

September Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 14, 2009

Where: Hyde Park United
Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Who: YOU and your neighbors

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

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for September 14th

- ❖ Austin State Hospital - Erasing Stigma/Changing Minds
- ❖ Hyde Park Local Historic District Update

HPNA Officer Nominees for 2009-2010

The election of officers for the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association to serve a 2009-2010 term will be held at the October 5 membership meeting. The HPNA Nominations Committee is pleased to present the following slate for election.

President: *David Conner*

Co-Vice Presidents: *Lisa Harris*
and *Cynthia Majors Lyon*

Co-Secretaries: *Sally Robey* and *Denise Girard* (returning)

Co-Treasurers: *Carol Jackson* and *I. Jay Aarons*

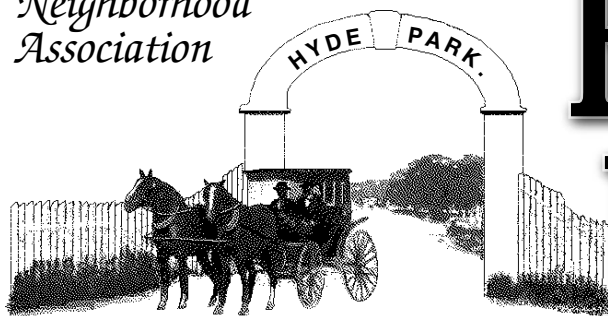
Steering Committee (new 2 year terms): *Wanda Penn, Dorothy Richter* and *Stan Kozinsky*

Steering Committee (continuing 2nd year of term): *John Paul Moore, Mark Fishman, Kent Risovi* and *Paula Rhodes*

We encourage the enthusiastic support of these nominees. With this sort of excellent leadership, we look forward to an exciting and productive year for HPNA!

- *Catherine Moore, Chair, HPNA Nominations Committee (other members of the Committee were David Conner, Alan Marburger, and Grant Thomas)*

*The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association*



Pecan Press

September, 2009 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 35, No. 9

Local Historic District Corner

Writer's note: This column will appear regularly while the Local Historic District project is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about local historic districts that you would like addressed, please get in touch: <lweidich@mail2sevenses.com> or 300-2228.

It's been a significant month for the Hyde Park Local Historic District project. For one thing, our list of supporters continues to grow. For another, Austin City Council made some important changes to the Historic Landmark Ordinances. Finally, we have moved ahead in making our survey data available and changed our proposed district boundaries.

Ordinance Changes. In early August, City Council changed the Historic Landmark Ordinances in ways that greatly benefit our project. Council reduced the required sign-on percentage from 60% to 51%. This brings Austin into line with comparable cities in the rest of the United States. Council also eliminated the requirement for deed and occupancy research. This saves us from immeasurable hours of volunteer effort. We owe thanks to the Heritage Society of Austin for the work they did promoting these changes.

Survey Data. Thanks to the work of our data-entry volunteers, the survey data collected by Preservation Central is now in our online database. I am in the process of checking the records to make sure every record is entered and there are no duplicate records. I am also setting up selections of the data to make it easily viewable by Hyde Parkers. By the time you receive this newsletter, you should be able to look at the record for

your house. After you view your record, if you find errors or disagree with the status of your house (contributing or not), please get in touch with me.

To access your house record, enter <www.hydeparklocalhistoricdistrict.dabbledb.com> . On the left side of the page, there is

Continued on page 3

Save the Date

Come to the Hyde Park Fire Station Festival on Sunday, October 25th, 4:00 to 6:00

p.m. We will celebrate 35

years of a successful partnership - HPNA, our neighborhood and our beloved Fire Station # 9 at Speedway and 43rd Street. The Festival Committee is working towards another great event. More information to come in the Pecan Press and at <www.austinhdepark.org/fsfestival>.



From the President's Desk:

Do Ya Wanna (Rain) Dance?

Hello Neighbors! As everyone knows, we are experiencing a major drought and our trees, plants, and grasses are suffering. So, I thought I would provide some information related to rain dancing.



A rain dance is performed in order to invoke rain. Various interpretations of "rain dances" can be found in many cultures, from ancient Egypt to certain Native American tribes. Rain dances are still performed in the 21st century in many parts of the world. Based on my research, the Cherokee tribe, an ethnic Native American tribe from the Southeastern United States, performed rain dances both to induce precipitation and to cleanse evil spirits from the earth. The legend of the tribe holds that the rain summoned by the tribe contains the spirits of past tribal chiefs. When the rain falls, the tribal chiefs' spirits, in turn, battle evil spirits in the transitional plane between reality and the spirit world.

How To Conduct A Rain Dance

1. Never do a rain dance on a hill.
2. Make sure you have a lot of room so you don't run into anything.
3. Spin around in clockwise circles.
4. Make up your own rain chant. It should be rhythmical and easy to say fast.
5. Yell your rain chant as loudly as you can while spinning around in circles.

I invite everyone in the neighborhood to perform the above dance. I plan to perform a couple of dances under the mighty Post Oak Trees at the Ney Museum. So, if you see people chanting and dancing, don't be alarmed, as it is for a good cause! Happy Dancing!

— David Conner
 HPNA President
 <daypaycon@yahoo.com>



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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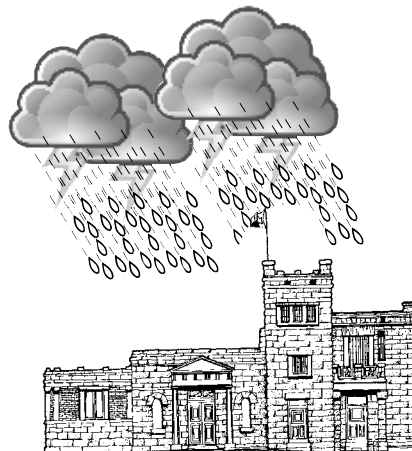
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Contributors

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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 • John Moore • Cynthia Lyons • Wanda Penn • Elaine
 Meenehan • Mark Fishman

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Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C 206-0729
Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G 452-5117

Hyde Park Planning Team Meeting: September 14

The Hyde Park Planning Team announces a meeting on **September 14, from 6:00pm-7:00pm**, in the Fellowship Hall of Hyde Park United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway. The purpose of this meeting is to begin to establish a the "Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan Contact Team". This group is different from the HPNA because it represents not only residents, but also property owners, business owners and civic organizations that are part of the neighborhood. The primary responsibility of the Contact Team will be to address any proposed changes to the adopted Hyde Park Neighborhood Plan. Please come if you are interested in serving on this team. We expect to create bylaws and identify team members in coming weeks. The second meeting will be September 21, 6:00 PM in the HPUMC chapel accessed from the 40th St. side of the church.

For more information you may contact:

Margaret E. Valent,
 Neighborhood Planner II
 Contact Team and Education Coordinator
 (512) 974-2648

– Karen McGraw AIA
 Chairman, Hyde Park Planning Team
 <mcgrawka@earthlink.net>

Local Historic District Corner... ...cont'd from page 1

a list of Hyde Park streets. Click the street on which your house is located. All the data is located in one very wide table, so the only way you can scroll down to locate your house is to scroll all the way to the right first, to reach the side scroll bar. Click Hide this Sidebar to give yourself more room for display.

District Boundary Changes. The Perimeter Committee members met with Terri Myers of Preservation Central in mid-August to reevaluate the original proposed boundaries for the LHD. There were suggestions for changes both from members of the committee and from other Hyde Parkers, and Terri was able to advise us on the density of contributing structures in different parts of the neighborhood. Ultimately, we decided to eliminate several blocks at the north end of Avenue A and Guadalupe (now almost entirely apartments and condominiums) and the Town Park area. As much as we would like to include all our friends and neighbors in Town Park, the entire block is non-contributing and we can't defend its inclusion to the city. By the time you receive this newsletter, an amended map should be available on the AustinHydePark website, thanks to the efforts of Lloyd Cates, the official HP LHD cartographer.

General. The box on my front porch remains available to anyone who would like to deliver a signed Statement of Support. I am still in need of Block Captains; if you can volunteer, please get in touch with me.

– Lorre Weidlich, Hyde Park Local Historic District Chair

| Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Enrollment | | 2008-09 Membership | HPNA Membership Info |
|---|--|--|---|
| Name _____ Phone _____ | | Bring to an HPNA meeting, or send to: HPNA Membership P.O. Box 49427 Austin, Texas 78765 Make checks payable to HPNA. | All memberships expire on September 30th of each year. ❖ Membership in HPNA is open to all residents aged 18 years or older who reside within the boundaries of Hyde Park or within 300 feet of the designated boundaries. ❖ New members, and members who lapse in dues for over six months, are eligible to vote at HPNA meetings 30 days after receipt of dues. |
| Address _____ | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to be notified via email of HPNA meetings and events. Email _____ | | | |
| Dues (per person) <input type="checkbox"/> Standard - \$5/year <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen- \$1/year <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Member Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Date _____ | | | |
| <i>All memberships expire on September 30th of each year.</i> | | | |

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:

Editor, Pecan Press
4106 Avenue F
Austin, TX 78751
<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>

*Send your poems to:

Nancy Taylor Day
4001 Duval
Austin 78751
<poemmom@gmail.com>

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your materials.

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.

Crime Report



by Carol Welder

I hope that you are having a good summer and have been able to get some relief from the heat. There are a couple of dates that I would like to pass on to you: For one, this year's **National Night Out** is scheduled for October 6th. This is a great opportunity for neighbors to host a get together, meet one another and talk about ways in which neighbors can improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. I will be contacting the Neighborhood Watch Block Captains, asking that they help organize events throughout Hyde Park.

Also of note is that the Austin Neighborhood Council is hosting a **Crime and Recidivism Forum on September 23rd** during its General Council meeting. The meeting will be held in the Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Road, from 7-9 pm. The forum panel will include Hyde Park neighbor Hon. Nancy Hohengarten, Judge, Travis County Court at Law #5; David Laibovitz, Assistant District Attorney for Travis County; SPO Troy Schouest, Austin Police Department; Juan-Carlos Otero, Incubator Director of the Austin Social Innovation Hub; Claire Leonhart, Probation Officer, Travis County Adult Probation Department and member of the Policy Reform Committee of the Austin/Travis County Reentry Roundtable; and Constable Bruce Elfant acting as Moderator of the forum. The panel will address questions dealing with crime and safety issues and address the tendency for offenders to relapse into criminal behavior. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important forum.

On a more current note, I wanted to share a great example of how your police department is willing to assist in making our neighborhood a safer place to live. For those of you not on the listserv, I posted a recent concern that was raised by a neighbor living close to Shipe Park. He stated that he had witnessed **transients sleeping in the park**, leaving beer cans and other trash on the grounds, and urinating in public. He asked "What exactly are our rights as taxpaying citizens?" I sent his email to Sara Hensley, Austin's Parks Director, which she immediately forwarded to Sgt. Scott Gunnlaugsson of APD's Park Division. He then forwarded the email to Lt. Chris Malanka, North Bureau Patrol APD. Lt. Malanka acted that day by setting up a nightly schedule of sweeping the area for

Continued on following page



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criminal behavior. The results of the 2-night sweep were three arrests and 6 field release citations. The third night resulted in no violations. The reason for my letting you know of this incident is that calling 911 and issuing complaints can and do get results. We are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood and, as police move on to the next challenge, we must remain vigilant in order to preserve quality of life. Meanwhile, and on behalf of everybody who enjoys and respects our neighborhood park, I would like to thank Sara Hensley and the Austin Police Department for their prompt and effective response to our concerns.

Finally, and as always, remember to keep your doors and windows locked. Someone is out there looking for a crime of opportunity, so let's don't give it to them. Stay safe by staying alert.

— Carol Welder
 Chair, HPNA Crime and Safety
 Committee <cjwelder@msn.com>

Letters Dept.

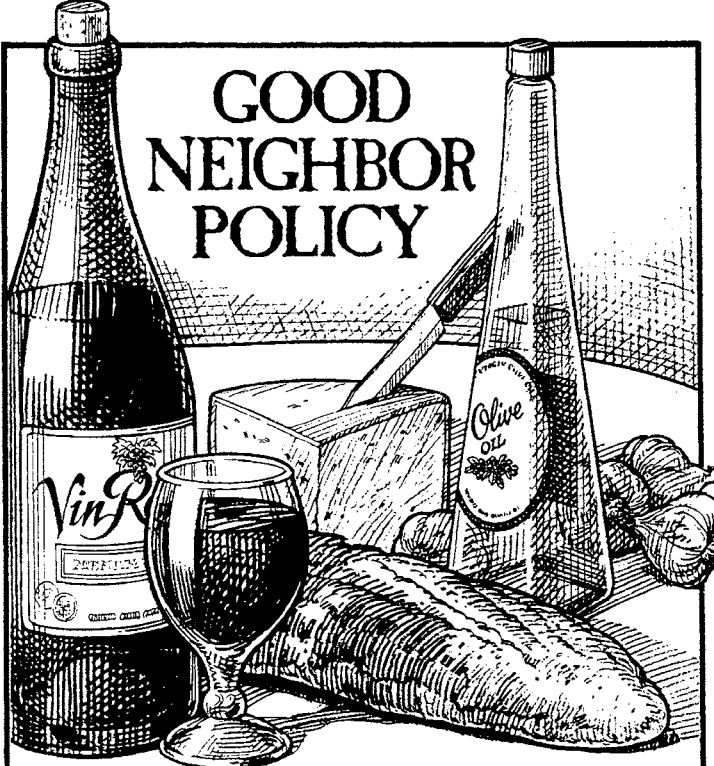
A Chance to Honor Huff: Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove

Dear Hyde Park Neighbors,

Many of you knew well Albert Huffstickler, the “Bard of Hyde Park” and long-time poetry editor of the Pecan Press. Huff passed away on February 25, 2002, but now we have an opportunity to memorialize him as an Austin icon. The city is looking for a name for a small park area — a triangular piece of land with about eight large oaks, with limestone benches beneath — directly across from City Hall in the middle of the intersection of Cesar Chavez and South First Street.

The Austin Poetry Society has nominated for the park the name, Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove, using a website for submitted names, www.cityofaustin.org/parks/namingform.htm. The form there is long, but if you support the idea, you may want to take the time and submit your statement of support. If you don't have more to say, a token sentence in each box will do. Most important is to type in “Albert Huffstickler Poetree Grove” and describe how Huff touched your life. If you knew Huff (of if you love poetry), please support this nomination by submitting this name. If we're successful, this little jewel of a park could become a focal point for all Austin poetry organizations, all the people who come for special events like Austin International Poetry Festival, and perhaps most importantly, for individual poets who just want to sit down and think.

— Elzy Cogswell
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 <poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu>



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HPNA August 2009 Meeting Minutes

The August HPNA meeting was called to order at 7 pm on August 3rd by HPNA President David Conner.

First on the agenda was Sandra Villalaz with the American Cancer Society. Sandra discussed a few of the **volunteer opportunities in Austin with the American Cancer Society**. One position they need help with is for volunteer drivers. Drivers donate 1 hour per month or more, to get patients to cancer treatments and then home again. Training is provided and is quick and easy, and they will need to check out your car to make sure it is reliable. The other volunteer position they need help with is for volunteers to sit and talk with patients who are about to receive cancer treatments. For 3 hour shifts per week, a volunteer would go in to a treatment center and visit with patients to make them feel comfortable and as relaxed as possible before they receive treatments. There is training for this position as well. If you can volunteer, please contact Sandra by email at <sandra.villalaz@cancer.org> or by phone at 512-919-1854.

Next, John Paul Moore introduced Shannon Halley from Tree Folks Inc. Shannon runs the **Neighborhoods Program**, which works with the City of Austin. Their goal is to enhance property values, clean the air, and help with rainstorm runoff by keeping our trees healthy and by planting new trees where needed. Later this fall and winter, a staff member will be walking the Hyde Park neighborhood to look for good locations to plant new trees. If your yard is an acceptable location for a new tree, you will receive a door hanger from the city saying you can qualify for a new tree. From there, you will be able to mail back in the door hanger and the city will deliver you a free tree, most likely in the early part of 2010. You will then dig the hole and plant the tree in the location that the city designated for a new tree. You will also need to water the new tree to make sure it becomes established.

Finally, Robin Camp, Project Manager with the City of Austin Public Works Department, discussed the upcoming restoration project at the **Elisabet Ney Museum**. A federal grant was recently given for renovations and improvements at a select number of our nation's national treasures, and the Ney Museum qualified for a portion of these funds. This project at the Ney Museum will include digging a trench around the museum to install a French drain to help drainage around the building. The project will also include a new ADA ramp at the front of the building, the removal of declining trees and the planting

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"Where Families
Grow Together"

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

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new trees, and changing the walking path from the front gate of the property leading up to the building. Construction is expected to start in mid-August and should last at least 6 months. The contractor for the project will be Barecky Construction Co. For more information, or for questions or concerns, you can contact Ms. Camp at <robin.camp@ci.austin.tx.us> or by phone at 512-974-7830. (See related articles in this issue.)

That concluded the August HPNA meeting. Please remember that due to Labor Day, the September HPNA meeting will be the second Monday of the month on September 14th.

– John A. Williams,
 HPNA Co-Secretary
 <jawilli@grandecom.net>

New Neighbor on Ave. B!

A hearty Hyde Park howdy is altogether due to Ms. Leah Catherine Schaub of 4005 Avenue B, who made her planetary debut on July 29th, weighing in at a robust 9 lbs 3 oz. Co-sponsors of the arrival were LHD Designs Standard Committee stalwart

Kelly Schaub and husband Jeremy, with Big Sis Kirsten in an important supporting role. To the three on B who've made room for the new arrival, Congratulations!; and to our new neighbor Ms. Leah, Welcome to Earth in general, and Hyde Park in particular!



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Constable's



Notebook

September 2009

by Constable Bruce Elfant

Several issues discussed in recent Constable's Notebook columns that impact our community were debated during the last legislative session. This notebook will provide a brief summary of actions taken by the legislature regarding issues that have appeared in this column since the 2007 legislative session.

Cell Phones - Dozens of bills ranging from prohibiting all use of cell phones while driving to prohibiting minors from use while driving were filed but only one bill passed. HB 55 prohibits the use of cell phones in school zones unless a "hands free" device is used. Fines could be as high as \$200.

Handicap Parking - Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act nearly 20 years ago, violations of state handicap parking laws are as high as ever. HB 3095 doubles the first offense fine for illegal parking in handicap parking spaces from \$250 to \$500.

Identity Theft - The theft of driver's licenses and other forms of identification has become increasingly common and frustrating for those who have to get them replaced and clean up their credit record, etc. Theft of a driver's license or personal identification will increase from a Class C Misdemeanor to a Class B. Efforts to increase the penalty to a Class A were unsuccessful.

Graffiti - Current law defines a graffiti offense only as markings made to another person's property with spray paint. HB 1633 expands the graffiti offense to markings made by any type of paint and increases the amount of community service judges may order.

Domestic Violence - HB 1506 authorizes judges to require defendants to wear GPS monitoring devices. HB 2240 establishes the offense of Continuous Family Violence. The occurrence of two domestic violence incidents within a one year period could be charged as a 3rd degree felony. SB 83 authorizes victims of domestic violence to terminate residential leases if the perpetrator is also on the lease.

Veterans - Last year I wrote about the number of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who suffer a wide range of physical and mental impairments. Many veterans for a variety of reasons do

Continued on page 11

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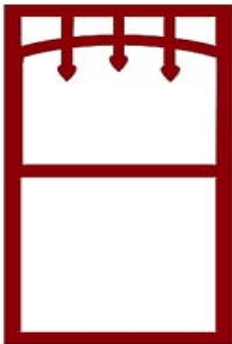
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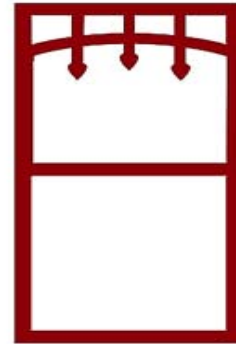
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Leaf Blowers in Autumn: an Attack on Our Character



Everyone talks about preserving the character of older neighborhoods. Besides preserving homes and buildings that look the way they used to in the past, what does “character” mean for a place like Hyde Park? The answer is that character inheres in how we use the place: We stroll the sidewalks, jog and bike the streets, push kids in strollers, work and nap near an open window, rock on the front porch. Listen to birds.

In this context, leaf blowers are an attack on our character. You can't rock on the porch, nap near a window, or jog down the street with a leaf blower blaring anywhere within a block in any direction. The searing noise calls you back inside, windows slam shut, and the a/c has to be cranked on, even if it's cool. Worse than mowers, sirens, and jet-roar, leaf blowers attract your attention, stop your activity and conversation, and wake up nappers. Research indicates they disrupt sleep even if they don't actually awaken you. They violate in spades the noise limits, for healthy outdoor noise, of the World Health Organization. Their decibel levels can reach 95 or above.

What are blower users thinking? Do they think no one else hears the noise? That the noise stops at the curb line? “It's only 10 minutes,” one lawn care company told me. I saw a sign somewhere that said, “No one raindrop feels responsible for the flood.”

And even the electric blowers, every bit as much as the gas-powered models, create airborne particulate matter of the worst, small-micron kind (the kind lungs can't block with coughing or sneezing), plus blast into our lungs the animal droppings, pesticides, herbicides, automobile fluids, and asbestos fibers that can be found in soil, turf, and street dust. Keep your kids and strollers indoors for up to a day or more, if there's been a good blowing nearby. Joggers, stay away. Some experts estimate that blower-generated particulate matter can travel up to 500 miles and remain airborne for weeks. We now avoid even the smallest amount of second-hand smoke in public buildings. Yet leaf blowers defile our own yards, streets, and homes with impunity, pumping five pounds of particulate matter, per hour, into the air,

Continued on following page



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from the stream of air going up to 250 miles an hour. I personally think many "allergies" that are ubiquitous in Austin are caused or worsened by our ubiquitous blower exposure.

Hyde Park residents have had to remain silent in the face of the increasing leaf blower onslaught, even though they want to walk the streets, bike to the post office, and use their front porches. (We include porches in our design guidelines, recall.) But what to do? The offenders are often in unmarked trucks, working for the hard-to-talk-to: certain churches and apartment complexes, and residents who, unknowingly, have commercial lawn services blasting the rest of us while the homeowner is away at work.

The bottom line is that there is a better alternative: Use a broom and a rake and live with a few leaves around. Or use a mower that either mulches the leaves on your lawn (certain leaves could replenishes the soil), or use a mower that sucks the leaves into a bag. That would leave only a small amount of raking for any beds where you don't want the leaves to remain (as mulch), but instead want a bed free of leaves. Avoiding blower use in beds would also protect fragile plants and prevent blowing top soil and fertilizer into the air, the street, or elsewhere where it shouldn't be.

Several of us have started working on eliminating blower use as a way to return to the peace and quiet that is as much a part of the ambience of Hyde Park as its bungalows. We hope to see more HPNA action on this issue, and, as a first step, a concerted effort to ask churches and commercial properties to respect the character of the neighborhood we share with them. To join the effort, please contact Mary Lou Serafine <sonata0516@yahoo.com> 220-5452 or John Kerr <JFK@grandecom.net> 451-3931.

— Mary Lou Serafine

Constable's Notebook...

...cont'd from page 8

not seek treatment. According to a recent study conducted by the Travis County Veterans Intervention Program, an average of 150 veterans are in the Travis County jail at any given time, with charges ranging from public intoxication to intoxication manslaughter and other violent offenses. SB 1940 requires county courts to establish deferred prosecution programs for veterans. Those who complete court ordered treatment and stay out of trouble can have their charges dismissed.

More information about these and other bills can be obtained at <www.capitol.state.tx.us> or by calling your state representative or senator.



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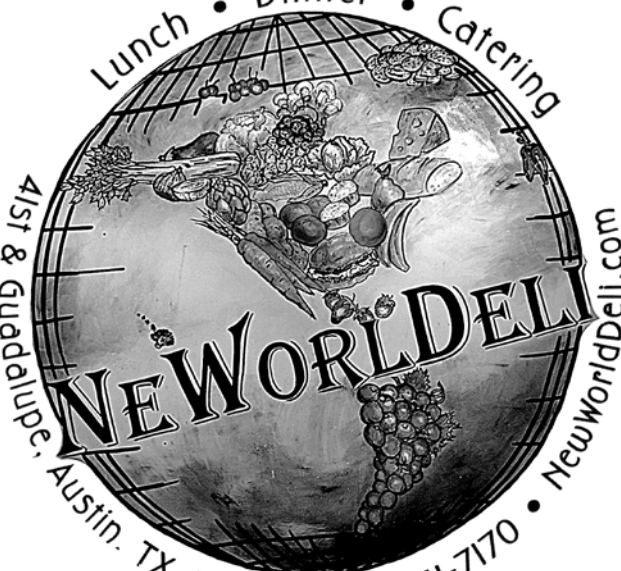
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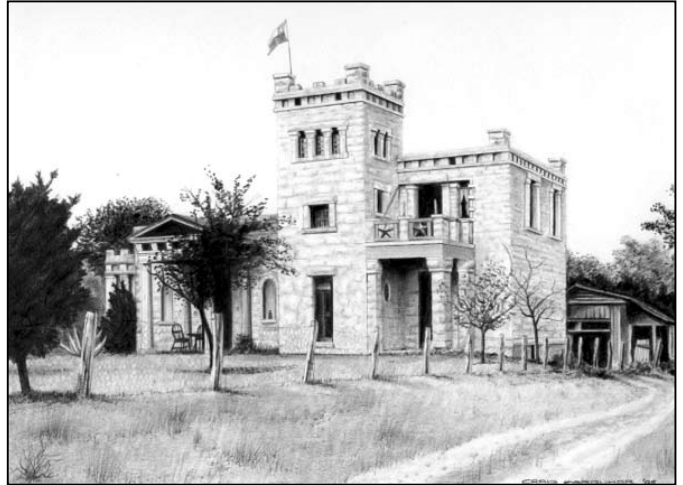
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Landscape Plans Raise Concerns Ney Restoration Beginning at Last



Artwork courtesy of Craig Farquhar

Twenty-first century Hyde Park neighbor concerns with the City of Austin's plan to re-create a rural 19th Century landscape by removing trees and vegetation, seeding prairie grass and installing chicken wire fencing on the Ney Museum grounds, surfaced during a hastily called, sometimes contentious community meeting Thursday, August 20, at the LCRA's Redbud Center.

The good news emerging from the meeting is that in the current project the museum will have its basement, where the floor is below the level of Waller Creek, waterproofed with modern methods to protect its priceless contents, though other care of the structure's deteriorating roof and mechanical systems must wait until additional funds are available.

Many of the neighbors who attended the meeting had actively supported and lobbied for City of Austin matching funds for the restoration of the studio. All neighbors present supported the Ney studio restoration.

The concerns revolve around the City of Austin's plans for re-landscaping the grounds of the museum. In what was their first direct, detailed exchange with project landscape consultants, Vermont-based Heritage Landscapes, neighbors who live in Hyde Park pointed out numerous concerns and serious reservations about the landscaping plan.

Current taxpayer funds will be most visibly used to radically alter historic landscaping that now protects and insulates the museum from modern-day hazards. And both the Ney Curator Mary Collins

Continued on page 14

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Ney Restoration Begins...

...cont'd from page 12

Blackmon and the Heritage Landscape representative maintained it was too late to make changes of any kind to their plans without jeopardizing federal funding for the museum restoration. The half-million dollar project is paid with city bond matching funds and a federal grant of \$250,000.

After the meeting, neighbors agreed to pursue details about the grant and its requirements, especially given the 11th-hour first opportunity to raise objections directly with the professionals involved. City of Austin Public Works manager for the project, Robin Camp, agreed to work with neighbors in seeing that the grounds remain protected during the project.

From 1892 to 1907, when Elisabet Ney lived at her studio (now the museum) it was at the rural far northern reaches of Austin, surrounded by a barbed wire and chicken wire fence created primarily to keep other people's livestock out. Today, threats inside the Austin urban core have more to do with damage from four wheels than with four feet. For decades the museum has been protected on the east side by large crepe myrtles donated by Ney's personal friend and frontier nurseryman Frank T. Ramsey, a leading citizen of early Hyde Park. On the south side, it is protected by the graceful Violet Crown Garden Club wall, erected during the Austin Centennial in 1939 and what may actually be the only monument to Elisabet Ney anywhere in the world not created by her own hands. Together, the plantings and wall effectively block vehicles while offering easy pedestrian access to the museum and grounds.

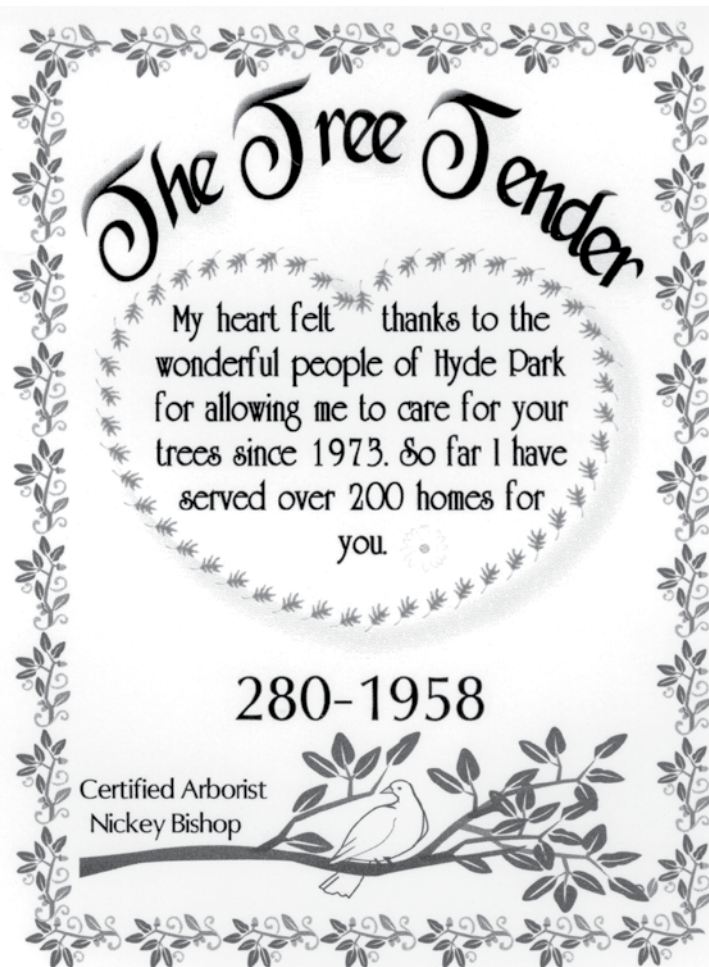
The current project plan calls for removal of Ramsey's crepe myrtles and other mature trees and vegetation on the property, including plants transplanted from Ney's other home, Liendo, near Hempstead, Texas, replacing them with prairie grass and much smaller trees such as ash junipers (cedar).

The proposed project includes the installation of a chicken wire and cedar post fence along the eastern boundary at the Avenue H side of the property.

The fence will restrict pedestrian entry to the grounds but offer little meaningful protection from vehicles. Eventually, under the City of Austin's Master Plan for the Ney, the entire property would be enclosed by a chicken wire and cedar post fence. Neighbors expressed their concerns about access and safety of children and the grounds themselves with these barrier plantings replaced by the wire fence, as well as the wisdom of planting in drought conditions with no apparent provisions for ongoing watering and maintenance of new plantings.

Most disturbing to some was the curator's acknowledgement that although destruction of the

Continued on page 16



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Ney Restoration Begins...

...cont'd from page 14

Centennial Wall is not part of the current project, its demolition remains part of the Ney Museum's Master Plan, the landscaping portion of which was created by Heritage Landscapes.

The Violet Crown Garden Club, whose name is on the wall, was founded by Clara Driscoll, who saved the Alamo with her own funds and donated her home, Laguna Gloria--built on the site where Stephen F. Austin had planned to build his own home--to the city in 1943. Aware of this history, Hyde Park neighbors are determined to preserve the wall, as they would nearly any structure associated with Driscoll, most especially something so well designed, completely functional and clearly crafted for the ages.

For 70 years this graceful low wall has honored and protected the museum grounds. But intentions for it are clearly evident in the absence in this project of any plans to repair the small crack being pushed out by a tree near its east end and in neglect and rust of the hand-wrought Fortunat and Lee Weigl Iron-works gate.

As expressed in a letter to the City of Austin following the meeting from attorney Peter Kennedy, the Ney's nearest neighbor: "We, and I believe other neighbors as well, are afraid that the fence is a 'foot in the door' towards tearing down the historic wall on the south side of the property, which we vehemently oppose. The master plan shows the fence surrounding the entire property, with the historic wall removed. We are concerned that the real reason this short, incomplete fence section is being added is not to preserve the building or the landscaping, but to create 'momentum' towards a complete wire fence around the property. Since the master plan's proposal to tear down the historic wall and replace it with a wire fence is so controversial, we believe any construction of a fence section that is part of a controversial greater master plan design should wait and be part of the discussion of the entire master plan, if and when there is funding available to move that larger project forward."

— John Paul Moore



Letters Dept.

Another perspective on the Ney Restoration Project

Friends and neighbors:

You may or may not be aware of some neighborly discord surrounding the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) currently underway at the Elisabet Ney Museum. Concerns have generally centered on two main issues: the stone wall on the edge of the property, which was installed in the 1930s, and the partial restoration of the native Texas landscape of Elisabet Ney.

To set the record straight, the removal of the stone wall is not part of the current project. Any concerns about the wall may well warrant a future discussion, if and when \$7 million is ever raised to implement the more expansive Elisabet Ney Museum Comprehensive Restoration Master Plan for the restoration and representation of Elisabet Ney's Formosa, as this property is known. For now, the wall stays put.

Issues about tree removal have also been raised. The landscape restoration will involve removing only one post oak that is the dead post oak on the NW corner of the building. Five post oaks that were destroyed during the 1930-1940 re-design of the Ney grounds or that died by natural causes are being replanted in their historic locations. Three live oaks to the immediate west of the Ney are recommended for removal, due in one case to tree damage to the actual building, and in the other to their location in the to-be reconstructed west entrance terrace. The project will also require removing - or possibly relocating - crepe myrtles that were not original to the grounds, but are attributed to neighborhood nurseryman Frank T. Ramsey. Efforts are being made to relocate these trees to another public setting within the neighborhood.

The current project will have many benefits. It will increase ADA accessibility so more visitors may enjoy Formosa; provide sub-grade waterproofing to safeguard the building; re-establish the west-entrance terrace where Elisabet Ney entertained, and the platform where she and her husband often slept in a tent with oriental carpets in the cooler months; return the original vegetable garden to the property; and recreate the original cedar post and wire fence along the east side of the grounds.

In addition, there are four key points to consider:

1. This project is funded by a federal grant from the Department of Interior's Save America's Treasures program and funds dedicated to the Ney from the 2006 City of Austin Bond election. Federal requirements state that, if this grant is not used, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's ability to seek any federal grants for future projects will be seriously jeopardized if not prohibited. Yes, the feds do play hardball, but that is the reality we face.

2. The current grant expired last week, and for this reason, the project was begun and is being implemented according to the program approved by the Save America's Treasures program and the Texas Historical Commission for the restoration of the former studio of Elisabet Ney. If the project is changed in any way from that approved by the Save America's Treasures program, the City of Austin will have to return the entire \$250,000 grant for the Ney

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Letters Dept. cont'd —

Continued from page 17

to the U.S. Treasury. These funds affect the building as well as the landscape. These funds cannot be reallocated to another project and will simply be lost.

3. The CIP for the current project was approved by the Austin Historic Landmark Commission and Austin City Council, in a full public process.

4. The Elisabet Ney Museum is a National Registered Historic Property because of the importance of Ms. Ney and the artistic and cultural contributions she made to Austin, as well as the state, nation and the world in her lifetime (the property is also historically designated at the state and local levels). Federal designation and subsequent allocation of funding to landmark properties are dedicated to the period of significance of the life of the property. In the case of the Ney it is 1892-1907.

Austin has much to be proud of as the City of Austin moves forward with this project. To be placed on the same level as Georgia O'Keefe's former home and studio at Abiquiu, N.C., Andrew Wyeth's House and Studio, Jackson Pollock's Pollock-Krasner House, and the other 30+ National Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Artists' Homes & Studios is a significant honor locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. The successful completion of the current project will speak volumes about Austin's commitment to historic preservation and to recognizing the importance of this federally designated historic landmark we've all come to treasure.

While there may not be unanimity in the neighborhood regarding this project, I hope we will continue all discussions with civility and respect for divergent opinions and with the preservation of this beloved landmark in mind.

If anyone has further questions about the project, please contact the Project Manager in Public Works, Robin Camp, 512-974-7830, <robin.camp@ci.austin.tx.us>

— Ann S. Graham

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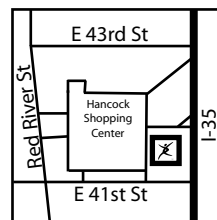
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Spider mites are arachnids, closely related to spiders and ticks. Similar to spiders, spider mites can produce silk and often cover leaves with webbing, especially when there are large populations. The webbing helps to protect the mites and their eggs from natural enemies and harsh environmental conditions.

The mites are able to develop more quickly when temperatures are warmer, so populations can grow very quickly. Spider mites thrive in dry conditions. Their natural enemies require more humid conditions, so dry conditions allow spider mite populations to grow with little predation or parasitism that would keep the population at an acceptable level.

There are many predatory arthropods that feed on spider mites. Some of these include predatory mites, spider mite destroyers (a type of ladybug), minute pirate bugs, big-eyed bugs and predatory thrips. Proper watering of plants may also help to reduce spider mite outbreaks as watering plants can help reduce stress brought on by drought. Using strong jets of water to hose plants can also help to dislodge spider mites on infested plants. Miticides or acaricides can be used to manage spider mite outbreaks. Look for active ingredients such as horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps, abamectin, bifenthrin, dimethoate or acephate.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Also check out <www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com>



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— Nancy Day, Poetry Editor

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If I gain much more weight I’ll say “MOO”!

Yet each year when it stops being cool
There’s a place near my house called Shipe Pool
“Dive in here! Swim to there!”
“I’m NOT tired - not a care!”
It’s the gem of Hyde Park, the Crown Jewel.

— Jacqui Woolley

Mosaic

Angles, cracks, and gleamings
clamor to be laid—
by fingers, warm with blood,
tips tracing their tactile whispers—
by intuition,
in a rhythm
of dream language:
fallen teeth,
windows—cruel, brilliant
wounds—riven into
light
by the merciless precision
of the stone cutter’s blade;
a bird’s delicate tracks, vanishing
into wet sand...
what else has been lost, in the slap
and rustle of weeping waves?

— Geneve Gil

Mosaic II

A dream I had forgotten
the swelter of Cienfuegos,
an eerie call, messages:
beaks, feathers, long stalks of waterlegs,
flutterings, landings,
fallings—naked baby birds; nests;
a blue jay speaking with me daily,
the songs,
the songs...

— Geneve Gil

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE MARKET,
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR DECISIONS.**

Call today to learn how you should approach swings in the market.

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Financial Advisor

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Address: **4102 Peck Avenue**

Listed For: **\$399,000**

PENDING

www.Hancockview.com

Stylish remodel across from Hancock Golf Course. Features include NEW electrical and plumbing/roof/siding with insulated exterior and most interior walls/energy efficient low-E Pella windows/slab granite counters in kitchen and baths/wood floors throughout/stainless appliances/HVAC system.



Address: **1200 Norwood Road**

Listed For: **\$219,000**

FOR SALE

1200Norwood.com

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



Address: **506 Texas Avenue**

Listed For: **\$650,000**

SOLD

www.506TexasAve.com

One of the great historic homes in Austin is now available. This 1914 grand estate features a .37 acre lot, 3252 sf main house and 482 sf guest house. Original stained wood trim, high open ceilings, period detailing & hardware, amazing wood flooring, & a classic front porch overlooking one of the best streets in Austin.



Address: **113 West 33rd Street**

Listed For: **\$775,000**

SOLD

www.33StClassic.com

Classic Aldridge Place estate. 3081sf 4 or 5 bedroom/3 bath main house and 236 sf garage apt. Traditional brick construction, slate roof, original long leaf pine wood trim, beautiful hardwoods, amazing period tile work, stunning master bath, and antique lighting.



Address: **4701 Evans Avenue**

Listed For: **\$295,000**

SOLD

www.4701Evans.com

Great house on a great lot. Outstanding location- just a few blocks from all the Hyde Park shops and restaurants. Enormous 75'X135' / 10,125sf corner lot. Bright open floor plan with huge windows and hardwood flooring. Large hip kitchen, versatile utility room, formal dining room, and a study with french doors overlooking the huge private back yard.



Address: **4812 Caswell Avenue**

Listed For: **\$269,900**

SOLD

Perfect owner occupy - let side B be pay for ± 100K of your mortgage. Expansion possibilities - adding bedrooms at \$500-\$600/month per bedroom could make this a huge money maker. These units are super tasteful, rock solid and in an amazing location.



Jeff Baker 619-7421

ABOR, REALTOR®, Former State Licensed Appraiser

Stanberry & Associates

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HYDE PARK HOMES GALLERY



3910 Avenue H

Arts & Crafts bungalow plus guest house in historic district
4BR, 3BA, 2Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$719,000



1206 West 22½ Street

Quality renovation with period detailing and stained glass
4BR, 3BA, 2Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$925,000



608 East 48th Street

One-story modern Craftsman with open floor plan, large yard
3BR, 2.5BA and 2Liv
Listed at \$509,000



804 East 45½ Street

New "Green" Craftsman by David Weekley Homes
4BR, 4BA, 3Liv and 2Din
Listed at \$799,990



4605 Eilers Avenue

Renovated Hyde Park bungalow with master addition
3BR, 2BA, 2Liv and carport
Listed at \$529,000

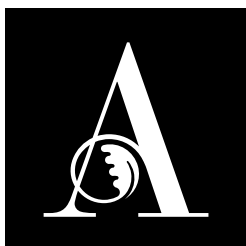


3306 Grooms Street

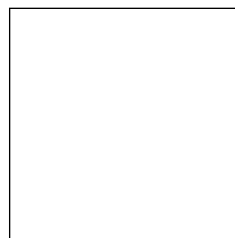
Charming 1939 cottage near U.T. For sale or lease
1BA, 1BA and 1Liv
Listed at \$319,000

Your Hyde Park Real Estate Expert

Call Suzanne today for a free market analysis on your home or investment property. Suzanne has over 17 years' experience marketing and selling Hyde Park.



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aveone.com