

May Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 1, 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 May 1st

- ◆ Proposition 1 – “Open Government Online Amendment” con & pro
- ◆ Council Members Betty Dunkerley & Lee Leffingwell
- ◆ Jordan Hatcher
- ◆ Grafitti Initiative – Elaine Meenehan
- ◆ Proposed Revision to HPNA Bylaws – Catherine Moore, Bylaws Committee Chair
- ◆ Update from Residential Regulation (aka McMansion) Task Force – Karen McGraw, Task Force Member

See you there!

Fathers' Day Weekend
June 17-18

Hyde Park
31st Annual
Homes Tour

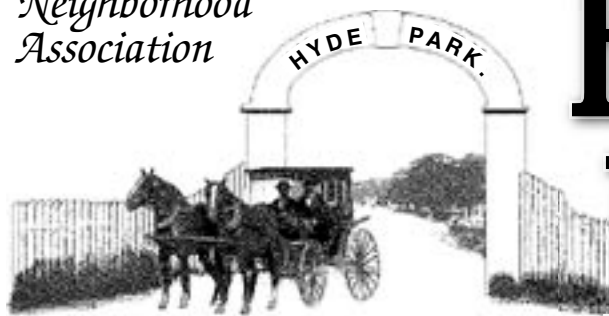
The 2006 Hyde Park Homes Tour: An Update

By the time this article comes out, it will be about six weeks before the 2006 Hyde Park Homes Tour. Thanks to a wonderfully talented and knowledgeable team, plans for the tour are developing well. We encourage you to view the website at <www.hydeparkhomestour.org>.

We want to encourage everyone in the neighborhood, whether

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The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association



Pecan Press

May, 2006 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 32, No. 5

On the June Agenda: HPNA Bylaws Revision

At the Monday, June 5, 2006 meeting of Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, the membership will vote on the adoption of a completely rewritten set of bylaws.

A copy of the proposed bylaws is included in this issue of the *Pecan Press*, as well as published on the HPNA's web site, <www.austinhdepark.org>. The Bylaws Committee will also discuss the proposal at the May 1 meeting.

As the Bylaws Committee took up our task, we had one overriding objective: to enhance neighborliness and congeniality by clarifying HPNA's processes. The proposed bylaws were drafted by committee members John Anderson, Chris Nakishima Brown, Carleen Edgar, Lisa Harris, Elaine Meenehan, Catherine Moore, Wanda Penn and Pam Whittington.

The Committee sincerely thanks the many other neighbors who attended meetings and offered suggestions. Whether or not those suggestions appear in the final proposal, they were thoughtfully considered and greatly assisted us in our study and drafting.

In a series of meetings over five months, the Committee thoroughly considered all input, the previous versions of the bylaws and the history of HPNA. We also researched and discussed the bylaws of many other neighborhood associations,

particularly those in the central city. The final proposal was then presented for discussion with the HPNA Steering Committee.

We found that many provisions in the existing bylaws have served HPNA well over the years and much remains unchanged.

The proposed bylaws are presented to retain and protect our invaluable knowledge base and rich history, while finding new ways to encourage broader participation and shared decision-making. New procedures were drafted to bring HPNA into step with the technological advances of the internet and the faster pace of today's life, while still maintaining the essential element of face-to-face interaction among neighbors.

Highlights of the proposed bylaws include:

HPNA membership remains based on residence. All members must be at least 18 years old and reside within Hyde Park or 300 feet of its boundaries. Individual membership shall be the only category of membership entitled to vote. Honorary, nonvoting membership may be conferred by the Steering Committee.

A new HPNA e-mail list will

Continued on page 4

Personnel Matters

After a heroic effort bringing order to our financial affairs, balancing the books and getting our accounts ship-shape, HPNA treasurer Carmin Way has announced that she and her husband are moving from Hyde Park. We are looking for her replacement, whose job will be far easier now than a year ago.

The treasurer keeps the books on QuickBooks, and oversees a paid bookkeeper who handles billing for the Pecan Press and the ads in the homes tour booklet. This is an extremely important position and we hope to find someone with a bookkeeping/accounting background, or someone who is rock steady and real good with numbers. If you are interested, please contact Carmin, Nick van Bavel, chairman of our finance committee, or me. Carmin will be available

for a little longer to brief her replacement and bring him or her up to speed.

The people who do the heavy lifting in the association are invisible to many neighbors, or at best, names on a page. In an effort to acquaint everyone with those working on their behalf, I would like to include occasional short profiles of members of the Steering Committee and other. To begin with, I'd like to introduce two recent additions to the Steering Committee, Nick van Bavel and Lisa Harris.

Nick grew up in College Station and came to Austin when he entered the University of Texas. He's been here ever since. After earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1986, he worked for three years with Motorola and three years with Crystal Semiconductor as a designer and then a design manager. After experiencing corporate life, he decided to try his hand at entrepreneurship, building two companies, Oasis Design and Cicada Semiconductor.

Those were the heady days of the great high-tech boom. Many rose spectacularly during that time...and fell precipitously. But not Nick. He rose and kept rising, selling Oasis Design to SSMC in 1993 and Cicada Semiconductor to Vitesse in 1996. This prompted him to change professions a second time, becoming a full-time investor. It also enabled him to spend more time with his family, which now includes an 18-month-old son.

He has lived at a house on Avenue H since 1987, and he is restoring a second house at 41st and Avenue C. As chairman of the finance committee, Nick oversees the creation and management of the association's budget, as well as its investments.

Lisa grew up in San Antonio and attended UT as a classics major in the Plan II program. She graduated in the middle of a recession and terrible job market, so she went back to UT to earn master's degrees in linguistics and speech pathology. During part of this time she lived in Elgin. When she decided to sell her house there, she was introduced to the mysteries of title research, discovering outstanding liens and other complications, such as the fact that her carport extended onto a neighbor's property. She wound up trimming the concrete slab with a jackhammer. More im-

Continued on following page

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P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765
http://www.austinhdepark.org
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Zoning • Dorothy Richter
Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. • Lisa Harris



portantly, she discovered that the intricate work of title searches appealed to her. She went to work for Stewart Title company and is a title examiner with that company today.

Lisa's interest in neighborhoods began in Elgin, where she lived in a poor neighborhood that had no clout and could get nothing done. Then she moved to Austin, living in Dove Springs at a time when that area was developing its neighborhood plan. But even there it was difficult to get things done. Then she moved to Hyde Park, which she found vibrant. Here was a neighborhood where volunteers could make things happen. While attending a reception for the Killer Bees of the Texas Legislature a few years back, she met a man at the sign-in table whom she later married, Bruce Elfant, our constable. Lisa represents Hyde Park at the Austin Neighborhoods Council, coordinating our interests with other city neighborhoods.



Often on my morning dog walk I've encountered scenes of interest which are best shared visually. I'd like to share some of these through a feature called *Things Seen in Hyde Park*. The more you look, the more you see.

Things Seen in Hyde Park

En Plein Air On the morning of April 5, a small caravan of cars pulled up to the home of Jack and Jill Nokes on 4200 Avenue F and a dozen painters got out and began erecting easels in the



yard. The group was part of Austin artist Laurel Daniel's advanced oil painting class. The class meets at Laguna Gloria, but works 'en plein air,' as the French say it, painting in the open air at some of the nicer spots around town, including Mayfield Park, the Wildflower Center, and the Nokes' delightful garden. For information about classes, contact the Austin Museum of Art web site at AMOA.org, or Laurel at <LaurelDaniel@austin.rr.com>. For those who haven't visited the Nokes' garden, now is a good time to do so. Wherever you live in Hyde Park, it's well worth the walk.

— John Kerr
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<jfkerr@yahoo.com>



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2005-06 Membership



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Bylaws Revision on the Agenda...

...cont'd from page 1

be created for official HPNA notice only. It will not be available for the discussion list and will be offered to all members. Official notification of agenda items and matters to be voted upon shall be by (1) announcement on the new HPNA announcements e-mail list and by (2) posting on a public bulletin board seven days prior to each general membership meeting. Notice in the *Pecan Press* will continue where practical in terms of timeliness.

The Steering Committee will be now composed of all the officers, as well as six members elected at large for two year terms, staggered so that three members turnover each year and three remain. These are new positions in HPNA.

Members will sign in at each meeting and those qualified to vote at the meeting will be issued a colored card. Voting shall be by a show of cards by members whose dues are paid up and who are present at the meeting. This system has already been put into effect at HPNA meetings, with good results. No proxy or absentee voting shall be allowed. As in earlier by-laws, a new member is eligible to vote 30 days after joining HPNA. A former member whose dues have lapsed for no more than 6 months will be eligible to vote upon payment of dues, without a waiting period.

It's a great time to make sure your dues are paid up-- at the May meeting--and come vote on the re-written bylaws at the June meeting!

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April Meeting Minutes

The April membership meeting addressed neighbors' appetites, their concerns, and their curiosities all at once as HPNA hosted an Austin Police Department citizens' forum. A group of more than fifty neighbors and guests from nearby neighborhood associations were served a barbecue dinner courtesy of APD, and had time before the meeting to visit among themselves and with the officers in attendance.

President John Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Finance Committee Chair Nick van Bavel reported that HPNA wants to withdraw certain investments from a mutual fund managed by American Express whose goals and policies conflict with association goals and policies. American Express refused to allow the funds to be withdrawn without a formal resolution approved by the general membership. Nick moved that HPNA approve a resolution authorizing the withdrawal of HPNA funds from the **AmEx mutual fund**. Denise Girard seconded the motion, which passed on a show of hands.

Visiting firemen for the month included Ana Mejia-Deitche, who is running for Place 9 on the ACC board of trustees.

John announced that the **Avenue G closure** proposal is still under study by the city. The Urban Transportation division will be conducting two traffic counts around Shipe Park in August, one with the 4400 block of Avenue G (between Shipe Park and Elisabet Ney) open and another with it closed, to determine the potential effect of closing the street permanently.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the **APD forum**, conducted by Central West area commander Calvin Smith. Commander Smith introduced a number of his staff, including Lt. George Vanderhule, Sgt. Pat South, and Officers Hector Arredondo, Dana Munguia, Matt Wright, David Crowder, Mike Crumrine, and Ricardo Vargas, APD's liaison to HPNA. He also introduced Paul Tomasovic of the City's Solid Waste Services (SWS) department, which has recently assumed responsibility for zoning and building code permitting and enforcements as well as nuisance abatements. Mr. Tomasovic is the supervisor for the city's Central West district. He explained that SWS is working with APD to cross-train officers in handling enforcement issues, and is also greatly expanding the civilian inspection staff. The city is hiring nine new inspectors at this time, with an eventual goal of having 34 inspectors on staff. Four of the nine new inspectors will be assigned to the Central West district, which includes Hyde Park. Until now the city has had only three or four inspectors, which has severely handicapped enforcement efforts.

The new code enforcement officers, and cross-trained uniformed police, will eventually be able to issue citations and issue stop-work orders on the spot if unpermitted construction work is observed or reported to the city. As they begin work, the first three areas of enforce-

Continued on page 12

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Crime Report



by Carol Welder

At last month's HPNA meeting, the Austin Police Department conducted a Commander's Forum where neighbors were able to hear from Commander Calvin Smith about crime statistics in our neighborhood. A 2005 Annual Crime and Traffic report showed that violent crime was down 5.4% and traffic fatalities were down 16%. APD continues to work on programs to decrease crime and integrate civilian support.

The Forum also included a representative from the Solid Waste Services who answered numerous questions regarding code enforcement pertaining to issues like parking and building permits. Violations may not qualify as "crime," but if someone is adding on to their house without a permit, for instance, it can and should be reported. It was noted that there will be an increase in the number of inspectors this year who can issue warnings and citations. For suspected violations, neighbors can call 311 or 494-9400.

Regarding burglaries, APD stressed the importance of recording serial numbers of personal property, especially guns. Do not leave valuable items in your automobiles and lock your doors. It was noted that 311 can take a theft report from concerned citizens. For chronic problems, contact Officer Rick Vargas, the Central West Command Officer, at 974-5801.

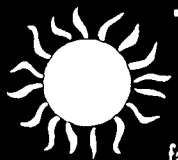
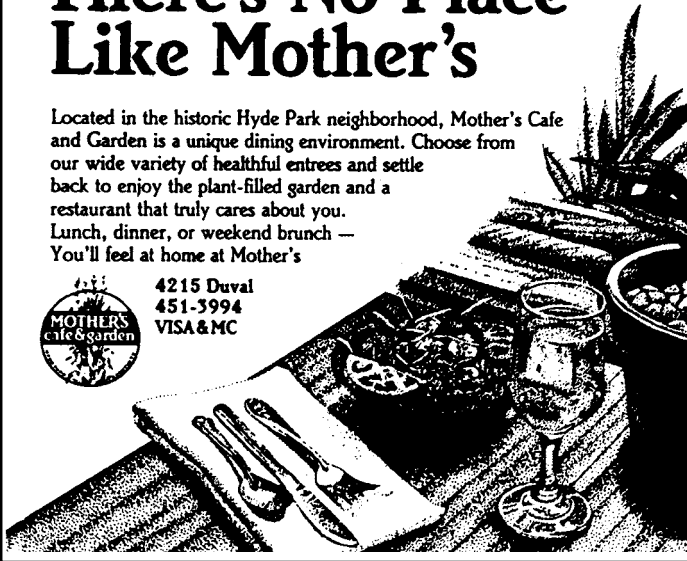
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The next step for our neighborhood is to set up a Neighborhood Watch Program. If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain, please let me know. This person would be a spokesman for the group; serve as the liaison between law enforcement and your Neighborhood Watch group to organize and arrange meetings; maintain a list of members; designate work assignments such as vacation home watch, neighborhood patrol, and materials distribution. The Block Captain's role is to assist the watch but not to monitor problems. Our project for the summer will be to set up the Neighborhood Watch Program and to host a National Night Out on the first Tuesday in August.

The best way to get the attention of APD is to continue to stay alert and report any crime that you are involved in or a witness to. According to the APD website, the following crimes have been reported in our area: five pro-active reports for suspicious persons and vehicles, so kudos to those that took the time to report strange or offensive behavior; two violent crime reports - a sexual assault near the apartments at Duval & 43rd and a man threatened another man with a pipe near the Walgreens Drugstore; six burglarized vehicles and six burglarized homes, and two stolen bikes. On another note, there are registered sex offenders living on the edge of our neighborhood. If you would like to take a look at pictures, you can visit the APD website at <www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/sex_offender_intro.htm> . Thanks to Jim Hasbrouck for looking up these stats.

- Carol Welder
459-6205
<cjwelder@msn.com>




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RUBY'S B.B.Q

2006 Homes Tour...

...cont'd from page 1

you attend the Tour or not, to enjoy the activities at the Elisabet Ney Museum. Ney Curator Mary Collins Blackmon is planning an exhibit about the life and work of Elisabet Ney. There will be music on the grounds of the museum, and musicians love an audience! During some of the Tour hours, there will be a face painter on the museum grounds. All Hyde Park children are welcome to have their faces painted while their parents enjoy the music and exhibit.

We also encourage your participation. A committee alone cannot produce this Tour; it requires the participation of the entire neighborhood. Please get in touch: contact me at <lweidlich@mail2sevenseas.com> or 300-2228 or contact John Williams at <jawilli@grandecom.net> or 323-6997.

— Lorre Weidlich, 2006 Tour Chair
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April Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 6

ment the officers will concentrate on will be unpermitted construction or renovation work, trash carts that stay at the curb instead of being pulled back once they're emptied, and unscreened RVs. Inspectors will be going out in marked patrol units of their own, to increase visibility and presence in the neighborhood. In response to a question, Mr. Tomasovic said that neighbors who observe non-emergency code violations should call 311 to report them. Until the new officers are hired and trained, the city will continue enforcement on a complaint-driven basis. He cautioned that just because a situation isn't immediately resolved once it is reported, that doesn't mean no action is being taken. Many enforcement cases take time to resolve. When asked about what enforcement will happen if violations are observed on evenings or weekends, Mr. Tomasovic answered that the city is considering the option of adding evening and weekend shifts for code enforcement officers.

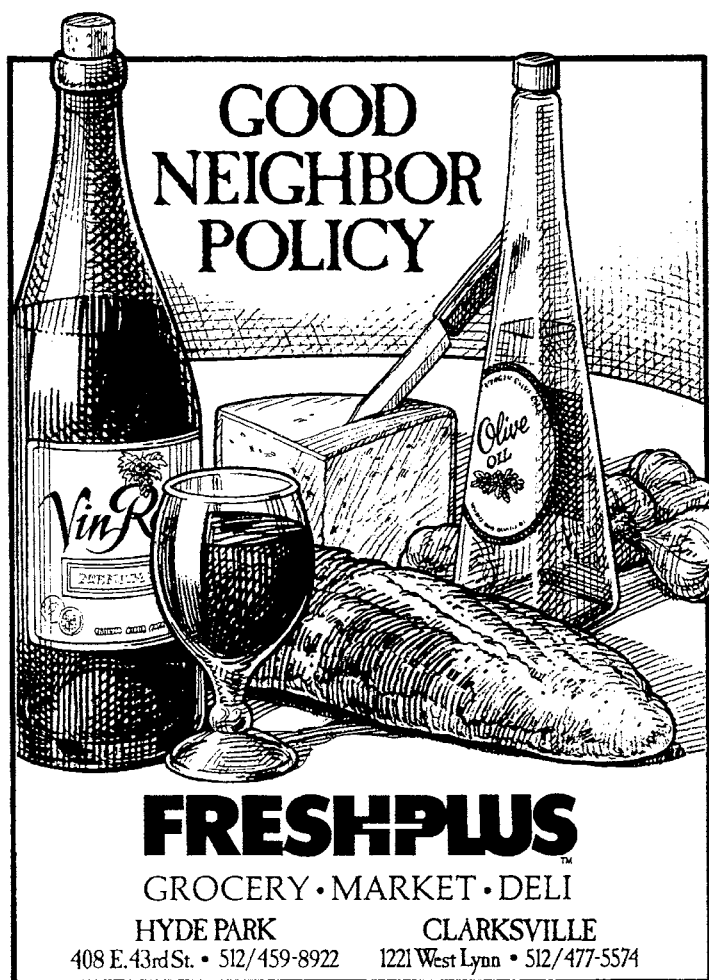
After this presentation, Commander Smith introduced Hyde Park neighbor and Precinct 5 Constable Bruce Elfant. Bruce explained to the meeting that the Travis county constables are responsible for enforcing courts' law: family law, court orders, visitation rights, and evictions. Commander Smith continued by noting that Hyde Park, while well supplied with property crimes related to the continually shifting student population — burglary, car break-ins, and so on — has less violent crime than similar neighborhoods within the city. Within the Central West district, bounded by I-35, Town Lake, Lake Austin, and Anderson Lane, 50 house burglaries and 300 vehicular burglaries were reported in the last month. A recent property-crime reduction initiative, code-named Operation Shotgun, analyzed burglary statistics and increased patrols in badly affected areas, bringing down property crime incidence by two-thirds.

A question about the perennial problem of graffiti and tagging brought out the information that graffiti in Hyde Park and surrounding areas is more a phenomenon of skateboarders than of gang activity, and that taggers in our area tend to be high school and college students. Catching them *in flagrante* is a difficult task, even using extended stakeouts. Neighbors who want to report graffiti can call the APD graffiti removal number, 854-4125. Removal has a seven to ten-day turnaround.

Commander Smith ended the forum by reminding the neighbors that their district representatives (do you know who our representative is? It's Ricardo Vargas, remember? We reminded you earlier) can do inspections of homes to make recommendations for 'target hardening' to reduce property crime. Some insurance companies will give a discount on homeowners' insurance premiums for complying with the recommendations. Commander Smith thanked the neighbors for coming out to participate in the forum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

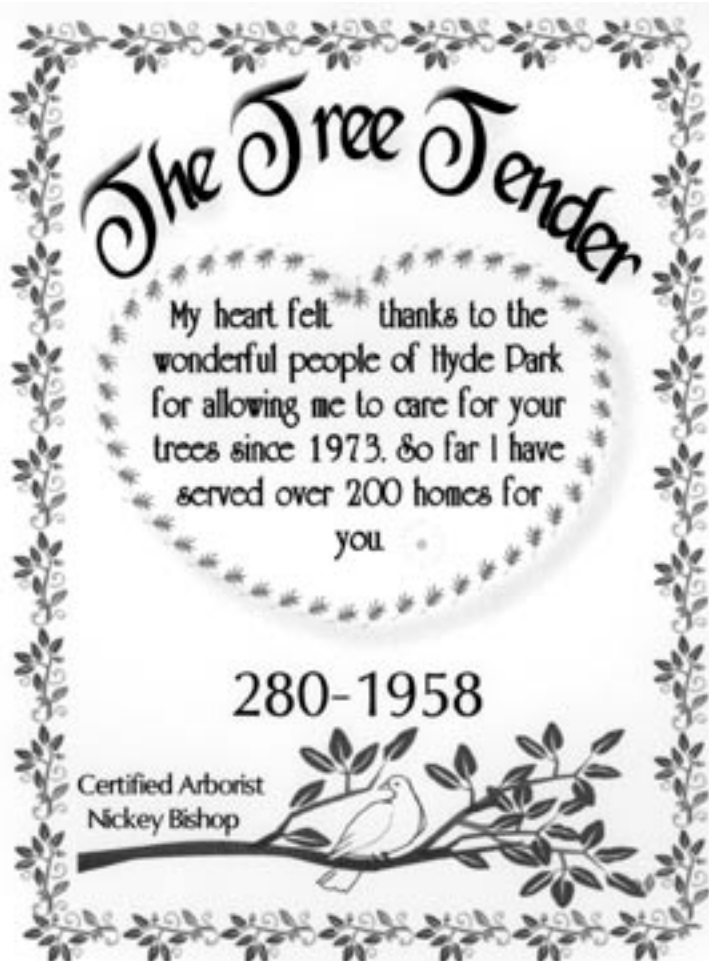
— Sam Waring, HPNA Secretary
4610 Ave. H



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Elisabet Ney Museum: Alive and Well

No Fooling: Ney Museum Needs and Deserves our Support!

Rollo Treadway's April Fools Day article in the *Pecan Press* regarding a possible closing and conversion of the Elisabet Ney Museum was quite a surprise! To the many who expressed their opinions and concern, I'm pleased to report that the Elisabet Ney Museum is very much alive, doing well and moving forward.

As reported in previous issues of the *Pecan Press*, the City of Austin is actively engaged in the preservation and care of the Elisabet Ney Museum. Currently, the City is raising funds to undertake a comprehensive restoration of the Elisabet Ney Museum building and 2.45-acre historic grounds. Funding support for the restoration has been obtained from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save America's Treasures program, Texas Historical Commission, City of Austin, foundations and individuals. The museum is now working with an Elisabet Ney Museum Save America's Treasures Restoration Campaign Committee on a capital campaign to secure the additional funding needed to restore the historic landmark.

The capital campaign goal is \$1,000,000. The campaign is 38% to goal with \$336,500 raised to date. Fundraising for the Phase I Comprehensive Preservation Master Plan for the Ney is complete. The City is beginning the planning phase of the restoration with an announcement and start date for development of the Master Plan scheduled for Summer, 2006. As part of the planning process, the City will hold public hearings to obtain public feedback. The museum is preparing a special presentation of Elisabet Ney's personal photographs of her Hyde Park, Austin studio to present to the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association and other interested parties.

The Ney Restoration Campaign Committee and the museum are now concentrating on raising funding for the implementation phase of the restoration. The Bond Election Advisory Committee and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department have recommended the Elisabet Ney Museum Restoration in the amount of \$500,000 for the City of Austin 2006 Bond Package. The Ney Campaign Committee, Hyde Park Planning Team, and numerous friends of the Ney, many from Hyde Park, provided influential advocacy for the Ney Restoration in this process. Museum friends are now lobbying the Austin City Council for the continued inclusion of the Ney for \$500,000 in the bond package which is critical to the restoration.

While the Elisabet Ney Museum is in no danger of being converted to a strip mall or of being closed, the need for the restoration of the Ney is critical. In 2004, the Save America's Treasures program cited the Elisabet Ney Museum as a "threatened cultural resource of national significance" in its award of \$250,000 for a comprehen-

Continued on following page

sive restoration of the Elisabet Ney Museum building and historic grounds. This will be the first comprehensive restoration of the museum in its 95-year history.

In 2004, *AmericanStyle Magazine's* Readers Poll listed the Elisabet Ney Museum as the "Don't Miss Cultural Attraction in Austin." The museum is one of the top five historic site destinations in Austin. As one of Austin and Texas's most loved historic landmarks, the Elisabet Ney Museum is committed to preserving the Ney as the former studio of Elisabet Ney; as a quiet place where people of all ages can renew their links with the past as it is expressed in the memory and legacy of Elisabet Ney.

– *Mary Collins Blackmo*
Curator, Ney Museum

(Note: Neighbors who would like to help preserve the Ney are encouraged to email Mayor and Council to include the Elisabet Ney Museum Restoration in the 2006 bond package. Addresses are at <www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/groupemail.htm> and to email any new Council members once elected. Financial contributions to the Ney cause are also gratefully accepted.)



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Letters Dept.

No Ney? Say Nay!

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I and other Hyde Park residents read with utter disbelief the news that the Elisabet Ney Museum will be replaced with some sort of hideous food court chock full of fast food monstrosities. Was Donatus Properties' spokeswoman Carol Tartkoff speaking with a straight face when she said that "this will be a class development from the get-go" and followed that by explaining the redeveloped property will feature a Popeye's Chicken, a Wendy's, and a Starbucks? When Hyde Park residents think of "class," I doubt the first things that come to mind are more yet more greasy fast food chains and greedy corporate franchises. What makes Austin, and Hyde Park, distinct are local establishments, local flavor, and distinctive culture. This real estate venture is none of the above. If sipping a latte in a yet another new Starbucks is what being on the leading edge of art and culture these days, then art and culture are more dead than the Ney Museum. Why on earth are the City Council and the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association letting this revolting real estate travesty go forward?

— Robert Zimmer

Dear HPNA,

I just read in the Pecan Press about the Ney Museum. How can this be true? Isn't this a protected structure, listed on the national registry or something of that nature? Is this a bad joke? In Ney Museum's place a Popeye's?

This is the saddest news I've read in a while.

— Martin Thomen

Editor,

Please tell me the Elizabeth Ney article is an April fool's joke.

— Tom Grzinich

(Editor's Note: We did, it was.)

Mr. Thomas:

As the "bogus" writer of the April Fool article on E. Ney Museum, I must tell you that many elderly people that do not have access to the newsletter, have been informed that the museum will be replaced by a mall.

One particular lady, (now deceased) did a documentary on Ms. Ney and her friends and relatives are extremely upset and some have even had faint heart at the prospect. Now it is the duty of those of us that have recently found out that you wrote the article and neglected to put, "please turn to page_" and make it known that it was indeed an April Fool piece.

Shame on you!

— Anna Pecorino

(Editor's note: I am not Rollo Treadway, author of the referenced article; but I am an admirer of Mr. Treadway's writing talent, and his flair for invention.)

Host Families Sought for International Students

Dear Editor,

I am the International Coordinator in Austin for the Aspect Foundation, a non-profit organization that makes connections between foreign exchange students and American host families <www.aspectfoundation.org>. I would love to find some host families in your neighborhood (I actually live in Hyde Park as well). Would you please invite neighbors who are interested in this opportunity to contact me?

— Dara Shifrer,
<dshifrer@eanes.k12.tx.us>



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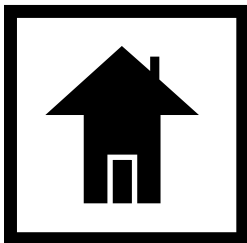
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Letters Dept. cont'd —

Boycotting Twin Liquors

Dear Hyde Park neighbors:

The residents of the Patterson Heights area in north Hyde Park would like to request your support of a boycott of Twin Liquors (and affiliated stores—Reuben's, Dan's and KP Liquors), in order to send a message to David Jabour, the President and an owner of the Twin Liquors chain.

Mr. Jabour is continuing to build duplexes that violate long-standing deed restrictions at 4801 and 4803 Duval St. We have been forced to file a lawsuit to protect our legal interests. Properties in Patterson Heights are subject to deed restrictions that only allow single family housing and do not allow duplexes. Patterson Heights is a roughly four square block area in north Hyde Park extending north from 47th St. to midway between 48th and 49th Sts., including the properties on the east side of Duval St. and extending east to properties that front on Eilers Ave.

The deed restrictions have been vital to protecting the character and livability of Patterson Heights. We have used these legal protections to prevent the construction of a number of "super duplexes" in our area.

Mr. Jabour has building permits that were issued before the new zoning changes took effect, but duplexes are prohibited under the deed restrictions. We have tried to work with Mr. Jabour to avoid litigation, and even offered to seek legal middle ground. Mr. Jabour has been unwilling to work in good faith on these matters.

Please help us send a message to David Jabour, the President and an owner of Twin Liquors and its affiliated stores— Reuben's, Dan's and KP Liquors. Let him know you're boycotting Twin Liquors to express your support for maintaining the character and livability of our Hyde Park neighborhood. If you have questions or would like a copy of a boycott flier, contact me at <klomer@earthlink.net>.

— Andy Homer
4809 Duval St.

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907 East 43rd Street

3BR, 2BA plus unfinished attic, Built 1937.
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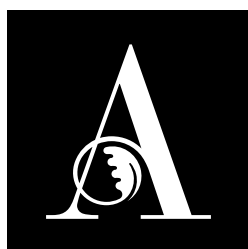


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