



July Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 2, 2012

Where: Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for July 2nd

- **Grande Communications: Comments about the Recent Problems**
- **Commercial Short Term Rentals: Vote on Resolution**
(Note: This will happen ONLY if Austin City Council does NOT vote on CSTR code changes on third reading on June 28)
- **Introducing the New Austin Historical Survey Wiki**

Hyde Park's Local Historic District data has found a home on the new Austin Historical Survey wiki.

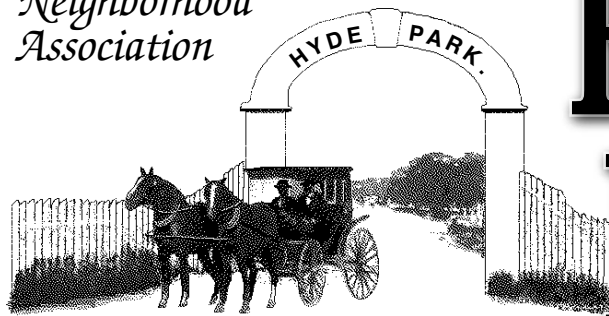
The wiki is the brainchild of UT Prof. Michael Holleran and Hyde Park's own Jenni Minner, graduate student in historic preservation. At the July meeting, Josh Conrad, who developed the wiki, will introduce it to Hyde Park. He'll explain what a wiki is, how to submit historical information for review, and how to access information.

Bring your laptops (the church has wireless access) so Josh can show us the newly loaded Hyde Park data.

- **Coming in August**

The Annual Hyde Park Ice Cream Social

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association



Pecan Press

July, 2012 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 38, No. 7

City Council Actions in June

In June, Council took action on a couple issues that the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association has been following.

Short Term Rentals:

At the June 7th Council meeting Council approved the following motion on first reading. The vote was 5-2, with Councilmembers Morrison and Tovo voting no.

Approve, on 1st reading, the following elements of the Planning Commission recommendation for Type 1 rentals:

Applies to owner-occupied homes, registered homesteads, and short term leases that do not exceed 90 days per year cumulatively.

Requires payment of HOT [Hotel Occupancy Tax], registration, inspections or CO [Certificate of Occupancy], information packets for tenants (which should include information about occupancy limits).

- *Inspections are only required for those properties that do not have a CO or have a safety-related complaint registered against them.*
- *Registration could be voided if there are 3 or more valid citations against the tenants of the property. A secondary residential unit on the same property may be rented on a short term basis for more than a cumulative total of 90 days per year.*

Type 2 rentals (non-owner occupied):

Mirrors Type 1, but applicable to units that are not owner-occupied, homestead exempted, or are rented for

more than 90 days cumulatively per year.

*Includes a cap of 3% * by zip code of all single-family, detached residential units allowable as Type 2 short term rentals.*

**This number is based on the concentration of short term rentals in 78704?*

- *127 (non-owner occupied total) + 97 (half of unknown ownership total) = 224.*
- *224/7186 = approximately 3%*

Create a website that includes information about registration, HOT payment, and a requirement of a local contact designated for each property. This website should serve as a resource for both owners and neighbors of STRs.

At the June 11th steering committee meeting the HPNA steering committee adopted a short resolution concerning short term rentals: Commercial short term rentals should only be permitted under a conditional overlay in a Neighborhood Plan and only as an adopted use in a Neighborhood Conservation Combining District.

Council's second reading of the short term rental ordinance is scheduled for June 28th. We don't know whether they are going to do the second and third readings on the 28th or only the second.

Continued on page 5

From the President's Desk:

Congratulations to neighbor Linalice Carey! On June 4th the Austin Critics Table inducted her into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame for her great contributions to theater in Austin. If you missed the *Austin Chronicle* article on this year's inductees you can read it at <www.austinchronicle.com/arts/2012-06-01/seeds-of-inspiration>

A big thanks to Red River Church for hosting Cash on the Green, an event on June 3rd at which they raised money for Friends of Shipe Park. This is the third year in a row that they have raised money for our neighborhood park. It was a fun event! Unfortunately the June Pecan Press deadline passed before we got word of the event, but I hope many of you saw announcements on the Yahoo

group or Facebook and were able to attend.

In late May, Kimberly McNeely at the Parks and Recreation Department sent us an update on Hancock Golf Course. The installation of the reclaimed water irrigation system at the golf course so that the course can be irrigated with reclaimed water rather than potable water is to begin late this month or early in August. The golf division has been exploring possibilities for historic designation for the course and is scheduled to have a full proposal prepared by late June. They will first share the proposal with stakeholders for feedback and then bring it before the Golf Advisory Committee in August.

In June, I got a couple of questions about whether there is still a monthly hazardous waste pickup at Shipe Park. Unfortunately that has ended, but you can dispose of household hazardous waste at the city's household facility in southeast Austin at 2514 Business Center Drive. That facility is open to accept materials on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 AM to 6 PM and on Saturdays from 7 AM to noon except on some holidays and holiday weekends. See the city's website for information on the type and quantities of materials that are accepted: <www.austintexas.gov/departments/household-hazardous-waste>.

I am remiss in not having worked this into a column before now, but back in March Amelia McDaniel of Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and the Pilgrim Center, organizations in Kansas City, Missouri, contacted us to see whether our Hyde Park would be interested in building community with their Hyde Park. They were getting ready for their Spring Egg Hunt and Frolic and wondered about organizing some sort of fun competition for

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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

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

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— HPNA Officers/Steering Committee —

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Additional Steering Committee Members: • Mark Fishman

• Stan Kozinsky • Eric Stumberg • John Moore • David Conner

• Kevin Heyburn • Michael Nill

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AlSD • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Alley Coordinator • Carol Burton, <sky2wash@austin.rr.com>

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Crime & Safety • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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

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



A scene from Red River Church's Cash on the Green event raising money for Friends of Shippe Park, June 3. Photo by Lisa Harris

that weekend. Because of the short time frame we started with something of a small scale for this year. Hopefully it will grow in future years. We circulated a card to sign at our April meeting and sent it to them with a pair of a recent homes tour posters. Many Kansas City Hyde Park neighbors signed one of our posters at their

Spring Frolic event. They sent us our signed poster and a couple Hyde Park Kansas City posters. They also have invited interested Hyde Park Austin neighbors to come to Kansas City for their 30th Homes Tour, to be held on Saturday October 6th. This year their tour will have seven restored homes, ranging from large brick

and stone mansions to cozy arts & crafts bungalows and a former stone farmhouse. They told us that they chose us out of all the Hyde Parks in the country because they saw some commonalities between our neighborhood and theirs, including National Historic Register Districts; historical cycles of growth and change; vibrant, diverse and engaged communities; commercial and residential redevelopment initiatives and proactive efforts to meet the challenges of maintaining a high quality of life in an urban setting. For more information on Hyde Park Kansas City:

- <www.hydeparkkc.org>
 - <www.facebook.com/pages/Hyde-Park-Kansas-City/35571153620>
 - <www.facebook.com/pages/Pilgrim-Center-Inc/70876693035>
- Finally, welcome to new Hyde Park neighbors Senator Kirk Watson and Liz Watson!

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

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

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Heimsath Architects Win Preservation Texas Award

AUSTIN, TEXAS – Heimsath Architects <www.heimsath.com>, University United Methodist Church and the project team have won a Preservation Texas award for the restoration of the Sanctuary at 24th and Guadalupe Streets. The Historic Restoration Award recognizes historic residential, commercial, or institutional buildings or structures that have been restored to their original glory. The restoration work on the Sanctuary, which is more than 100 years old, included the following:

- Repair and painting of exterior woodwork, and restoration to its original historic grandeur
- Cleaning and restoring the exterior limestone
- Cleaning, repair and preserving of stained glass windows
- Major roof repair and restoration
- Creation of new courtyard, labyrinth and play-scape for children
- New accessible plaza at 24th Street entrance

The work preserves an important Austin landmark built in 1909. In 1957, a time of acrimonious civil rights demonstrations, the first black members were received into the church. In November, 1964, a memorial service for President John F. Kennedy was held at University UMC, attended by President Lyndon B. Johnson and Governor John Connally. In 2008, in celebration of the Sanctuary's Centennial, the congregation undertook a major capital campaign to repair and restore the church to prepare it for the next century of service to the community.

Note: Ben Heimsath is a former HPNA President. He, with his wife Sandi, and their three cute and accomplished kids lived for many years in a classic craftsman bungalow on the 4100 block of Speedway.

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City Council Actions in June

...cont'd from page 1

Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan:

On June 14th after a lengthy public hearing Council adopted the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan unanimously on all three readings. The public hearing was set for "time certain" at 6 PM but actually started at about 9:30 PM. Claire de Young and I attended; there may have been other Hyde Park neighbors there that I missed. Both HPNA and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Contact Team had passed a resolution (printed in last month's Pecan Press) asking Council to retain specific language that Planning Commission had added to the "Implementation and Measuring Success" chapter of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. I am happy to report that Council adopted the plan with that language intact. Several amendments were made to Imagine Austin at that Council meeting, including the addition of language clarifying that the city will continue neighborhood planning and other "small-scale" plans, clarifying the relationship between the comprehensive plan and the small-scale plans, documenting the process by which the Growth Concept Map was informed by existing Future Land Use maps, adding language regarding the importance of local businesses and removing inconsistencies in the plan regarding proposed State Highway 45. The plan that was adopted is to guide the city for the next 30 years. Progress on implementing the plan is to be reviewed annually, with more thorough reviews taking place every five years.

— Lisa Harris

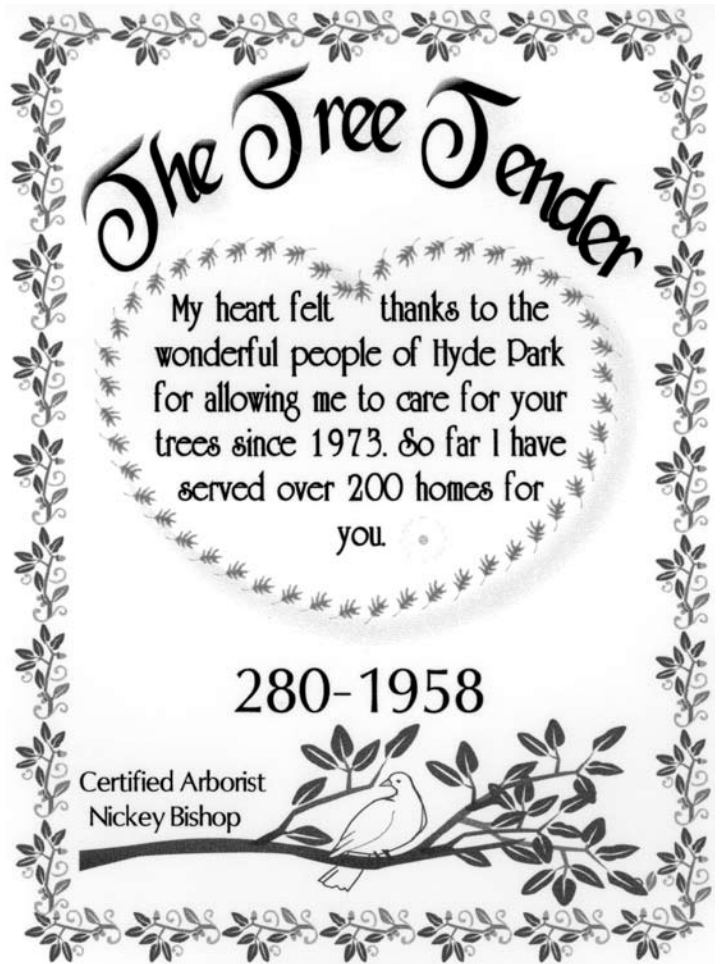


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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: June 4, 2012

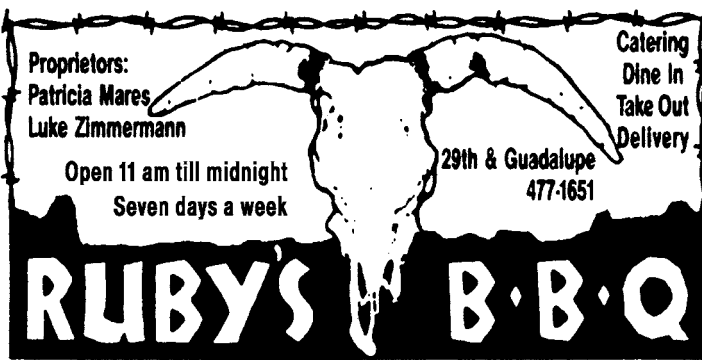
The meeting was called to order by HPNA President Lisa Harris at 7:02 p.m.

The first item of business was a possible vote on a resolution regarding the Imagine Austin Plan. President Lisa Harris explained that the Plan had gone before the Planning Commission, who had amended the Plan's "Implementation and Measuring Success" section to include language to ensure that the existing Land Development Code wouldn't be rewritten or replaced without recognizing, respecting, and reflecting the "compromises, balances, and the assumptions upon which the existing neighborhood and area plans were based and depend." HPNA would like to support the Planning Commission's language to ensure that protections aren't eliminated or definitions changes that would change the intentions and authorities of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan. The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) was briefed on the importance of this language and Lisa feels that neighborhoods should work to ensure that whatever the City Council adopts is in the best interest of those neighborhoods. A vote was called and the HPNA voting membership adopted the Imagine Austin Resolution.

The second item of business was "An Evening Devoted to Books" presentation by Ruth Jiu of Recycled Reads. Ms. Jiu stated that Recycled Reads is the Austin Public Library System's bookstore, selling items which have been taken out of circulation. Recycled Reads is at 5335 Burnet Road, Austin, TX 78756 and is open Thursday through Sunday from noon to 6pm. Most kids books are sold for 50 cents and adult paperbacks are \$1. All proceeds from sales go back into the Austin Public Library System and Recycled Reads accepts donations. The other component of Recycled Reads' mission is recycling by creating other products out of books that cannot be sold. In recycling, Recycled Reads fulfills the City's Zero Waste Initiative for the Austin Public Library System.

Recycled Reads also offers free arts and crafts workshops and other social activities. There is a short story discussion group every Thursday from June 7th to July 12th from 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m. There is a Bow Wow Reading Program sponsored by the Austin Dog Alliance to help reluctant child readers by reading to trained therapy dogs every Friday in June and July. Finally, there is a Pet Parenting Class sponsored by the Austin Animal Center on Saturday, June 23rd.

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Mark Fishman made an announcement regarding the Local Historic District (LHD) Sign Toppers. Hyde Park's application is currently under review by the Department of Transportation. Once approved, they will provide the Historic Preservation Office with a Certificate of Appropriateness. At that point, the application will go before the Historic Landmark Commission to agree upon and approve a sign topper design that can be standardized for all city designated LHDs. The Historic Landmark Commission will make decisions on items like sign color and text font and the Commission will initiate a public participation process. HPNA will be notified once the Certificate of Appropriateness is filed.

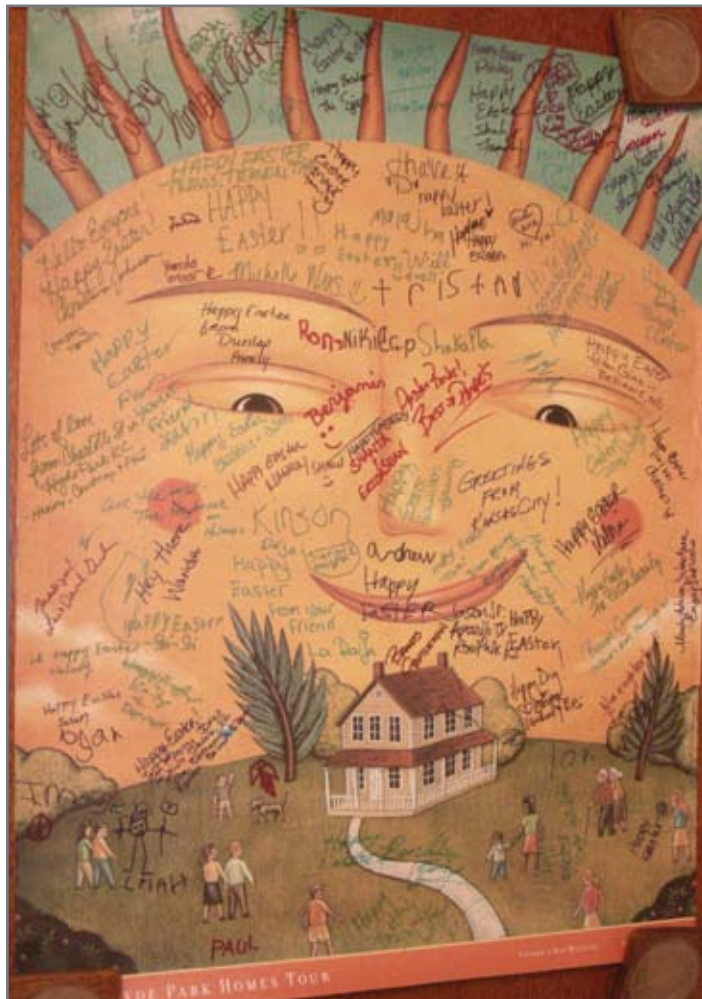
Finally, President Lisa Harris notified the group that a Pecan Press Coordinator is needed for the Northwest section of Hyde Park, so please contact Lisa if you can fill that vacancy.

There being no further business, the official meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. and the Hyde Park Book Swap commenced.

– Ashley Schweickart &
Claire de Young,
HPNA Co-Secretaries

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This is one poster we sent to HPNA-Kansas City. Now with some additional Easter good wishes it arrives back in Austin. (see pg 8)

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Letters Dept.

May 23, 2012

Lisa Harris
President
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association
PO Box 49427
Austin, TX 78765

Dear Lisa,

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association of Kansas City would like to thank you very much for sending two posters illustrating your historic homes tour for display at our Spring Egg Hunt and Frolic held on Easter Sunday at Hyde Park here. The event, led by Pilgrim Center, was highly successful, with beautiful weather, excellent music and more than 5,000 treat-filled eggs for children.

We would also like to extend warm greetings of friendship and fellowship to your organization and its members. Our board would like to present you with the enclosed black and white poster from our 2010 Homes Tour and greetings from attendees.

It appears our neighborhoods have many things in common besides our name, including:

- National Historic Register Districts
- historical cycles of growth and change that date to the 1920s
- vibrant, diverse and engaged communities
- commercial and residential redevelopment initiatives
- proactive efforts to meet the inevitable challenges that come with a desire to maintain a high quality of life in an urban setting

On Saturday October 6, we will hold our 30th Homes Tour and we would be delighted if any of your members would consider visiting Kansas City for the event. This year our tour will feature seven magnificently restored homes ranging from large brick and stone mansions to cozy arts & crafts bungalows to a former stone farmhouse.

If you or your board officers are interested in attending, we would be eager to welcome you to the day's activities and have you as our guests at an outdoor Candlelight Dinner the preceding evening.

Once again, we are delighted to begin a dialogue with your group and share our neighborhood experiences.

Sincerely,

Mark Dillon
Corresponding Secretary
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association
Kansas City, Missouri

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Basketball Courts

For those of you who like to shoot hoops and want an opportunity to exercise, there have been recent renovations to some of our neighborhood basketball courts at Baker school and Shipe Park. About a year ago, the backboards and nets were replaced at Baker. The backboards were falling apart and most of the rims were crooked. With the help of Ann Graham, Karen McGraw, Lisa Harris, and myself we were able to have new backboards and rims installed. However, most of the credit should go to Curt Shaw who works for AISD. Without his efforts, the improvements would not have happened.

We have also enjoyed recent improvements to the basketball court at Shipe Park. The court was resurfaced and repainted and it's a fun place to play. You can shoot some hoops and then after you've worked up a sweat you can go for a swim in the Shipe Park pool. It's a great park and a fun place to be.

The basketball court at Shipe is open during regular park hours. The courts at Baker are used for car parking during the week and therefore are available all day on weekends and on weekdays before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m. We have some good facilities in the neighborhood and it's an opportunity to exercise and be out and about.

— Paul Kamprath

Hyde Park Poets —

Driving Along

Driving along, listening to Chris Isaak,
Two college kids, on bicycles, like lightning bugs
Flitter by, around, and in front of me.
I am careful to give them space
As I ponder the freedom and tenuousness
Of their situation,
I love them, in a way and I love their confidence
And fear for them, as a mother,
What will become of them?
Perhaps nothing bad will befall,
When I was twenty, I knew nothing could do me harm
I knew it, the way these kids, on their bicycles
Do not even think the unponderable.
They will be fine, I am the one who is vulnerable
I have let in the doubt
That is fine, it is my time
Like them, I did not worry
The universe is full of too much worry
Chris Isaak is singing to me, "We will always have tonight"
I like him.

— Herzele
7/20/10



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Pecan Press Word Find 8

“World Capitals” by der Brat

P	V	I	E	N	T	I	A	N	E	N	U	F	F	A	T
A	H	A	M	I	L	T	O	N	I	G	E	L	A	Y	U
D	U	N	M	O	N	E	Y	L	E	L	Y	G	R	U	B
D	T	R	O	O	P	E	A	J	U	I	C	K	M	E	E
J	S	Y	R	M	E	Z	P	L	N	A	A	N	I	W	L
I	E	A	O	E	P	O	A	G	A	N	N	R	O	A	G
B	R	I	N	S	K	E	F	G	O	P	U	D	V	B	R
O	A	V	I	S	I	I	N	C	R	T	M	A	A	U	A
U	H	O	N	Y	S	O	N	H	K	E	L	A	X	J	D
T	C	R	X	H	S	O	A	S	A	S	B	A	K	A	E
I	U	N	C	A	I	R	N	U	I	T	R	A	V	A	X
S	B	O	E	C	A	I	N	T	O	U	R	S	E	R	T
T	V	M	N	R	M	L	A	P	A	Z	I	A	I	C	R
E	Z	U	E	T	I	R	A	N	A	E	G	N	K	C	A
P	S	C	R	U	B	A	R	A	K	N	A	A	E	A	R
A	D	D	I	S	A	B	A	B	A	M	M	A	N	T	J

1. Albania _____
2. Angola _____
3. Belarus _____
4. Bermuda _____
5. Bolivia _____
6. Cambodia _____
7. Christmas Island _____
8. Comoros _____
9. Croatia _____
10. Djibouti _____
11. Ethiopia _____
12. Ghana _____
13. Guinea _____
14. Indonesia _____
15. Jordan _____
16. Laos _____
17. Latvia _____
18. Lebanon _____
19. Liberia _____
20. Macedonia _____
21. Nigeria _____
22. Paraguay _____
23. Romania _____
24. Serbia _____
25. Slovakia _____
26. Turkey _____
27. Uganda _____
28. Ukraine _____
29. Yemen _____
30. Zimbabwe _____



Value Increasing Home Improvement Tips for Sellers



FLOORS Hardwoods under carpet: It pays to remove the old covering and have the wood refinished. Carpets: Shampoo or completely replace with a neutral color. Tile: Replace chipped or cracked tiles. Clean or replace the grout.

FIXTURES New faucets and sparkling sinks will sell your kitchen and bathrooms. Updated light fixtures, ceiling fans, and hardware will give you lots of bang for your buck.

EXTERIOR Power wash away any dirt, stains and cobwebs. Paint or repair damaged or weathered exterior walls. Patch cracks in sidewalks, driveways, and underpinnings. Mend any broken fencing. Trim back tree branches from the house and power lines.

DE-CLUTTER AND DE-PERSONALIZE Pack up personal photographs and knick-knacks. Rent a storage unit to keep all non-essential items.

REPAIRS Make sure everything works perfectly! Buyers want fully functional plumbing, electricity, roofing, A/C and heating.

GET ORGANIZED Buyers will open closet and cabinet doors. Stack dishes and line up cups in cabinets. Arrange food and spices in the pantry. In closets, hang clothes together by type, color, and facing the same direction. Line up shoes. Neatly line up items in shower, bathroom cabinets and drawers.

INTERIOR Have windows cleaned inside and out. Polish chrome faucets and mirrors. Replace worn bathroom rugs and welcome mats. Clean blinds and drapes. Dust ceiling fan blades and light fixtures. Vacuum, sweep and mop floors daily.

FINAL TOUCHES Hang up fresh, clean towels in bathrooms. Clear leaves and toys from the lawn and sidewalks.

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Corner on Politics

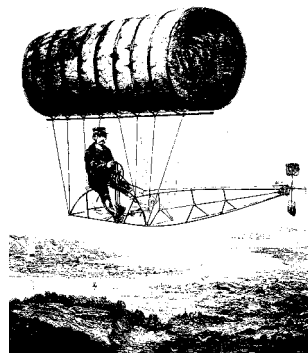
Walter Richter wrote an article titled **Corner on Politics** in the Pecan Press from the late 80's through the mid 90's. I understand that he wrote his articles with grace, good humor and charm, to keep it upbeat and nonpartisan. I hope to follow that tradition with this revived column.

Walter served as a state senator in the early 60's and held other federal appointments during his distinguished career. He was a highly respected community leader and tireless public servant. Of course, his wife, Dorothy Jean Richter, continues to play a significant role in Hyde Park activities.

My goal with this column is simply to encourage people to be involved in the community, be politically active, and vote. Voting does matter and if no one speaks up then there will be no change.

My reminder for this month is that there are run-off elections on July 31. That's on the last Tuesday. Some information can be found on the Secretary of State website here: <www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml> and information about polling locations can be found here: <www.co.travis.tx.us/county_clerk/election/20120731/eday_polls.pdf> . Most of us will vote at Baker Center but others will vote at different locations. Of course, you can vote early as well. Be involved.

— Paul Kamprath



Hints for Word Find #8

Albania: Tirana; Angola: Luanda; Belarus: Minsk; Bermuda: Hamilton; Bolivia: LaPaz; Cambodia: Phenom Penh; Christmas Island: FlyingFishCove; Comoros: Moroni; Croatia: Zagreb; Djibouti: Djibouti; Ethiopia: AddisAbaba; Ghana: Accra; Guinea: Conakry; Indonesia: Jakarta; Jordan: Amman; Laos: Vientiane; Latvia: Riga; Lebanon: Beirut; Liberia: Monrovia; Macedonia: Skopje; Nigeria: Abuja; Paraguay: Asuncion; Romania: Bucharest; Serbia: Belgrade; Slovakia: Bratislava; Turkey: Ankara; Uganda: Kampala; Ukraine: Kiev; Yemen: Sanaa; Zimbabwe: Harare;



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White Grubs

White grubs are creamy-white, C-shaped larvae with six legs and a brownish-orange head capsule (Fig 1). Grubs feed on the roots of turfgrass, causing it to lose vigor and turn brown. These insects can cause turf to have brown patchy areas. When there are heavy populations of white grubs, turf can often be rolled up like carpeting because the grubs eat all the roots leaving no attachment to the soil.



Figure 1. White grub. Photo by Wizzie Brown.

To inspect for white grubs, cut several 6 inch square blocks of turf. Make sure to include areas of suspected white grub damage. Examine grass plugs in the root zone for grubs. Treatment is justified when there are more than 5-8 white grubs per square foot. It is possible that some lawns can withstand higher numbers of grubs without noticeable damage.

White grubs treatments should be applied approximately 6 weeks after the heaviest flights of May and June beetles. Due to rainfall this time period can vary from year to year, but typically in Central Texas treatment falls mid-July to early August.

Beneficial nematodes are available for managing white grubs, but need moisture to move through soil. Nematodes are small worms that attack grubs and other soil-dwelling insects. These beneficial organisms may not be the best method for treating white grubs in Central Texas since the soil tends to be very dry in July and August. If you want to try to use nematodes, turf should be well watered before and after nematode application.

Insecticidal treatments may also be used to manage white grubs. You can spot treat infested areas instead of treating your entire lawn. If soil is very dry, water about ½ inch the day before treatment to encourage grubs to move closer to the soil surface. Liquid or granular formulations are available for white grub management with active ingredients such as bifenthrin, carbaryl, imidacloprid, clothianidin or halofenozide. Do not apply pesticide treatments if rainfall is expected and sweep up any spilled material from driveways, sidewalks or streets. Always read and follow all label instructions and application rates.

— Wizzie Brown

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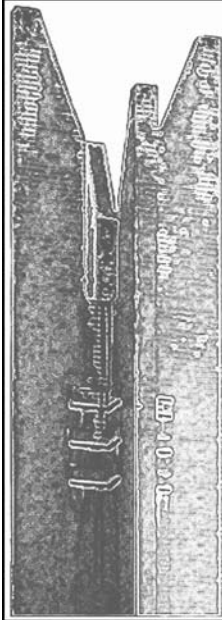
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Wednesday
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Hyde Park Poets —

Still Life with Grocery Store and Tree

I'm haunted by the view of the parking lot
of the grocery store across the street.
As night falls and the store closes,
the lights on the side of the building come on
and I watch from my front window
this empty square with its desolate glow,
thinking that I should paint it,
Instead, I search for words to convey
that stillness, the way the light
triangulates down the side of the building
to puddle and spread across the black surface.
A tree stands silhouetted at the edge of the street,
its spreading branches lopped off by the darkness,
Even with cars passing,
there's a soundlessness about the scene
that draws me forward, listening intently
as though the silence might at last be broken.

— Albert Huffstickler
Jan 23, 1988



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The Unfolding

Petals of a flower barely reveal the secret within
Patience, patience, or you will never see me,
And what is it you are seeking?
What do you hope to find,
The seed, inside out, life revealed,

When the petals finally open, they fall,
The pistil and the stamen, naked, they soon wilt,
No secrets lie within, only a promise and
That is what we all seek, the promise
Of a new beginning,

Annealing, healing, unfolding metal,
Making me think of flowers (though I do not know why)
Tortured copper, will, unfolding,
Hand us over some new promise
By revealing scars of mystery,

What scars have my secrets imposed upon my being?
Will they make me beautiful, like my heated, beaten
Copper heart/soul sculpture
On a Saturday, on a February afternoon?

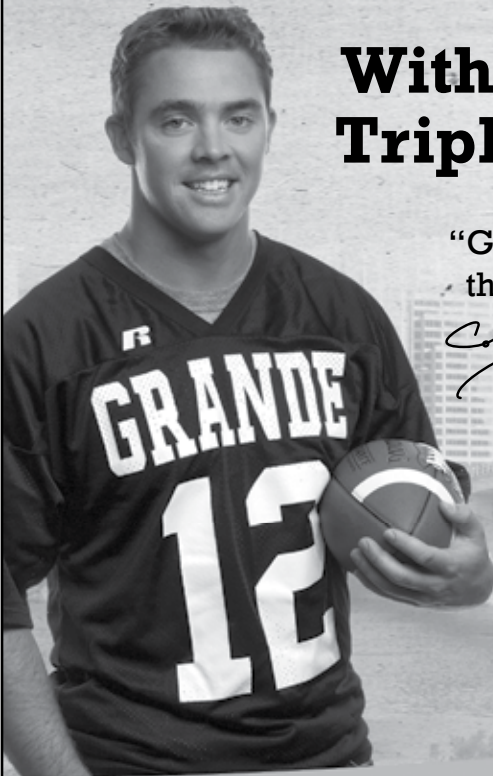
— Herzele
2/24/07

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