April Meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. EARLY!

Monday, April 3, 2006

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.

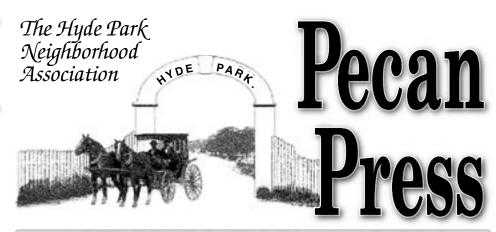
HPNA General Meeting Agenda for April 3rd

- **→** Brief Business Announcments
- Commander's Forum Austn Police
 Department. Residents and guests
 from adjoining neighborhoods will
 have the opportunity to meet the
 command staff and discuss general
 neighborhood crime issues and overall
 police services in the area. A dinner
 will be served with smoked meat,
 potato salad, beans and iced tea from
 the County Line Restaurant provided
 by APD. Neighbors are encouraged
 to bring other dishes (especially
 desserts!) to share.

April 8: Council Candidate Forum

On Saturday, April 8th, the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition will host a City Council Candidate Forum at Cornerstone Church, 1101 Reinli St (you may remember this as the former site of the Capital Plaza General Cinema movie theatre). It will start at 9:30 a.m. Please make every effort to attend this forum. Our future Mayor and three City Council members will come out of this group, and a good turnout will show them that we care and that we vote.

With a total of 14 candidates running for 4 different seats on the City Council, this will be a tightly scheduled meeting. Each candidate will be given 6 minutes. The candidates will be given about a minute to introduce themselves, and then written questions from the audience will be collected and posed by a moderator. Questions for the candidates have already been sent for written response prior to the forum, and the responses will be available the day of the meet-



April, 2006 · National Register District Neighborhood · Vol. 32, No. 4

End of an Era

Ney Museum to Close Its Doors in August

After 15 years as the residence of Texas' most renowned artist, and nearly a century as an Austin landmark, the Elisabet Ney Museum, according to an April 1 news release, will close its doors at the end of August, the victim of dwindling attendance and soaring maintenance costs.

According to Assistant City Manager Corky Villanueva, attendance records of the past six months show more people using the grounds to exercise their dogs

than to visit the studio of the famous sculptress. "It's kind of incredible," he said. "We've allowed a world-class historic site to lapse into an expensive puppy potty."

Donatus Properties of Dallas will handle the redevelopment of the property and made it

clear that it is sensitive to the special character of Hyde Park. "This will be a class development from the get-go," said Carol Tartkoff, a spokesperson for the developer. "There will be no neon, no garish signage." She said the two-story parking garage, located between Waller Creek and 45th Street, will resemble a high-tech office building when viewed from the street.

According to Tartkoff, the new upscale mini-mall will bear the im-

print of its famous predecessor. For one thing, it will be called Formosa Centre, incorporating the name Elisabet Ney bestowed on her limestone studio. Although the

present structure will be removed, the "Sursum" cornerstone of the Ney studio will be worked into the façade of the new mixed-use complex.

The collection of statues in the museum, including

busts of such 19th century luminaries as Arthur Schopenhauer, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Jacob Grimm, Otto von Bismarck and Sam Houston, will be apportioned between Laguna Gloria, the Austin History Center, and City Hall. Negotiations are continuing for the largest statue, of King Ludwig II of Bavaria, whom Ney knew well and sculpted several times. Tartkoff said her company would like the larger

Continued on page 4

Can We Turn a Lemon into Lemonade?

Back in the fall of 2004, many neighbors were disheartened to see a line of huge and ugly electric power poles appear along Guadalupe Street. Reasoning that Austin Energy had saved a bundle by elevating the lines rather than burying them, neighbor Larry Freilich approached the city's utility to see if some of those savings could be used to ameliorate the situation. Perhaps the poles could be decorated; perhaps at least the lower portions could be masked with vines or other landscaping.

In a gratifying show of neighborhood support, Austin Energy has committed \$100,000 to improve the situation. The current idea is to push back the fence along the eastern boundary of Austin State Hospital and create a path, wider than the current sidewalk and away from the heavy traffic on Guadalupe. At the same time, the landscaping around the

eastern boundary of ASH would be improved. The new path, similar to the hike and bike trail, would complete a major link in Austin's urban trail system, linking Triangle Park and Hyde Park with the Shoal Creek trail.

What about ASH? They have agreed to proceed with certain conditions:

- that the Texas General Land Office approve any changes;
- that a "governmental entity with appropriate resources" assume responsibility for planning, installing and maintaining the project.

ASH Superintendent Carl Schock called the proposal "worthy," but expressed doubts that the project could be completed for \$100,000. He wants guarantees that the project will be completed once it is begun, and maintained in the future without financial support from ASH. That's only reasonable.

What now? Discussions and work continue. Few thought Larry's proposal could get this far. We'll keep you posted.

How many people live in Hyde Park? How big is Hyde Park? Are there more occupied single family dwellings or occupied multi-family units here? These and other questions can be answered by accessing a very useful study recently com-



Pecan Press

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pleted by the city. Called the Comparative Neighborhoods Data Program: Housing Stock Expansion, Population Growth and Density, it compares census statistics from all of Austin's neighborhood planning areas in 2000 and 2005.

The URL is: <www.ci.austin.tx.us/census/ downloads/NPA_Comparative_ Data.pdf>

(The answers to the above questions: Population is 6,330; size is 485.5 acres. In 2005 there were 1,506 occupied single family units, and 1,604 occupied multi-family units.)

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In Memoriam: Nell Scales

Nell Scales passed away on April 5, 2005 at the age of 94.

Born on October 2, 1910 in Hilco, Texas, Nell contracted an eye disease in the first few months of her life. As a result, she became blind for virtually her whole life. Her father, Horace Scales, passed away shortly after she was born. Addie Scales, her mother, and her brother, Randolph Scales, with little Nell in tow, relocated to Austin in 1916 so that Nell could attend the Texas School for the Blind.

Nell graduated from the University of Texas in 1932 with honors. She be-

gan supporting herself by purchasing a weaving loom to make rugs and placemats which she sold from her brother's place of business. Later she operated a concession stand at the Travis County Courthouse for over twenty-five years until her retirement in 1976. Nell was a member of the Board of Directors for the State Commission for the Blind for eighteen years. She was well known for writing inspiring letters on her typewriter to mark each week's arrival of new members to the church.

Randolph Scales built a home for Nell and her mother to live. This duplex house is still located at 3804 Avenue G. After her mother passed away, Nell lived independently in the Hyde Park home for over 50 years. She could be seen routinely walking in the Hyde Park neighborhood with one of the nine seeing-eye dogs she owned over the years.

Nell could be considered a pioneer. Certainly blind people today attend college, enjoy successful business careers and live independently for many years. But Nell accomplished these things during times when it was much more difficult for blind people to do so. Nell touched a lot of people in her life because they could see what a rich and fulfilling life she lived.

– Dorothy Richter





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Ney Museum to Close...

...cont'd from page 1

than life-sized statue to be the centerpiece of Formosa Centre's food court.

Indeed, the developer sees the food court as becoming a center of community life in Hyde Park, a place where young and old will gather. "We really did our homework on the demographics," said Tartkoff. "We'll have a Starbucks, a Wendy's and a Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits. We're negotiating with a Thai take-out restaurant. And in honor of Ney's German ancestry, we're even going to have a small schnitzel shop!"

Predictably, perhaps, not everyone was pleased with the planned development. Contacted at her Houston home, Ney biographer Katherine Towery expressed outrage. "If I weren't confined to a wheelchair, I'd be in Austin right now pounding on doors, raising hell. If the Austin City Council lets this gem slip away, they're crazy."

Others were more philosophic. Audrey Bunting of the Austin History Center, herself an authority on the famous artist, said, "Elisabet Ney liked being on the leading edge. If she were alive and living in Austin today, I bet she'd be looking forward to sipping a latté in the new Starbucks."

-- Rollo Treadway

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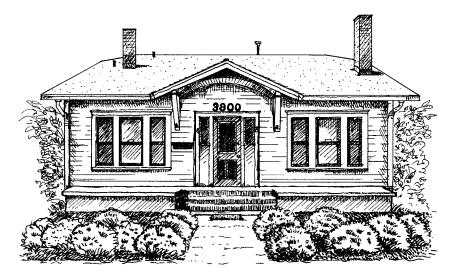
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HPNA March Meeting Minutes

The March general meeting provided HPNA members a change from talking about local crises, in favor of talking about national crises-in-making.

President John Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. He introduced the Visiting Firemen for the month: Sheryl Cole, running for City Council place 6; Mike Martinez, running for City Council place 2; and Sarah Eckhardt, paying a second visit in her campaign for Commissioners' Court, place 2.

On behalf of **Keep Austin Beautiful**, John presented vice president Elaine Meenehan with a certificate of recognition for her work over the past year as graffiti removal liaison.

Larry Gilg then gave an extensive presentation on "The End of Cheap Oil." Among other statistics, he pointed out that the world has been finding less new oil reserves than it has been using for the last 20 years, and that world conventional oil production will reach peak (i.e., half of the known recoverable oil) in about four years, and that no new technology is in the offing to "save us" from eventual petrochemical depletion. He outlined two possible outcomes in the recent examples of North Korea, where a cutoff of subsidized Russian oil supplies after 1989 resulted in a complete economic collapse, and Cuba, where a similar cutoff prompted society to a successful return from early industrial to agrarian society. He noted in closing that neighborhoods like Hyde Park, with houses less dependent on modern heating and cooling technology and compact structure, are better equipped to cope with the coming oil shocks than are suburban neighborhoods and their sealed, climate-controlled McMansions.

And speaking of McMansions, David Arscott and Karen McGraw presented an update on the Mc-Mansion Task Force. The City Council enacted a temporary moratorium in mid-February on singlefamily construction in mid-city neighborhoods, in an attempt to get control of the recent boom in intrusive, outsized single-family home construction. A task force of 16, representing neighborhoods and the construction and development communities, are working on developing an ordinance recommendation to present to Council by its May 7th meeting. The task force meets twice weekly at City Hall, and hopes to complete its work by April 25th. They are soliciting public input for examples of both good and bad housing design. Karen noted that the Hyde Park NCCD development restrictions have put the neighborhood far ahead of the rest of the city in many ways. Issues of concern to HPNA that the task force hopes to address include changing floor-to-area (FAR) ratios to address oversized house construction, as well as im-

Continued on page 10



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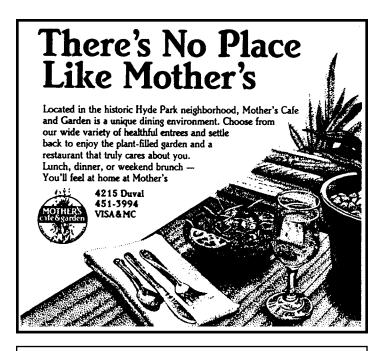
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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

In last month's article, I talked to you about awareness and what we can do to help prevent crime. Well, I'm happy to report that some of you are listening and doing something about keeping our neighborhood safe.

I received a call from a neighbor on Ave. H who said that on a Saturday afternoon two men came to her door saying that they worked for the city water department. She commented that they were somewhat rude and insisted that she come outside because they needed to check on a report of a water leak in the area. She contacted the city and was told that they had not sent anyone for that purpose. The two men drove white pickups and said that they would be back on Monday. They did not come back. Our neighbor felt that they were casing the property.

Crime reporting does pay off. In the early morning hours of March 9th, as a "rare" storm was blowing through, a neighbor on Ave. G was awakened and heard a car's rumbling engine circling the block several times. The car was a black El Camino with a red stripe along the bottom. After about the third or fourth time around the block, our neighbor called 311. The car circled a fifth time, but this time was followed by a police car. When following up with the police later, she found out that the police did pull the driver over and found that he had a long criminal history, but no current outstanding warrants. After checking the car, no stolen items were found. The message to the criminal is that we are watching and, if there is suspicious behavior in Hyde Park, we'll call the police.

Just as we went to press, we received this report from alert neighbor Jeff Scheidt:

At around 9:30 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday 03/15/2006, a Hyde Park resident was walking her dog and had stopped at the intersection of 43rd Street and Avenue D, when a car pulled up next to her. She waited for the car to pass, but after a few seconds it was still there. When she looked into the car, she saw a man masturbating and exposing himself. She looked away, the car began to speed off but she was able to get the vehicle's license plate number.

Crime Prevention Focus At April HPNA Meeting: APD Commanders' Forum (see Agenda, page 1) The woman then asked a nearby person raking leaves to use his cell phone and called 911. She gave a description of the man and his vehicle to the dispatcher. About 20 minutes later, she spoke with an officer in person and he said two other units were looking for the described vehicle.

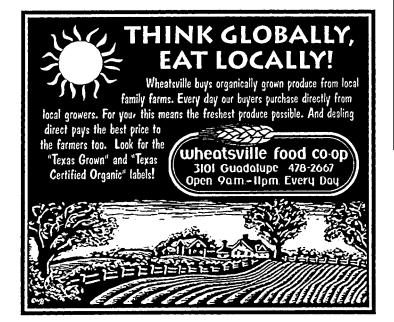
The Hyde Park resident described the vehicle as tan-colored 1990 Honda Accord with license # 244-BXG. She also described the driver as a light-skinned man, with baseball cap on, with a round face, no facial hair, and appeared to be in his 30s.

The case has been assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit of the Austin Police Department, and on 03/16 the victim was shown a photo lineup of possible suspects, one of whom she picked as very similar to the driver of the Honda.

Last month, I reported that I would like to work with several HPNA committees to organize a Neighborhood Watch program and have a crime prevention/awareness/safety event. Since then I've met with several committee chairs along with John Kerr and two APD officers. Consequently, at the April HPNA meeting we will be holding a Commanders' Forum where you will be given information on how to set up a Neighborhood Watch program and ways in which we can all be involved in making our neighborhood safer. As soon as the plans are definite, we will let you know.

In the meantime, get to know your neighbors and report any suspicious behavior you see. Remember, the battle against crime will not be won by people acting on their own. With regard to crime prevention -- and a lot of other matters as well -- we're all in this together.

Carol Welder459-6205<cjwelder@msn.com>









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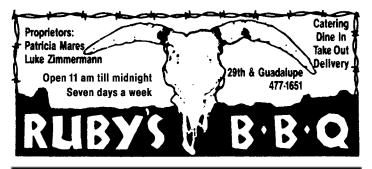
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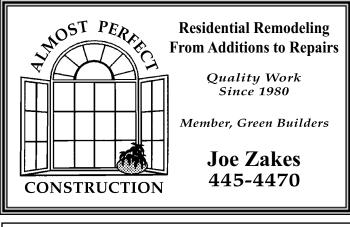
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March Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 6

pervious cover percentages. The average house size in Hyde Park is currently 1800 square feet, and that figure is being pushed up by a number of new houses being built that exceed 3,000 square feet. The task force is also re-considering the possibility of imposing occupancy limits, to preclude large-house construction meant to be rented by-the-bedroom to students, similar to the super-duplex issue of last year. The task force has a Web site for citizen input; Karen will post the URL to the Yahoo listsery.

Elaine Meenehan reported that the **Bylaws Revision Committee** will submit a draft of the new bylaws to the Steering Committee on April 21st. The revised draft will be published in the May and June issues of the *Pecan Press*, and a vote will be scheduled for the June general meeting.

John Paul Moore reported that the **Tree Joint Task Force** held its first meeting, and will continue to meet at City Hall on Fridays from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. They asked Austin Energy for a presentation at the March 10th meeting with more detail on the utility's proposed revised line clearance plan than has been given until now, along with an overview of what other cities are doing about this issue. John said that the City of Tulsa is currently burying 200 miles of its 14,000 mile utility system (about 1.4 percent). To bury an equivalent amount of Austin Energy's lines would move about 78 miles of wire from overhead to underground. The City of San Antonio, spearheaded by their municipal electric utility, is currently doing a survey of its urban canopy after recent GPS data revealed startling canopy losses in its city core. The task force continues to press Austin Energy for assurance that the saws will not come back out until a long-term solution of the line clearance problem is in place. John strongly suggested that as the trees leaf out this spring and summer, neighbors should take snapshots to document how much their trees provide cooling and amenities to the neighborhood.

New Austin Neighborhood Council representative Lisa Harris reported that the Austin Parks Foundation is promoting April 22nd as "It's My Park Day." They are looking for park leads and coordinators for the event, including one for Shipe Park. The Urban Transportation board expressed thanks to Jon Jonson of Capital Metro Special Transit Services, for special efforts in serving Hurricane Katrina refugees with special transportation needs. The council will sponsor a candidates' forum at the Austin Energy building on Barton Springs Road, at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 22nd. The council is also working on compiling a database relating neighborhoods to the city's land development code.

Continued on page 12

Announcing "Camp Discovery" 2006!

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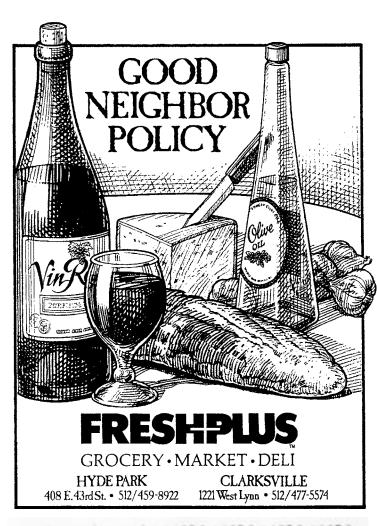
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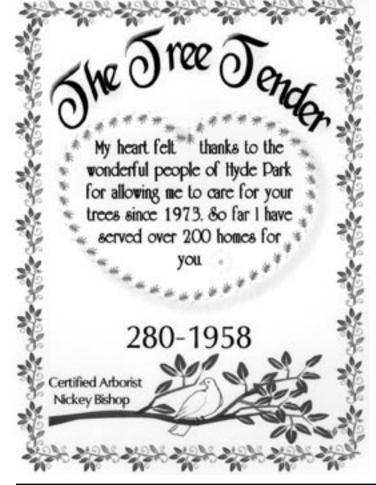
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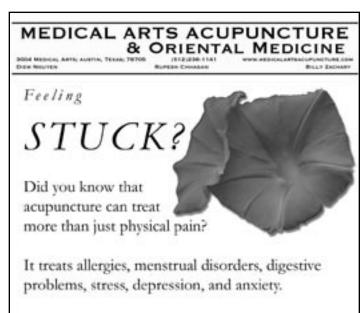
March Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 10

Finance Committee Chair Nick van Bavel then presented the **proposed HPNA budget** for 2006. The budget projects a small deficit of \$865 from a budget of about \$41,000. The largest revenue sources are the Pecan Press (about \$9,300 after expenses) and Homes Tour (about \$9,000). Principal expenses are \$2,550 for the 2006 holiday party, \$2,500 for legal expenses (hoping to start more legal enforcement of development regulations), \$2,000 for umbrella liability insurance, \$1,200 for meeting room donations to HPUMC and Trinity UMC, \$800 for directors' and officers' insurance, \$800 for treasurer's expenses, and \$800 for the Fire Station Festival. A proposed expenditure of \$7,000 for neighborhood sidewalk repair caused considerable discussion. Considerable uncertainty was expressed over whether the City would provide funds to match HPNA funds, as they never set up the mechanism for receiving HPNA funds when the project was first broached last year. Pam Whittington moved to approve the budget, excluding the sidewalk repair line item until we see how the sidewalk project will be accomplished and with whom, and to bring the sidewalks item back in one month with a presentation. The motion failed, 10 ayes to 12 nays. Nick van Bavel then moved to adopt the budget as presented. John Moore seconded. The motion to accept passed with 18 ayes and 4 nays.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Sam Waring HPNA Secretary 4610 Ave. H



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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30-11:00	Hatha	Vinyasa	Cardiac	Mixed	Vinyasa	Mixed	Hatha
11:30-1:00						Basics	Vinyasa
5:00-6:30	Mixed	Hatha	Mixed	Vinyasa	Mixed		
7:00-8:30	Vinyasa	Mixed	Basics	Hatha			

Properties Available On a Quiet Central Austin cul de sac



Here is a rare diamond in the rough: 3770 sf stone and concrete house built in 1890s as a hunting lodge overlooking Shoal Creek. This house could be a showplace but it needs everything. Floors are all scored concrete. Rock terraces on three sides could be glorious. Then finish the attic for a third floor with a fine view of the sunset over the hills to the west.



Historic Landmark near UT, St. David's. This handsome 1927 Four-square with Italianate detail has 3 bedrms, 2.5 baths, 30'x 14' living room, dining room, swell kitchen and two bonus rooms. +Gar. Apt. 508 Harris Ave. \$693,000



This large estate adjoins the property above on the cliff over Shoal Creek: 1913 Craftsman-style house remodeled in 2001 with new roof, wiring, plumbing, central heat and air, refinished floors, inside and outside paint, kitchen, and rebuilt garage. The 3478 sf house has original woodwork with grand style, generous spaces and many built-ins. There is also a third-floor bonus room and full basement.

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Hyde Park Poets —



Pewter Computer

One bright clear warm sunny day, In the tourist trap of Pompei, It was all quite abrupt, When volcano erupt, And I decided that I would not stay.

Instead of running from lava, I decided to work on my java, Sat at computer, Made of pure pewter, Bought from a man in Bratislava.

While I typed away at the keyboard, The lava poured and poured, Down the mountain, As a fountain, A thick crimson reward.

Then it was that God appeared, With a long thick lustrous beard, Looked around, Saw the ground, Covered with lava and disappeared.

So I was left to my plight, Without God's heavenly might, Lava creeping, I, Weeping, And paralyzed with fright.

With little time to spare, I stood up from my chair, Java unfinished, Courage diminished, And I took flight into the air.

My arms they are now wings, My voice now can sing, High in the air, I fly everywhere, Of the sky, I'm now a king.

Into the clouds I soar with glee, The lava now no threat to me, High above, As a dove, As I'm now forever free.

— Joseph Dowdy

(Joseph lives on Avenue C and is in 11th grade at LBJ High School.)

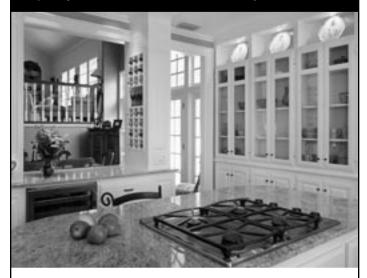
Hyde Park Poets

Taking Leave

Morning light-clear as that light inside you somewherea trading post in some small town in northern New Mexico-I don't remember the name-it doesn't matter-wandering among the gewgaws for tourists and the necessities for natives, looking for something to take back with me, something to remind me of all this when I'm back home, feeling my chest tighten thinking of leaving this state that has such enchantment (yes, enchantment) for me, going back to work. Longing. We're talking about longing, longing for the very space that surrounds you. Something quixotic, something very sad here. This was one of my early trips. Later, I learned wisdom, learned to walk away from it, taking nothing with me. That's the good way, that's the clean way.

Albert Huffstickler, 6.6.2000

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Hyde Park Poets

Hyde Park Villanelle

Within the moonlight tower's glow, seasons honor hometown magic casting spells. You rest in shadow

as thunder hails a double rainbow, beneath your feet pecan leaves slick reflecting moonlight tower's glow.

The avenues your pleasures know, of neighbors wise, and feathered chick. Warming spell, you rest in shadow,

soon to watch the gardeners sow free form, or beds of seed and stick outside. The moonlight tower's glow.

Is that a morning rooster's crow, rich coffee, stirring heartbeats? Quick a resting spell, pause in shadow

safe from sun through a lacy row of live oak canopy, sweet trick. Below the moonlight tower's glow, summer's spell, a noontime shadow.

Nancy Taylor Day1.28.06



"Where Families Grow Together"

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

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Youth Groups

1-12 Grades, meet on Sunday evenings. We will meet from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Hyde Park Poets—

Untitled

The moon and trees and sun collide, Every night beside the brook. The sky casts a shadow on the place, Where the moon and trees and sun collide, That will not be washed away by the ocean's tide.

A bird screeches in the night, So that he can see the sight, That sends the people away with fright.

A cry is heard throughout the land, Because a new day is so close at hand.

A single tear is shed on the mound, Where a spirit lays underground.

The spirit is mine and mine alone, Without it I have no home, But in the effort I am not alone, And for my cause a light is shown.

— Austin Baker

(Austin is twelve and lives on Duval)

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grades K-10, established in 1995 = 1 to 4, adult/child ratio



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Hyde Park Poets—



At the Car Repair

Waiting with hot coffee, I wonder at the list, self-scribed, plans scrawled at angles for those yet-lived hours.

Winter asks different tasks from me than May. I wonder will it be less hectic of a Tuesday morning?

There's blue sky, cool against skin as washed silk, strangers also cling, in lines parallel and perpendicular.

Watching and listening, off center, senses at odds with former dreams, wincing at television news, all grim.

My pocket's full of scrap and anxiety—I wonder at this agenda, its authority pencilled on a flimsy sheet.

By some accounts a paltry list, its dictates I mistake as security. The next thing waits. Obedient, I dare not spar with adventure.

— Nancy Taylor Day 1.24.06





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Address: 4212 Avenue D Listed For: \$369,000

Classic Arts and Crafts house on one of the best blocks in Hyde Park. 3Bed/2Bath with additional living/study off master bedroom. Large traditional front porch, 2CarGarage, fabulous long leaf pine floors, period detailing and accents. Great family floorplan.



SOLD

Address: 4108 Burnet Road

Price: \$439,000

Tastefully updated Rosedale home on a quiet street just a few doors down from Ramsey park. Classic stone cottage with large addition and a dream backyard for entertaining. Granite, hardwoods & period lighting. 3rd bedroom is guest bed/office with separate entrance and bath.



Address: 3608 Grooms Street Listed For: **\$292,000**

Stylish bungalow in North University. Period detailing, fireplace, hardwoods, vaulted living room ceiling, European style kit, designer colors. Huge yard across from new park. Charming.



SOLD

Address: 5305 Avenue H

Price: **\$299,000**

Fabulous fully restored bungalow on Avenue H. Charming 3Bed/2Bath with a great designer color scheme, hardwoods, and fully updated kitchen and baths. Family home with a large yard and professional landscaping.



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5001 Eilers Avenue 1940s Cottage with hardwoods, corner lot. 3BR, 1BA. \$199,500



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