

March Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 5, 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 March 5th

- ❖ **Upper Airport Blvd Initiative**
 - presentation by Jorge Rousselin, City of Austin Planning & Review Department

See You There!

It's My Park Day at Shipe Park

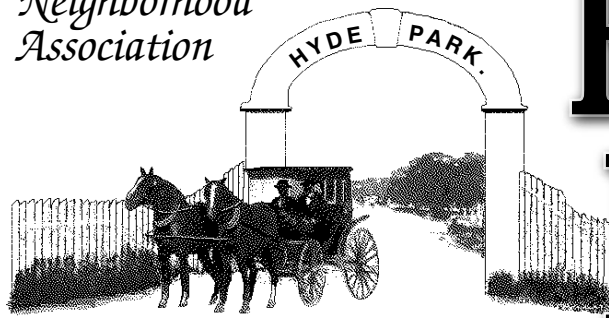
Hi Folks - By the time you are reading this in *Pecan Press* you will hopefully have signed up to volunteer on **Shipe Park Day**, this **March 3rd** from **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** at **<www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html>**.

Please come on down and participate in this 5th annual event of the Austin Parks Foundation, "It's My Park Day" at Shipe Park. Go online to register and claim your free t-shirts. Snacks and Live Music will be provided at the event and plenty of activities will be available to improve our beloved Park. We also expect to present the installation of the next section of the Shipe Park Mosaic Wall Project, which is located adjacent to the large swimming pool.

Thanks and hope to see you there.

- *Mark L Fishman*
Chairman, HPNA
Shipe Park Committee

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

March, 2012 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 38, No. 3

Upper Airport Boulevard Initiative

I am the HPNA representative to the Citizens Advisory Group for the Upper Airport Boulevard. The assessment of current conditions along Airport Boulevard began in Spring 2010. City planners are now offering to the public suggestions for changes. Below is an edited version of frequently asked questions about the initiative and the answers provided by the Austin City Planning & Development Review Department.

1. Why the attention on Upper Airport Boulevard?

Changes are already underway along the Boulevard. The new MetroRail Line is operational along the Boulevard. Highland Mall is under new ownership and Austin Community College (ACC) is planning upgrades to some of the former anchor stores to accommodate college uses. Long-range plans envision how the mall parking lots can be redeveloped into a walkable, mixed-use district. Travis County's North Campus facility has a master plan for more services and become a major employment center. Many other properties along the corridor are likely to redevelop over the next twenty years.

2. What is the Upper Airport Boulevard Initiative?

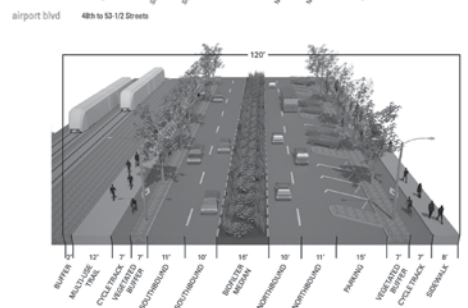
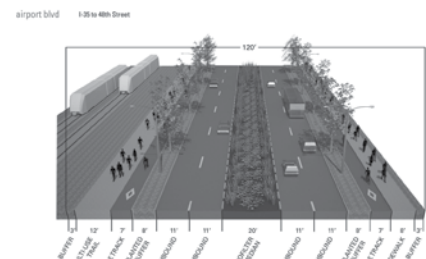
Given that changes are coming to the Boulevard, the Upper Airport Boulevard Initiative focuses on the following questions:

- What kind of redevelopment do we want to see?
- How might the redevelopment unfold to make Upper Airport

Boulevard more attractive, vibrant, and walkable?

- How could the future Boulevard provide a wider mix of uses, more transportation options, and greater amenities to those living, working, shopping, learning, and traveling along the corridor?
- How might redevelopment along the Boulevard be a good neighbor?

Continued on page 6



From the President's Desk:

Rhonda and Philip Baird and the Friends of Shipe Park have organized another great **It's My Park Day at Shipe Park** for this year. It is on Saturday March 3rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., so if you are reading this on Saturday morning or early afternoon please come out and join us at the park!

Thanks to new chair Elise Krentzel for agreeing to revive the children's committee and organize children's activities! At the game nights that HPNA is having every other month Elise will oversee the children's games.

I am sorry to report that Heather Freeman has stepped down as crime and safety chair because of the demands of her work. We greatly appreciate Heather's service, and in particu-

lar her tireless efforts to get the tire slasher prosecuted and convicted.

I am happy to report that Tommy Joe Kelly struck a plea bargain with prosecutors for the remaining charges against him for the repeated tire damage. As part of the plea bargain he will serve five years concurrently with the ten years to which the jury sentenced him this fall. The Travis County District Attorney's Office has done a great deal of much-appreciated work on this case. At George Wyche's suggestion we will have a thank you card for the prosecutors at the sign-in table at the March general meeting. Please come and sign it.

In February the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan growth concept map was revised to remove the corridor designations from the stretches of 38th and 51st near us. The problematic term "mixed use corridor" is being dropped from the plan. I do not yet have information on the new term that will replace it. According to Matthew Dugan an adoption draft of the Imagine Austin Plan will be released sometime in March. The comprehensive plan committee of Planning Commission has finished its work on the plan but the Citizens Advisory Task Force continues to work on the plan and the full Planning Commission is scheduled to review the adoption draft of the plan at three meetings starting February 28th. Planning Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall; their calendar, agendas and minutes are available here: <http://austintexas.gov/content/planning-commission>

Several board members and volunteers with Helping Hand Home for Children came to our February steering committee meet-

ing to share their concerns about pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Helping Hand Home and the UT charter school. The children Helping Hand serves must cross Avenue B numerous times in a day and that can be a dangerous crossing. They are interested in working with us to improve traffic safety. They invited the officers and steering committee members to tour the home and several of us are scheduled to do so on February 28th.

Continued on following page

Pecan Press

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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhdepark.org>

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

• Kevin Heyburn • Michael Nill

HPNA Committee/Task Forces (w/chairs)

AISSD • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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

Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. Ellen Williams, <canc_rep@yahoo.com>

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

Children's Programs • Elise Krentzel

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

Communications/Web • Robin Silberberg, <robin@wcook.org> 452-1783

Crime & Safety • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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Finance • David Conner <daypaycon@yahoo.com>

Graffiti Patrol • Pete Gilcrease <pgilcrease@gmail.com> ...817-313-3896

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

• Lorre Weidlich <lweidlich@mail2sevensas.com>

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Local Historic District • inactive

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

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

Transportation • VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Tree Preservation • JP Moore, <johnpaulmoore@austin.rr.com> 789-7025

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

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

HPNA Steering Committee

Committee

Mark Fishman (2010-2012)

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

Eric Stumberg (2010-2012)

John Paul Moore (2010-2012)

Michael Nill (2011-2013)

Kevin Heyburn (2011-2013)

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



Ney Improvements for 2012

Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep is coming up. The cleanups will be held Saturday April 14th. There are numerous cleanups throughout the city. Participants get wristbands that serve as tickets to the volunteer appreciation party at Fiesta Gardens later in the day. You can register to lead a cleanup or sign up to participate in one of the cleanups that have already been registered at <www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/CleanSweep>

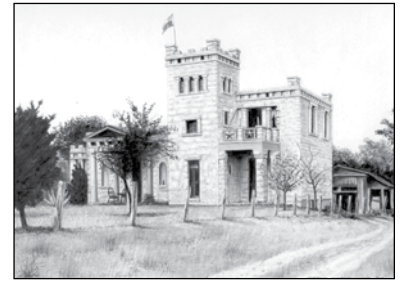
Hyde Park graffiti patrol is doing a graffiti cleanup for Clean Sweep; please contact us if you want to participate.

Jim and Eileen Geneviro have asked us to recruit a new membership chair. We would also like to appoint a new crime and safety chair soon. If you would be interested in serving as chair for either of those committees please let me know.

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



The Elisabet Ney Museum will be undergoing some important improvements beginning in 2012. City foresters continue to assist the museum with the care of trees on the property on both sides of Waller Creek in accordance with the Comprehensive Restoration Master Plan for the museum. To assure public safety on the property, removal of confirmed dead trees that constitute some risk will proceed during the winter months. It is the recommendation of the PARD Forestry Program to remove the Pecan tree at the corner of the stone wall at the intersection of 44th Street and Avenue H due to health and safety concerns for the public and to remove the Black Locust tree behind the Ney building due to the invasive nature of its seed distribution and root sprouts. Interested Hyde Park neighbors were invited to meet with City staff at the Museum to find out more in January.



The first planning meeting on the roof replacement project took place in February to assess the current condition of the roofs and infrastructure, review existing documentation, and make preliminary recommendations. The preliminary plans address replacement of the existing roof and scupper drainage system. This project will require existing HVAC systems currently on the roof to be temporarily moved and returned to the current locations. The gutters and downspouts will be replaced as needed and wood rot areas repaired.

The design development phase is currently underway with Wiss, Janney & Elstner engineering firm, with the bidding process scheduled for spring, and the construction start expected to begin in fall 2012. Protection of the art collection is being coordinated with the Harry Ransom Center. The City continues to work very closely with the Texas Historical Commission on the development of the roof replacement plans to address the many historical preservation considerations encountered when working on such a beloved historic structure.

Periodic updates as the roof replacement project progresses and more information becomes available will be posted on the Hyde Park neighborhood listserv. For more information contact Project Manager, Robin Camp at 974-7830 or <robin.camp@austintexas.gov>.

| 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> |



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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Note: The Pecan Press will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.



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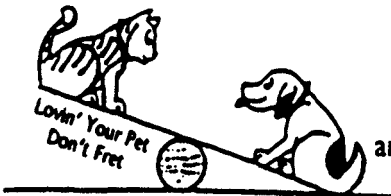
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Curator of the Elisabet Ney Museum Honored by Friends and Neighbors

On February 20th, friends and neighbors gathered to honor and celebrate Mary Collins Blackmon, the curator of the Elisabet Ney Museum since 1990. After 22 years of service to the Ney and to the City of Austin, Ms. Blackmon is relocating to her family homestead in Alabama and will be pursuing new projects in line with her exceptional gifts as curator of the internationally recognized Elisabet Ney Museum.

A certificate was presented to her on behalf of her supporters and a copy will be preserved at the Austin History Center in commemoration of her years of dedicated service. We also extend a special thank you to her mother, Charlotte Blackmon, who brought a gracious presence to many Ney Museum events.

In Honor of Mary Collins Blackmon

Your many friends in Austin share a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation for your enduring and heartfelt efforts to illuminate the life and legacy of world-renowned sculptress Elisabet Ney. Your devotion to Miss Ney, her home and studio at Formosa, in Hyde Park, far surpassed professional standards of historic preservation and museum interpretation. Indeed, your tireless dedication has enriched the lives of countless visitors to "The Ney." On behalf of all who have passed through the portals of Formosa during your 22-year stewardship, we thank you for your artistic hand, your unfailing kindness, and your steadfast convictions on behalf of this priceless jewel and its mission.

*Your devoted friends and supporters,
February 20, 2012*

We wish her the very best in her new endeavors and will miss her fine work and presence in Hyde Park.

— Ann S. Graham,
Karen McGraw



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RUBY'S B.B.Q

Upper Airport Boulevard...

...cont'd from page 1

3. Where is the Upper Airport Boulevard Initiative focused?

- The Upper Airport Boulevard Initiative is focused on the section of the corridor between Lamar Boulevard and IH-35. This Initiative considers both the public improvements on the boulevard (mobility recommendations) and the potential redevelopment of private properties adjacent to the boulevard.
- The Initiative is integrated with the Airport Boulevard Mobility Study, which encompasses the entire length of Airport Boulevard from Lamar Boulevard to US Highway 183 and recommends short-and-long term improvements to the public infrastructure (utilities, roadways, sidewalks, bike tracks, streetscapes, landscaping).

4. How was the Upper Airport Boulevard initiated?

The City Council chose in 2010 to focus on this section of Airport Boulevard, recognizing the vast changes already underway and the opportunity to work synergistically with the reinvention of the Highland Mall site and the Travis County North Campus and the proximity of the Red Line along this section of the boulevard.

5. Will properties be taken to achieve this plan (will there be eminent domain)?

No properties will be taken for redevelopment. All redevelopment will be driven entirely by private property owners based on real-estate market demand.

- The Upper Airport Boulevard Initiative has created Illustrative Vision Maps that imagine how properties could be redeveloped over the course of the next twenty-five years in a manner that would support a more consistent public realm and vibrant built environment. The Illustrative Vision Maps show, for instance, how properties could align to form a more attractive pedestrian streetscape. The imagined redeveloped properties on the Illustrative Vision Maps are not targeted for redevelopment, nor would property owners be required to make any changes to their current properties. The Illustrative Vision Maps simply answer the question of how redevelopment along the corridor may unfold so that the total effect of incremental change adds up to a harmonious, vibrant, and attractive corridor.

6. How will the Vision be realized?

The Illustrative Vision Maps are a graphic or visualization tool to help the public understand the ultimate goal for private and public improvements to the corridor. As consensus builds for the concepts depicted in the Illustrative Vision Maps, the vision will be a guide to inform both public investments and private redevelopment.

Continued on following page

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- Private redevelopment will be subject to new regulations in the form of a tool called a Form-Based Code (FBC). Unlike conventional zoning which offers little predictability on how a property might look or relate to its neighboring property and sidewalk, a FBC will provide clear and predictable instructions on how a property should be placed on the site in order to create harmony with its neighbors and a stronger streetscape, how parking should be situated on the site, and how the elements of the building itself (location of entries, for instance) should be arranged to not only serve the users of the building, but to also contribute to an overall sense of place within the neighborhood.
- Property owners will not be required to redevelop their property. The new regulatory system will be in place so that when properties are redeveloped based on market conditions and a significant level of investment on the property, there is clear understanding of how that specific redevelopment will contribute to the overall vision. As property owners invest in redevelopment along the corridor, this new regulatory tool will provide investment security for developers and adjacency predictability to the adjoining neighborhoods.

7. How can I get involved?

Check out <www.AirportBoulevard.com> for further information about the initiative and notices of public workshops, forums, and roundtables. Sign up on the website for email updates. Contact Jorge Rousselin <jorge.rousselin@austintexas.gov> or Alan Holt <alan.holt@austintexas.gov> at the Planning & Development Review Department Urban Design Division.

— Doris Coward



Happening Around Hyde Park

- **Hazardous Waste Collection** - Come properly recycle all of your automotive fluids, cleaning products, fertilizers, paint, pesticides, solvents, light bulbs, and batteries at Shipe Park on the first Saturday of each month. March 3rd at Shipe Park from 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- **It's My Park Day in Shipe Park** - Enjoy some snacks and live music while you and neighbors engage in activities designed to improve your park for everyone. March 3rd from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Register online to claim your free t-shirt at <www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html>

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HPNA General Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2012

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association meeting was called to order by President Lisa Harris at 7:02 p.m. Lisa started with a few announcements, including:

- The need for a new Crime & Safety Chair,
- The APD Commander's Forum is on Tuesday, February 7th,
- The upcoming inaugural HPNA Game Night is on Wednesday, February 8th,
- The public hearing on possible changes to Austin Energy's electric rates is on Thursday, February 9th and
- The candlelight vigil held by Heritage Neighborhood Association is on Saturday, February 10th.

The first item of business was the "Greening" Historic Homes presentation by Michelle Paris.

Michelle owns a 1914 bungalow in Hyde Park and added an 1,100 square foot addition. She spoke about the ability to renovate and rehabilitate historic homes in an energy efficient and environmentally conscious way. Although many people assume that green building activities are inherently more expensive, the average increase in cost is only 3-5% if you plan correctly. However, it's important to consider building systems as integrated, where each item impacts the other. Items to consider when doing a renovation include:

- Foundation: Make sure your bid includes what to do when encountering sensitive natural materials, like tree roots
- Insulation: Use Sprayed Polyurethane Foam, which keeps pests and insects out. Michelle did a 2 zoned HVAC, one for the original home, one for the addition, using Spray Right Foam.
- Waste removal: If you don't have a dumpster on site, you'll be more inclined to recycle and reuse. Michelle utilized River City to recycle old wood.
- Plumbing: Call the City to conduct a water pressure test before calling a plumber or replacing pipes.
- Beams: Can save lumber but maintain structural integrity by placing beams 24 off center, instead of 18 off center
- Air systems: Electronic air cleaners kill 99% of allergens and purify the air.
- Floors: EcoWise has wax products for wooden floors instead of polyurethane which off gases.
- Countertops: Fabricators many times will have remnants to use.
- Roofing: Consider RV factors of reflectivity and absorption. Also the heat island effect can be countered by painting your roof white
- Lighting: Mercury byproducts must be specially recycled. Michelle uses incandescent light bulbs in the

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winter, as they give off heat.

- **Windows:** Dual or triple pane windows are more energy efficient, but more energy is actually lost due to the sealant around the window.
- **Gutters:** There isn't a need for gutters unless you're doing rainwater collection.
- **Doors:** Many old homes do not have well-enforced doorframes.
- **Toilet:** Michele recommends using dual flush Toto toilets.

The second item of business was a **presentation by Kate Smithson of Pecan Street Incorporated on participating in the Smart Grid.** Kate explained how the Department of Energy provided funding for the Smart Grid project, starting with a one year study of 100 homes in the Mueller Development. The "Energy Internet Demonstration" utilizes state of the art technologies, deploying products to track energy use, educate homeowners on how they're consuming energy, and track consumption on a daily basis. Participants in the Demonstration would have an energy tracking device set up in their breaker box and participants would be able to go online and find data about their energy use in 15 second increments. This study is two years long and the only requirements for participants are that you must own your home, have a single family property, and have constant internet connectivity.

There may also be an opportunity to receive an energy efficient appliance, as Whirlpool will be providing fridges and washers and dryers to a subset of homes. Pecan Street is signing up participants now, so Hyde Park neighbors can participate by signing the Participation Agreement and two release forms for the City of Austin to release gas records. A FAQ sheet is also available and any additional questions can be answered by Scott Henson, a Hyde Park resident and employee of Pecan Street.

Lisa ended the meeting by reminding residents that It's My Park Day, hosted by the Parks Foundation, is on March 3rd. Additionally, the curator of the Ney Museum is retiring at the end of February.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

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



Hyde Park has a fascinating history

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by Sarah Sitton and Thad Sitton

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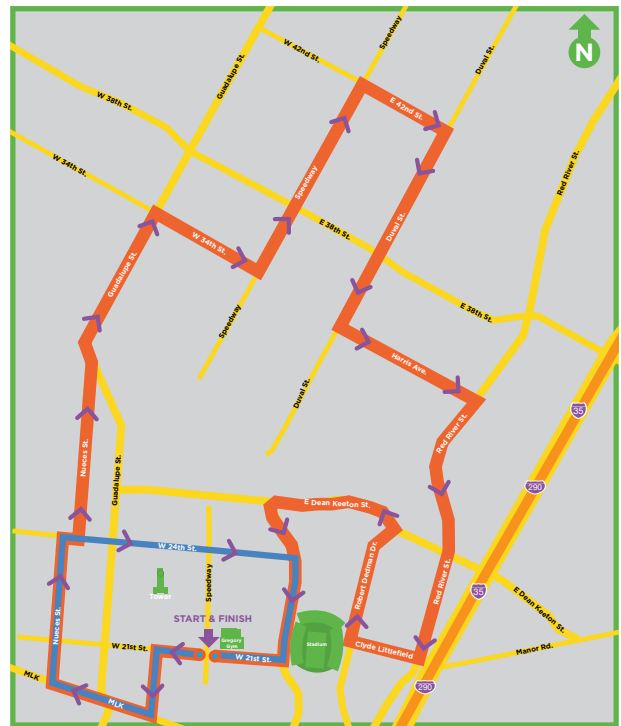


Longhorn Run: Saturday, April 14, 2012

UT Student Government and RecSports are excited to bring the Longhorn Run back to UT and the Austin community. The organizers recognize the impact the race will have on neighbors surrounding campus and are hopeful that race day can be a positive experience for everyone affected by the course.

The race will travel through Hyde Park, beginning on Guadalupe and West 34th Street, going north on Speedway, east on 42nd and south on Duval to Harris Avenue. After heading east on Harris, the course goes south on Red River and back onto campus.

Longhorn Run 2012 April 14, 2012 10K-8am
2 Miler-8:15am



is between miles 2 and 4 of the course. We anticipate the fastest runner will be to West 34th Street at approximately 8:10 a.m. and the slowest runner will turn off of Harris onto Red River at approximately 9:00 a.m.

To make it as convenient as possible for egress/ingress, there will be Austin Police Officers at 38th and Speedway and 38th and Duval. We anticipate the race pack will be thinned out by the time the runners get to Hyde Park and the officers will allow cars through the intersections when there are breaks in the packs.

Race organizers will utilize next month's newsletter and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to distribute more information to residents to ensure everyone feels comfortable with the best ways to enter/exit the area on April 14th.

Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated. To learn more about the race, visit www.utlonghornrun.com.

Contact: Jennifer Speer, UT RecSports, 512.471.3116



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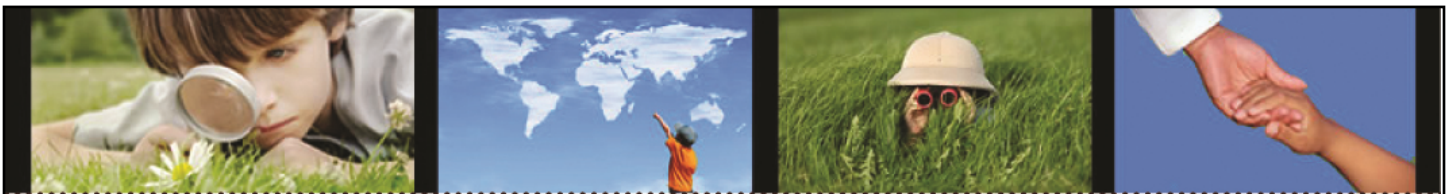
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Mighty Texas Dog Walk Gets Hairy!

This year's Mighty Texas Dog Walk, on Saturday, April 7th at Auditorium Shores is more than walking the most dogs for a third Guinness World Record for Texas. Organizers have added three New Guinness World Record attempts:

- **Biggest Fur Ball (Sponsored by Mud Puppies)**
Your dog's hair can help us bring a new Guinness World Record to Austin! - Brush your dog and help us build the Ball!
- **Most Dogs Sitting Simultaneously - Sponsor this Ring!**
- **Most Dogs Wearing the Same Bandana (provided by Petco!)**

Dog and family friendly sponsors like Petco, Purina and Mud Puppies will be back sharing samples and information for dogs and their best friends. The popular Groovy Dog Bakery's Doggie Cake Walk will be back as will the Canine Center for Training and Behavior's cool Agility Course. Try it out with your pooch.

Proceeds benefit nonprofit Texas Hearing and Service Dogs, now in its 24th year of turning strays into stars that assist disabled Texans. Learn more and register at <www.servicedogs.org>.

<www.twitter.com/txservicedogs>

<www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Hearing-and-Service-Dogs/62699633773>

Gratefully,

- Bobbi Leverich

Texas Hearing and Service Dogs

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Dental Health: Oral First Aid

February was National Children's Dental Health Month, the American Dental Association, and Family Tree Dental Group wants to ensure that kids of all ages are receiving proper oral healthcare.

Are you prepared for a dental emergency?

Thousands of dental emergencies—from injuries to a painful, abscessed tooth—take place every day. Would you know what to do if your child broke a tooth or had a tooth knocked out while playing outdoors? What if you had a bad toothache in the middle of the night and couldn't get to the dentist until the next day? Knowing what to do can lessen the pain and save a tooth that might otherwise be lost.

Keep your dental office phone number and an emergency number where the dentist can be reached after hours with other emergency numbers, such as your family doctor, and fire and police departments. Call the dentist immediately for instructions on how to handle a dental emergency.

Toothache

Rinse the mouth with warm water to clean it out. Gently use dental floss or an interdental cleaner to remove any food or other debris that may be caught between the teeth. Never put aspirin or any other painkiller against the gums near the aching tooth. This could burn gum tissue. If the toothache persists, try to see the dentist. Don't rely on painkillers. They may temporarily relieve pain but your dentist should evaluate the condition.

Knocked-out (avulsed) tooth

Try to find the tooth! This may not be as easy as you think if the injury took place on a playground, basketball court or while skateboarding, so try to stay calm. Hold the tooth by the crown and rinse the root in water if the tooth is dirty. Don't scrub it or remove any attached tissue fragments. If it's possible, gently insert and hold the tooth in its socket while you head to the dentist. If that's not possible, put the tooth in a cup of milk and bring it to the dentist. Time is critical for successful reimplantation, so try to get to your dentist immediately.

Broken tooth

Rinse your mouth with warm water to clean the area. Use cold compresses on the outside of the cheek to help reduce the swelling.

Tongue or lip bites or wounds

Clean the area gently with a clean cloth and apply cold compresses to reduce any swelling. If the bleeding can't be controlled, go to a hospital emergency room or clinic. You may be able to reduce bleeding from the tongue by pulling it forward and using gauze to put pressure on the wound.

Objects caught between teeth

Try to gently remove the object with dental floss. Never use a sharp instrument to remove any object that is stuck between your teeth. If you can't dislodge the object with floss, contact your dentist.

Continued on page 17

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Design with Climate

We are all aware of the importance of conserving energy and natural resources, due to their growing scarcity, rising costs and the potential for permanent environmental harm to our world. Many people are surprised to discover that buildings are responsible for 40% of energy use in the U.S. — more than industry or transportation. That's just for operating buildings; the number jumps to 50% when we count construction. In fact, buildings account for 68% of electricity used, half our greenhouse gas emissions, 40% of our raw materials, and 30% of our waste output — 136 million tons per year. And residences count for over half of building energy expenditures. So what should the home- or small business owner consider when remodeling or building? It turns out that designing with climate can lead to better-performing buildings that are more comfortable and economical to operate, and even beautiful, without necessarily greatly affecting construction costs. This requires a sensitivity to the site and an awareness of building science, but especially calls for a systems approach that takes into consideration the synergies of individual building components, the context of place, and the needs and desires of the owner.

Siting and Orientation

Critical factors — and in a neighborhood some of the most challenging to control — are siting and orientation. In Austin cooling is a significant concern for much of the year. Align the building's longer axis east-west to minimize intense sun exposure; southern exposure is easy to control and most of the time northern exposure is not a problem. If a lot's orientation does not cooperate, strategic landscaping of deciduous trees can provide relief. Carefully consider window and glazed door placement not just for viewing, privacy, and egress, but to reduce or eliminate direct solar gain in hot seasons. South-facing glass can be shaded from the high summer sun with an overhang; the low winter sun can still penetrate into the space and warm it. Shade east and west windows with vertically oriented elements, to block morning and late afternoon sun low in the sky. North glass needs vertical shading from early- and late-day summer sun.

Passive Heating and Cooling

In addition, consider other passive measures to help warm or cool the building. I've already mentioned southern winter sun; such passive heating is more effective if the interior space has thermal mass, by including exposed concrete, stone, or brick in the sun-warmed space. For cooling, given Austin's humidity, ample ventilation is appropriate for much of the year. Situate windows and doors to capture prevailing breezes; thermal chimneys can take advantage of warming air's natural tendency to rise to create vertical ventilation.

Building Envelope

Smaller buildings' energy performance is highly susceptible to the effects of climate. Designing the building

Continued on following page



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envelope— roof, walls, and foundation perimeter— appropriately for their climate is crucial for residences and small commercial buildings. For Austin's climate, light-colored

and/or metal roofs reflect summer heat. Incorporating radiant barriers in the roof design can help performance considerably, but the radiant barrier must have an adjacent airspace to be effective, so don't let the insulation come in direct contact with it.

Recent remodels and construction are better insulated, thanks to advances in materials and more stringent building energy codes. But the location of insulation is important, not just how much you have. For a cooler attic, place insulation on the underside of the slope of the roof, instead of down among the ceiling joists. While this keeps your storage area more comfortable, most importantly your air conditioning ducts won't be in a super-heated attic. And as buildings get tighter and tighter, make sure you consider a dedicated outside air intake for your new HVAC system, preferably with a waste heat-shedding air-to-air heat exchanger.

Conclusion

Designing with climate can add little or nothing to construction costs, as it is primarily concerned with the appropriate configuration and placement of building elements. When additional costs are incurred— better insulation or more efficient heating and cooling equipment— the payback period is short. The end result will be greater comfort, lower operating costs, and even perhaps a more beautiful and satisfying building.

— François Lévy, Architect
<info@francoislevy.com>

Oral First Aid...

...cont'd from page 14

Possible broken jaw

Apply cold compresses to control swelling. Get to the hospital emergency room immediately.

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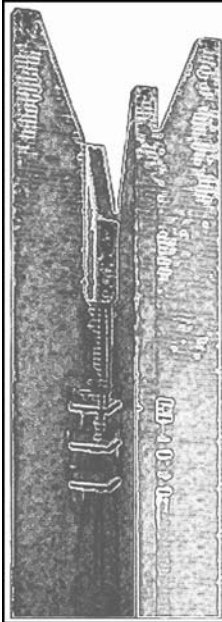


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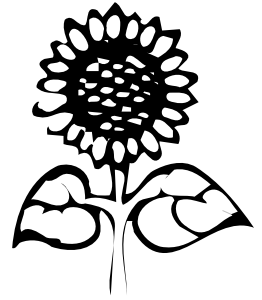
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Morning Service
6:00pm Evening Service

Wednesday

7:00pm Bible Study

Trowel & Error!

On April 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Mayfield Park will once again host Trowel & Error, the Spring event that annually attracts gardeners from all over Central Texas to hear experts give time-tested tips for beautiful gardens. Although lectures begin at 10:00, the event “opens” at 9:30 for those early birds who want to purchase Mayfield’s hard-to-find heirloom bulbs and perennials for their April gardens and to stroll the garden paths in early morning peacefulness.



Sponsored by Friends of the Parks of Austin, Trowel & Error will feature Trisha Shirey, director of flora and fauna, Lake Austin Spa, lecturing on The Organic Arsenal – Pest Control for the Organic Garden, Carolyn Williams, master gardener, talking about her current project, Creating a Hoe-Down Heritage Garden, and Eric Pedley, succulent specialist, showing how Propagating Succulents is Easy and Fun. Not to be missed will be the legendary raffle of “garden goodies”. Everyone goes home a winner! It’s a wonderful way, rain or shine, to spend a morning learning how to add color into your landscape while relaxing among gregarious peafowl, towering palms, flowering trees, and ponds filled with lilies. and for only a \$5.00 donation!

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— Herzele 8/15/07

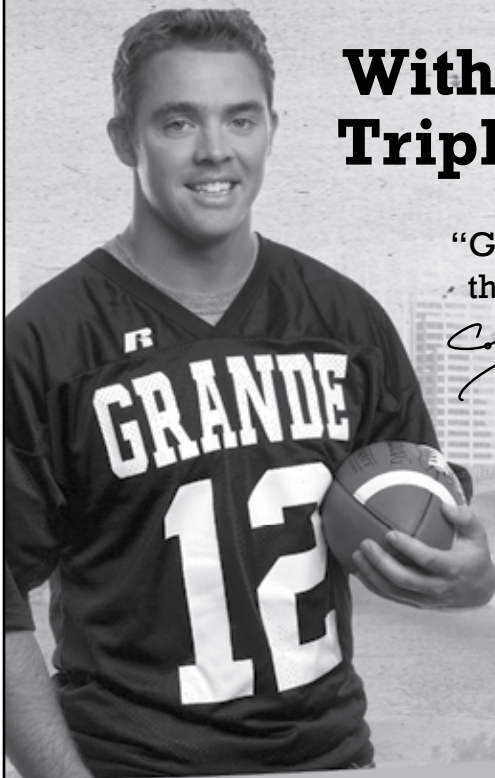
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608 East 41st St.

Artsy & eclectic 1930s home overlooking Hancock Golf Course. 4BR, 3BA, 2LIV & 1DIN plus screened-in porch. Two master suites. Native gardens. Corner lot. 2-car carport.
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503 East 41st Street

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