the best available resource in Central Texas for Buyers, Sellers, and Investors looking to make more environmentally-friendly real estate choices. Education in matters of sustainable building, development, living and lending practices are a high priority to us in order that we can serve an increasingly green-minded community.

www.GreenRealEstateResource.com

Address: **1200 Norwood Road**
Listed For: **\$199,000**

FOR SALE

1200Norwood.com

Cute 2/1 home (1426 sf) on a huge tree-covered .28 acre lot. Just north of Airport Blvd and adjoining the Mueller development hike and bike trail. (trail actually enters neighborhood via an easement on the west edge of the property) Close to everything, great investment potential, and at a bargain price.



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Just Listed

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Just Listed

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Adorable 1930s cottage with large yard on quiet street
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Listed at \$315,000



New Price

4507 Avenue D

Updated Hyde Park cottage with large screened back porch
2BR, 2BA and 1Liv
Listed at \$350,000



Just Listed

607 East 49th Street

Hyde Park duplex for investor or owner occupant
2BR, 1BA & 1BR, 1BA
Listed at \$349,000



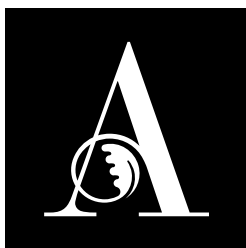
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608 West 31½ Street

Walking distance to U.T. from this historic 1915 Colonial Revival
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