

# June Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, June 6, 2011

**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 June 6<sup>th</sup>

- ❖ Colin Rowan of the Pecan Street Project will speak about their smart grid research, testing next-generation energy systems in Central Austin.
- ❖ Homes Tour update, call for volunteers
- ❖ Crime and Safety Update
- ❖ Shipe Pool Opening Party Update

## Announcing the 35th Annual Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour

### Father's Day Weekend

Saturday, June 18,  
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, June 19,  
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

#### Starting point:

Trinity United Methodist Church  
4001 Speedway Blvd.

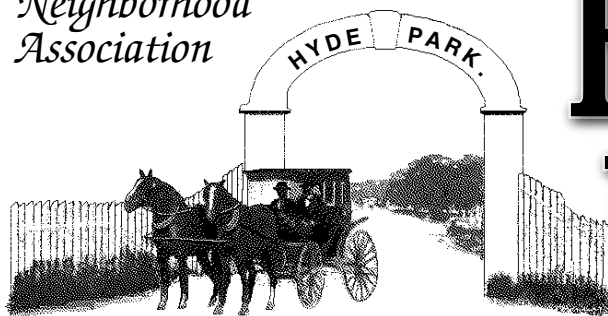
Advance Tickets: \$15  
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<[www.hydeparkhometour.org](http://www.hydeparkhometour.org)>

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The Hyde Park  
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Association



# Pecan Press

June, 2011 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 37, No. 6

## Back to Hometown Austin: Hyde Park



The Cashway Baker and Grocery, now 4001 Duval Saloon is typical of the many small groceries which were scattered throughout Hyde Park in its early days.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour

On Father's Day Weekend, June 18-19, Hyde Park will open its homes and show visitors how many of Austin's most cherished characters and traditions are rooted in the streets and avenues of old Hyde Park. *Back to Hometown Austin: Hyde Park* is the theme of this, the 35th Annual Hyde Park Historic Homes Tour. Austinites ever more frequently mourn the vanishing old Austin way of life. From Arthouse to the Ironworks, Mount Bonnell to Armadillo World Headquarters, this year's tour highlights how the historic fabric of Austin is woven of threads running through these friendly, shaded, walkable streets.

The tour features historic homes and buildings from the neighborhood's founding in the 1890s to the bungalow homes of the 1930s. Educational, recreational, commercial, social and spiritual lives of early Hyde Parkers will be examined through stops at local shops, Shipe Park, churches and the beloved Baker School.

Continued on page 5

# From the President's Desk:

Thanks to Mike Wong and Scott Johnson of Northfield for meeting with interested Hyde Park neighbors to discuss the pending temporary (possibly leading to permanent) closure of Bruning Avenue prior to our May general meeting. We had a lively discussion and found some areas of agreement.

One area of agreement is that it would be best to have clearly agreed measures by which to judge success or failure of the experimental closure before the experiment begins. Martha Ward of Ridgetop indicated to me that some neighbors in Northfield and Ridgetop were going to meet to come up with their recommendations in the near future. Time is short. As far as I know, at this point the closure

is still scheduled to begin in June, but if an HPNA team also comes up with measures there is interest in having a joint meeting of the neighbors from our three neighborhoods who have studied that question to see whether we can agree on how the success or failure of the closure should be assessed. I sent the Bruning resolution we passed at the May general meeting to Gary Schatz, Transportation Director Robert Spillar and Assistant City Manager Robert Goode as well as a copy to Council and the city manager and highlighted that prior to any temporary closure we would like to have clearly agreed measures of what would constitute a success and what would constitute a failure, and that we would like the temporary closure not to begin until the new controller at 51st/ Airport/Clarkson has been installed and optimized. I have not heard back from anyone at the city concerning that resolution. Bob Breeze, HPNA point person on 51st St. and Bruning, has been coordinating some meetings with council members and some other efforts to make sure neighbors are aware of the pending closure and to get the city to change course. You can contact Bob at <bob.breeze@gmail.com>.

I sent the resolution we passed on Baker School to the AISD Trustees, but as many of you have no doubt seen in the news, AISD has begun accepting bids from potential buyers. Also on the subject of Baker School, neighbor Paul Kamprath has noticed that the basketball courts there, despite not

being in very good condition, still get a lot of use. He and Ann Graham have been in contact with AISD facilities personnel to find out whether they would permit replacement of the backboards, hoops and nets and restriping of the courts.

As Crime and Safety Chair Heather Freeman describes elsewhere in this issue, the tire slasher trial is currently scheduled for this month. George Wyche attended the pretrial hearing on May 19th and I received a summary of what happened. The details given here come from that summary. The main prosecutor on the case is Jason English. At an earlier hearing Tommy Kelly, aka Tommy Adams,

**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 15<sup>th</sup> of month preceding publication.

### Editor

Grant Thomas 450-0464 <gthomas@youthlaunch.org>

### Associate Editor

Sarah Sitton 459-4530 207 E. 39th St. csarahs@stedwards.edu

### Poetry Editor

Charlotte Herzele <herzele@gmail.com>

### Crime & Safety Chairman

Heather Freeman <hdozierfreeman@yahoo.com>

### Production Manager/Advertising Director

Robert M. Farr 731-0617 <bobfarr@austin.rr.com>

### Mail Ad Payments to:

Carol Jackson. P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

### Mail Ad Artwork to:

Robert M. Farr <bobfarr@austin.rr.com>

7500 Chelmsford Dr. Austin, TX 78736

### Distribution Coordinator

Rimas Remeza • 4105 Ave. F • 371-3158

<rimasx@yahoo.com>

### Area Coordinators

North of 45th/West of Duval • Pam Dozler .....458-8927

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### Contributors

Glen Alyn, Candy Gray Becker, Cynthia Beeman, Laurence Becker, Deaton Bednar, Mary Collins Blackmon, George Bristol, Chris Brown, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Mark Burkhardt, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Nicole Caspers, Kitty Clark, Betsy Clubine, Elsy Cogswell, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Rob D'Amico, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Don Davis, Pam Dozler, Cathy Echols, Mark Fishman, Fred Florence, Merle Franke, Gregory Free, Nadia Freeman, Larry Freilich, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Barbara Gibson, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Lisa Harris, Anne Hebert, Rachel Hector, Ben Heimstath, Kevin Heyburn, Albert Huffstickler, Cynthia Janis, Liz Jones, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Bo Kersey, Susan Kirk, Dennis Lensing, Jeff Lewis, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Jason Mann, Libby Malone, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Brook Meggs, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Jennie Miller, Susan Moffat, John Paul Moore, Patty Mora, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wren Nokes Willeford, Doron Pedahzur, Wanda Penn, Cecil Pennington, Linda Pennington, Peter Pfeiffer, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter, Kristen De La Rosa, Steve Sadowsky, Mark Sainsbury, Jessica Salinas, Mary Lou Serafine, Jaime Shimkus, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Clay Smith, Niyanta Spelman, Jenna Stephens, Julie Strong, Kathleen Strong, Debbie Trammell, Rollo Treadway, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Emily Visser, Martha Ward, Lorre Weidlich, Adam Wilson, Hanna Wiseman Jacobs, Joe Wiseman, Hermelinda Zamarripa.



## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhdepark.org>

### — HPNA Officers/Steering Committee —

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• Lisa Harris • Ljharrisus@yahoo.com ..... 467-2504

#### Co-Vice Presidents

• Cynthia Majors Lyon • majorslyon@homesinaustin.net

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I.J. Aarons • jjaarons@aol.com •

#### Additional Steering Committee Members: • Wanda Penn • Mark

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#### HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

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Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F. 459-8349

Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, rrobin@wcook.org> 452-1783

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

Development Review • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Finance • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Graffiti Patrol ..... VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Homes Tour • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Membership • Jim & Eileen Genevro, <jgenevro@earthlink.net>401-3803

Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C .....459-2261

Local Historic District • Lorre Weidlich, <lweidlich@mail2sevensense.com> .

Shipe Park • Mark Fishman, <mfishman@gmail.com>.....656-5505

Social • Deaton Bednar, <deatonbednar@grandecom.net>.....

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

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



was found competent to represent himself. Defense attorney Matt Jones has been appointed to assist him. Kelly made a motion requesting documentation on all the cases involving himself. The prosecutor argued that there is victim sensitive information in the reports and a large volume of data. He has been consulting with some of their people on how to go about producing discovery in the interim two weeks off. Judge Kocurek explained the motion was to produce the offense reports for Kelly, the "handle by's" (appears to mean officers involved in contacts with Kelly) including the number of offenses, the year and how many arrests occurred in each year. She

said to produce this by the next setting, June 1st at 9 AM, Judge Kocurek would only allow reports for those offenses that Kelley is currently charged with. Travis County victim counselor Diane Spears said afterwards that in producing the documents, all address and contact information would be redacted but the names and genders of complainants would not be.

Finally, there are a couple events coming up in Hyde Park this month. The Shipe Park Committee will host a Pool Opening Committee soon. I don't have a definite date yet, but the pool opens on June 7th. And the Homes Tour will occur on Father's Day

weekend. A big thanks to our friends at Trinity United Methodist Church for partnering with us on the tour this year. We could still use more volunteers. Please contact John Williams at <jawilli@grandecom.net> if you can help.

– Lisa Harris  
 HPNA President  
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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment	2010-11 Membership	HPNA Membership Info
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**— We Welcome Your Submissions to Pecan Press —**

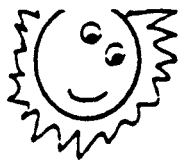
Send in your articles, letters, and photos (but not your poetry\*) by the 15th of each month to:

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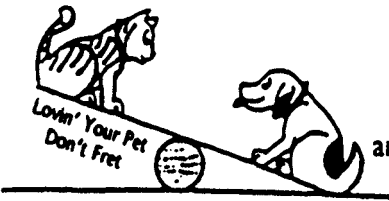
\*Send your poems to:

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## 35th Annual Homes Tour ... ...cont'd from page 1

The properties on the tour include:

- The Duett-Cummings House, 4009 Avenue A
- The John & Myrtle Carleston House, 4007 Avenue B
- The Philips-Frazier House, 4104 Avenue B
- The Olson-Foster House, 3808 Avenue G
- The Proctor-Evans-Otting House, 4200 Duval Street
- Cashway Bakery and Grocery, 4001 Duval Street
- The Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway
- The Baker School, 3900 Avenue B

The home base and first stop on the tour is Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, which has previously been home to the 100-year-old Hyde Park United Methodist Church congregation and its predecessor Shettles Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, originally founded in 1915. An even earlier congregation, Avenue D Methodist Episcopal was located at what is now a home on Avenue D. Current Trinity members are enthusiastically partnering with the Hyde Park Neighborhood to organize and operate the tour. More volunteers are welcome for house and bus docents, as well as for other positions. Contact John Williams at <jawilli@grandecom.net>.



The Duett-Cummings House, said to be the home of the first woman property owner in Travis County.

Air-conditioned buses will leave from Trinity with docents telling neighborhood tales of years past. Tour participants are welcome to stroll all or any part of the tour route, getting on and off the buses as they please.

**Continued on page 6**





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# RUBY'S B.B.Q

## 35th Annual Homes Tour...

...cont'd from page 4



The newly arrived Trinity Methodist congregation at 40th and Speedway, has completed a beautiful renovation and retains the historic stained glass

Supporting sponsors for the event are Suzanne Pringle, Realtor, and Grande Communications.

### Tour dates and times are:

**Saturday, June 18, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Sunday, June 19, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

Tickets will be available on the day of tour at the ticket desk in Trinity United Methodist Church. Saturday is Family Day with tickets discounted to \$15. Sunday tickets are \$18. Advance tickets, good for either day, are \$15, available for purchase from May 15 through June 17 at <[www.hydeparkhomestour.org](http://www.hydeparkhomestour.org)>.

A first for the tour this year will be engaging, professionally supervised, secular (not religious) children's activities provided by Trinity United Methodist Church for \$5 per child for infants through elementary age children while their families enjoy the tour. For more information contact Amy Duncan at 459-5835. Children are also welcome on the tour.

More information about the tour is available at <<http://hydeparkhomestour.org>>.

— Catherine Moore



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# Crime & Safety



by Heather Dozier Freeman

## Silent Witnesses for the Prosecution

We've come a long way. Charges have been leveled against the "Tire Slasher." A trial date has been set. Community leaders have heard us and responded. Still, the outcome of the trial is uncertain. The judge and jury should know the full scope of what we have witnessed in the community, not just what we have endured on a personal level. Your statements could mean the difference between minimum and maximum sentencing.

The prosecutors must establish the pattern of the "Tire Slasher's" past criminal activity by multiple witness accounts, and how this differed from other incidents of vandalism, ruling out other causes of damage. What did you see? Where? When? How many? Was the damage sporadic or clustered in any way? How often did the damage occur? Did you see the defendant uncharacteristically lingering in the area around the suspected time of the punctures? Did you actually witness the crime taking place? Do you have photographic or other evidence of the damage? Any and all of this is useful. Many of you have come to me with information over the last year, but I urgently need you to take the initiative and contact the prosecutor directly. It is estimated that as few as one out of ten of the occurrences were ever reported.

I know many of you were told that these circumstantial observations were inadmissible, useless and inconsequential. That is simply not the case, according to the prosecution team. It is exactly this kind of information which will help define the scope and pattern of the crimes for the jury and judge, so that they may make a truly informed decision. If they should find Tommy Joe Kelley Adams guilty of the crimes for which he has been charged, the severity of the punishment rendered may well be based upon your accounts. The future of this case now rests with many silent, jaded or distracted witnesses. We may only have this one chance to come forward.

Please send your statements to prosecutor <kathryn.scales@co.travis.tx.us> with your contact information.

— Heather Dozier Freeman  
Chair, Crime and Safety Committee

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# HPNA General Meeting Minutes for May 2011

Dissatisfaction and unhappiness with governmental entities were the hallmarks of the May HPNA general meeting, with the city, the county, and school district each garnering their share.

President Lisa Harris called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The meeting began with a presentation on **traffic issues in the 51st Street and Bruning Avenue areas** by Gary Schatz, chief transportation engineer for the City of Austin, accompanied by Deepti Desai and Ali Mozbari, staff engineers. Mr. Schatz began by apologizing for having created a climate of suspicion around the proposed temporary closure of Bruning Avenue, which he attributed to an ill-considered sentence in a PowerPoint presentation that implied the Northfield planning team had obtained a "back door deal" with the City to close Bruning without the opportunity for public input and comment. This statement appeared not to reassure the more than twenty neighbors present, as the questions and remarks continued to evince a distrustful atmosphere.

Mr. Schatz first took up the issue of the 51st Street and Clarkson Avenue intersection with Airport Boulevard and the Cap Metro Red Line. He said the new signals at the 51st and Duval intersection have put additional load on the 51st/Clarkson and 51st/Airport signals. The new traffic controller's software scheduled for installation at Clarkson is not yet at a standard of reliability the City feels comfortable in rolling out, so Clarkson continues to operate with older controller hardware and software while the newer controller is tested at another almost identical intersection.

In response to another question about why the 51st/Duval signals were installed with what appeared to be precipitance, Mr. Schatz said that safety and operational issues came together in such a way that precluded taking time for extensive outreach to the community before installing the signals. A related question concerning the reasons for picking a particular year's crash data to qualify the intersection for signalization went largely unanswered.

Moving to **the issue of closing Bruning**, Mr. Schatz said the temporary closure is to get a long enough sample to have valid before/after data to study, but once the speed and volume counts are done, the City will have discussions about action going forward to which Northfield, Ridgetop, and HPNA will be invited. The question of why the closure was being undertaken during the summer school break, which traffic will be at its lightest, drew the response that it was done in order to place the least additional stress on Ridgetop parents. Mr. Schatz did

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not explain how this was also supposed to provide an accurate measure of school-term traffic. He did express the belief that closing Bruning could relieve stress on the Clarkson intersection by shortening the light cycle time at Duval, as well as reducing a difficult five-way intersection to a conventional four-way one. He ended by acknowledging that closure might not turn out to be the best permanent solution, but that studying it to death would be no solution at all; better to try something and find out what happens.

Following the presentation, the president distributed copies of **three draft resolution opposing the closure of Bruning, opposing the proposed sale of the Baker School property by AISD, and opposing the abolition of historic property tax abatements.** A motion was passed to limit debate to ten minutes for each resolution.

An amendment to the **Bruning resolution** was moved by Ashley Schweikart and seconded by John Paul Moore to change the Bruning resolution to "oppose the immediate temporary closure" of the street. Bob Breeze offered a friendly amendment to add "until the Clarkson Street traffic controller is installed and optimized."

John Paul Moore then called the question as amended, seconded by Debbie Volker. The motion passed 15-0.

Karen McGraw moved adoption of the Baker School resolution, seconded by Wanda Penn. Karen then moved to add stronger language to the **resolution opposing the sale of the school**, seconded by John Paul Moore. The motion to amend passed 17-2. In response to a question about the phrase "civic or office use" in the resolution, the president said the point was not to change the school to the point it could never be used as a school again. Ashley Schweikart moved amended language to make the association's statement about use more specific, seconded by Wanda Penn. The amendment passed 18-0. The main question was then called, and passed 17-1.

John Paul Moore moved adoption of the **historic tax break resolution**, seconded by Wanda Penn. The resolution passed 19-2 without discussion.

David Conner announced the **Homes Tour** house lineup is complete, with five homes and a commercial property, as well as the exterior of Baker School. AISD was unwilling to grant access to the interior for the tour. Tickets will cost \$15 for Saturday, reduced from \$17, and \$18 for Sunday. All houses have captains, and John Williams is captain for recruiting docents.

In crime matters, the defendant in the **tire slashing case** was found to be competent to represent himself at trial, and will be allowed to do so with assistance and advice from a professional lawyer. The trial will be held sometime in June.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

— Sam Waring, HPNA Co-Secretary

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## Weirdness in Hyde Park

Window sashes dangle weightily  
from the edges of the frame.  
Strollers, passing through quiet streets,  
look up in wonder.

The window is no fixture  
in a wall for inside use.  
Hanging below a pecan tree branch,  
it ignores the squirrel's disdain.

Squirrels need no pane to see  
the nuts they gather.  
Blue jays, untrammelled by walls,  
never look to the other side.

This window lives outside  
in somebody's metaphor for wisdom.  
Why close off your vision.  
You are what you see.

Anything less seems a disappointment.  
A window hanging from a tree limb  
tells me that somebody knows on what  
a great space a home can open.


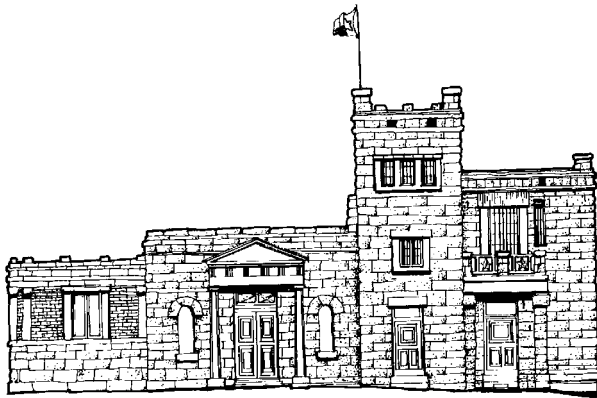
— Elzy Cogswell



photo by Robert Farr



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[info@thelittlevilage.org](mailto:info@thelittlevilage.org) or 512.459.5835, option 3

Whether your camper wants to escape to a paradise island or get messy in wacky science lab, this is the place to be for camp this summer. Choose a week that interests you or have fun at them both!

June 27 – July 1: Paradise Island  
July 5 – 8: Wacky Science Lab

4001 Speedway | Austin, TX 78751 | [www.tumc.org](http://www.tumc.org)

## Choking the Gush

If you live in Oregon or Houston,  
rain seems ordinary.  
In Austin, should we get too much rain  
in June or July, we think  
the earth has wobbled.

Upstream, Highland Lakes tumble down,  
ponderous gods shouting liquid expletives  
to show that mortals don't matter.

Before the dams, the pitiful Colorado,  
a red-sand snake across Texas,  
liked to shove Austin a step back,  
spreading a mile or more from its banks.

Now we thank politicians  
for our constant level LadyBird Lake.

Rarely, as needed, a runaway torrent  
floods past Red Bud Island, cautiously  
paced,  
imparting migraines only to fish.

Floodgates, calibrated to allow  
a reasoned flow, feed megatons of water  
down spillways, discipline the flow.  
I pity places in the world where they  
can't use their politicians.

— Elzy Cogswell

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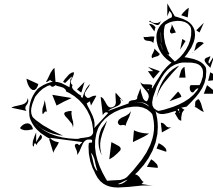
## Angles in Mexico

I lay on the bed  
In the villita (mas grande que una casita)  
In Mexico,  
Half awake,  
Or maybe three quarters,  
Listening to the birds  
And the laughter of my family at play,  
And stared at the angles  
Of the various beams, doorways,  
Mirrors and valences,  
And marveled at the odd confluence


So, one can create depth  
By representing the TRUE way  
These things come together,  
Not in straight, symmetrical lines,  
Not as you would think,  
That is why not everyone is an artist;

It made me think about that guy  
Who paints amazing scenes  
On sidewalks,  
It's his angle.

— Herzele  
1/09/11



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# Hyde Park Poets —

## Less Than Zero

Less than zero  
Is a song that Elton John wrote,  
Sub-zero  
Is the name of a refrigerator  
Minus one- one less  
The song was about how he felt,  
I guess  
Who knows what he was thinking  
Or feeling?  
I just like the song

More than zero  
I could say, today,  
Less than one hundred, but  
Above ground  
Way more than zero

“More than zero”  
Does not have the same impact  
Or appeal  
We resonate more with pain  
Less with joy

There is something more profound  
About sorrow, than joy  
That would make you listen  
To Less than, rather than  
More than Zero.

— Herzele  
10/24/10 (just past  
midnight)



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Sam is a Hyde Park enthusiast and has been living and investing in Hyde Park since 1995.

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## Memories

At a gathering,  
I see old friends, and new,  
I tell a story  
From the old, "fun" days,  
Forty years ago;  
"That should be a movie,"  
One of them says,  
So it should,  
Let the movies continue.

Memories decay  
Not only that, but,  
We remember the same events,  
Differently from one another,  
Between the different and the decay.

What remains of an actual event,  
Between the differences and the decay,  
I can remember whatever I like and  
Hang onto the feelings  
I think I had.

— *Herzele*  
10/21/2010  
for *Jaclyn Pryor*

## Refraction

"Tell all the truth, but tell it slant"  
*Emily Dickinson*

From any angle crystal leans  
no matter how it's held,  
and so does light the crystal gleams,  
its shafts and beams impelled.

It seems one cannot be upright  
with logical right angles,  
if one would catch and bend the light  
that's dropping off of angels.

So gather all the light you may,  
and do not say you can't,  
and shine it round you on your way  
by going on a slant.

— *Barry Brummett*  
4/24/11



**Valerie Mansbendel House**  
3820 Avenue F

**New Price!** Last year's Hyde Park Homes Tour featured the home of renowned Swiss Woodcarver Peter Mansbendel, on the corner of Avenue F and 39th Street. That same craftsmanship is evident in this house Mansbendel built next door in 1934 as a wedding present for his daughter Valerie and her husband William T. Williams.

The bride's grandparents, Adele and Monroe Shipe, lived a block away at Avenue G and 39th Street. Shipe had developed Hyde Park in 1891 as the first planned development in Austin and he named this particular area "Shadow Lawn," as marked by still-present concrete benches.

The interior of the home is enhanced by Peter Mansbendel's design and carvings. The beamed living room ceiling rises fifteen feet high and the dining room beams are carved and painted in floral designs. The original wood floors are well-preserved.

Perhaps the most unique features of the home are the portraits of Valerie and Bill that Mansbendel carved into the stone façade.

The house is for sale for the first time outside the family. It has three bedrooms, two baths, formal living and dining rooms and a family room. It needs some updating and repairs, but the Hyde Park Historic District benefit includes eligibility for a property tax freeze for seven years at the pre-rehab value.

**The property is now priced at \$449,000.**



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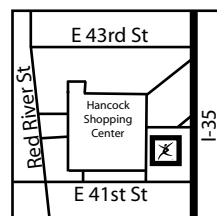
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I reject your razzle dazzle flash of wing,  
your helpless swoop in wind and color,  
your rolling unsystematic flight  
through invisible airy paths.

You consumed my childhood eyes.  
Now you make yourself commonplace.  
I see your flimflammy  
too much to fall in love again.

Mature comprehension  
sails forth on sturdier currents.  
Your slapstick insult to realism  
can't commandeer my consciousness.

Oh but now, you break free.  
Your spiraling gauze entangles.  
In spite of graphs where I try to chart  
your tumultuous flight plan,  
you flabbergast over and over again.

— Elzy Cogswell

## Shipe Park

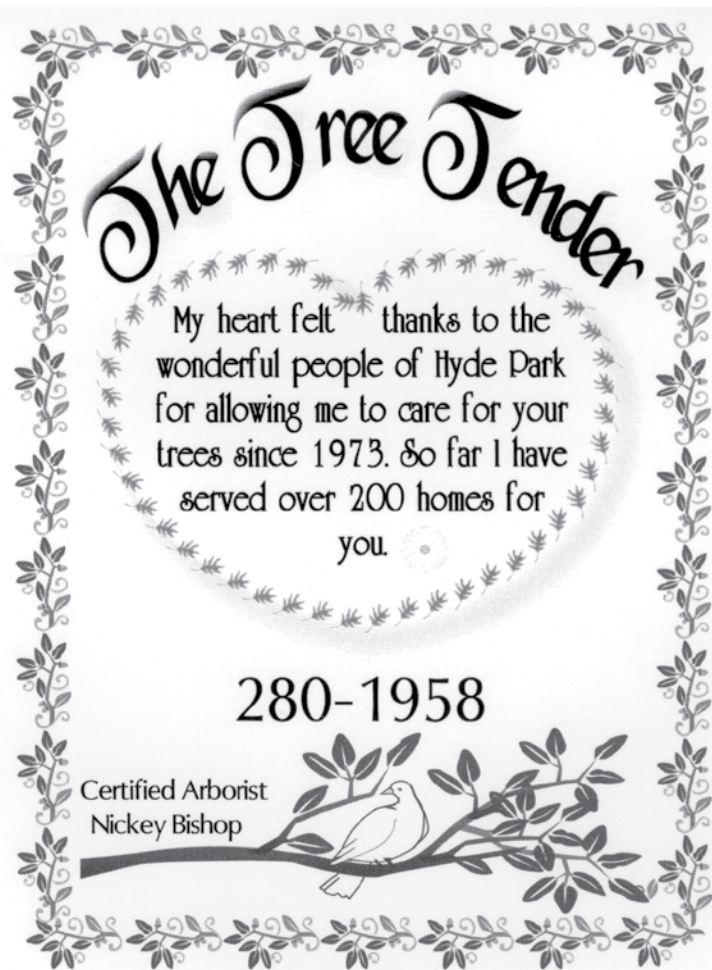
It guards a block of real estate,  
prime land in the Hyde Park market.  
Families from the neighborhood  
own it by caring for it.

I delight more in one part  
found in every park.  
I mean of course the swings.  
They're here for children's sake,

and kids do come. Kids learn to fly.  
They learn to pump this toy.  
They learn to arc into the sky,  
reprise my childhood joy.

This curving motion back and forth  
calculates momentum's sum, transports nowhere,  
changes nothing. There's no hurry  
about the one you will become.

— Elzy Cogswell




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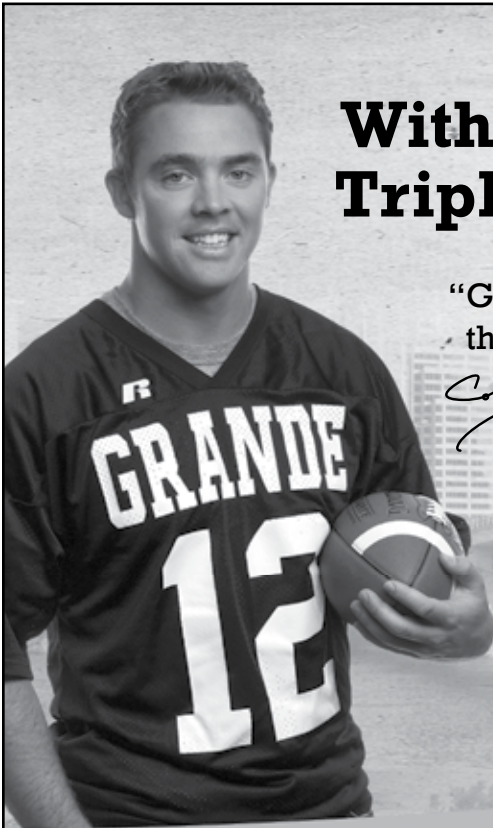
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Listed at \$698,000



## 505 East 39th St.

1922 bungalow on 1/4 acre lot in heart of Hyde Park. 3BR, 2BA including separate downstairs flex space. Meticulous restoration with long leaf pine floors, high ceilings, French doors.

Listed at \$459,000



## 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.

Listed at \$374,000



## 4709 Duval St.

Storybook cottage with white picket fence. 2BR, 1BA, formal living & dining. Large fenced yard, deck, carport. All appliances convey. Ideal home for first time buyers.

Listed at \$285,000



## 5001 Rowena Ave.

Adorable home on corner lot in North Hyde Park shaded by tall palm tree. 3BR, 2BA, open living & dining. Hardwoods, updated kitchen, covered back porch, deck, 2-car carport.

Listed at \$295,000



## 108 West 33rd St.

The Speer House, Historic Landmark in Aldridge Place. Majestic 1925 Spanish Colonial Revival home on large lot with pool, gardens and guest house. 4BR, 3.5BA, 3LIV, 2DIN.

Listed at \$1,199,000



## 122 Laurel Lane

Eclectic 1932 Mission-style home completely updated by Dunaway Architects. Open floor plan with 3BR, 2BA, 2LIV. Hardwoods, gas fireplace, center-island kitchen with walk-in pantry.

Listed at \$495,000



## 3312 Duval St.

The Finch House, Historic Landmark in the North University neighborhood. Stately 1928 Colonial Revival home on oversized corner lot. 4BR, 4.5BA, 4LIV, 2DIN plus separate guest house.

Listed at \$1,199,000

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