

# November Meeting

**When:** 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, November 7, 2005

**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 November 7<sup>th</sup>

- ◆ Wine Bar Discussion Revisited
- ◆ Fire Station Festival Recap
- ◆ New Coffee House Proposal

**See you there!**

## October Meeting Minutes

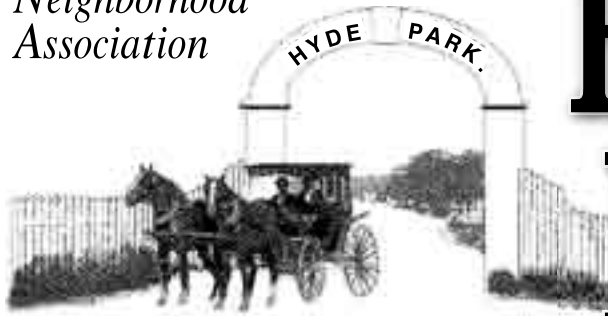
President John Kerr called the October '05 HPNA meeting to order at 7:10 PM. The first order of business was election of **HPNA officers** for 2005-06. The Nominating Committee proposed the following officers: John Kerr, President; Denise Girard and Elaine Meenahan, Co-Vice Presidents; Sam Waring, Secretary; and Carmin Way, Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor, so the President called for election by acclamation. The motion passed. The President thanked Glen Coleman and Alan Marburger for serving as the Nominating Committee.

John Kerr reminded everyone that the thirty-first annual **Fire Station Festival** would be held on Sunday, October 16th in celebration of the structure whose then-imminent closing first sparked formation of HPNA, and of the firefighters who work there and share our neighborhood today.

Karen McGraw announced that the final property in the **North Hyde Park NCCD**, at 609 Fairfield, was scheduled to go before

**Continued on page 4**

*The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association*



# Pecan Press

November, 2005 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 31, No. 11

## And They're Off!



With Event Chair Deaton Bednar and HPNA Prez John Kerr leading the way, HPNA's 31st Annual Fire Station Festival Parade gets underway.



Fun for Young (Miles Cook) and Old (Stan Kozinsky)



Makeup Your Minds, Kids!



"Number 9, Number 9": The Object of our Affections



Karen McGraw Receives 2005 Walter and Dorothy Richter Good Citizen Award

Festival Photos by Robin Silberling

# Density

Bruce Babbitt, the two-term governor of Arizona and two-term Secretary of the Interior in the Clinton administration, was in town a few weeks back to promote his new book, *Cities in the Wilderness: A New Vision of Land Use in America*. At a lecture at UT, he focused mainly on regional planning. But when asked about urban issues he said, "The primary issue facing cities is how to make density work."

So Hyde Park is caught up in the same issue that is being played out not only across the United States but around the world: how to pack more people and businesses into existing urban areas while maintaining or even enhancing the quality of life.

One solution is the high-rise. This is well underway downtown and west of the university. Another solution is to create more public

spaces in areas of increasing density, such as Hyde Park. This is not easy, given a fixed amount of land, but it is precisely what we're trying to do with the proposed paseo project at 44th & Ave. D: substitute a park for a block of street.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court decision in *Kelo vs. City of New London* gave city governments enormous powers of condemnation. As Justice Sandra Day O'Connor noted in her dissent, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private property, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms." In a separate dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas noted the decision would likely result in new urban renewal projects that have historically displaced minorities, the elderly and the poor. Washington, D.C. mayor Anthony Williams -- who praised the Court's decision -- is expected to evict small businesses and homeowners later this year to build a new, privately-held baseball stadium.

Do not think it could not happen here. In a city perennially strapped for cash, it is easy to imagine a developer driving a city council member through stretches of the avenues between 45th and North Loop and asking the politician if he would like to quadruple the density and increase the tax

base tenfold, strengthen the case for light rail, throw in a little affordable housing for lagniappe and make the whole thing look like downtown Santa Barbara. From a politician's viewpoint, what's not to love?

Hyde Park's reaction to the city's push for densification has usually been along the lines of "Thanks, but we'd rather not." The reason for this reluctance is that investors with deep pockets were moving in, tearing down bungalows and replacing them with ugly "super duplexes" and worse.

But time is not on our side. If we don't find our own path to greater density, the developers will find a way for us. The case of the wine bar suggests some measures that could help. One would be a "conditional use" clause in

Continued on following page

## Pecan Press

The Pecan Press is published monthly by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association in Austin, Texas.

### Editor

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

### Associate Editor

Sarah Sitton 459-4530 207 E. 39th St.

### Poetry Editor

Nancy Taylor Day 892-0127 <Nancy@cipthersbyritter.com>  
4001 Duval (Salon) 78751

### Crime & Safety Chairman

Volunteer Needed

### Advertising Director

Carmin Way 310-6594 <carmin.way@photomask.com>  
P.O. Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

### Production Manager

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

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### Contributors

Glen Alyn, Candy Gray Becker, Cynthia Beeman, Laurence Becker, Mary Collins Blackmon, George Bristol, Chris Brown, Sharon Brown, Lewis Brownlow, Kathryn Bryn, Mark Burkhardt, Amon Burton, Martha Campbell, Mike Capochiano, Inga Marie Carmel, Josephine Casey, Nicole Caspers, Kitty Clark, Carol Cohen Burton, William Cook, Susan Crites Krumm, Celeste Cromack, Rob D'Amico, Herb Dickson, Avis Davis, Don Davis, Barbara Daywood, Lynn Denton, Pam Dozler, Russell Duke, Cathy Echols, Merle Franke, Gregory Free, Larry Freilich, Robert Garrett, Eugene George, Mary Carolyn George, Larry Gilg, Susan Gilg, Ann S. Graham, Carolyn E. Grimes, Rachel Hector, Ben Heimsath, Sandi Heimsath, Susan Holman, Albert Huffstickler, John Kerr, Susan Kerr, Bo Kersey, Susan Kirk, Anna Kotecki, Mary Lehmann, Dennis Lensing, Karen McGraw, Sharon Majors, Alan Marburger, Peter Maxson, Brook Meggs, Elaine Meenehan, Fred Meredith, Susan Moffat, Jack Nokes, Jill Nokes, Wanda Penn, Cecil Pennington, Peter Pfeiffer, Dorothy Richter, Walter Richter Sheree Scarborough, Cathy Short, Sarah Sitton, Thad Sitton, Julie Strong, Kathleen Strong, Lao Tzu, Jennifer Vickers, Katie Vignery, Sandra Villalaz-Dickson, Lorre Weidlich, Joe Wiseman.

## Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

P. O. Box 49427 • Austin, TX 78765

<http://www.austinhypark.org>

### — HPNA Officers —

President • John Kerr • jkerr@yahoo.com ..... 451-3931  
Vice Presidents • Denise Girard, • girard.d@att.net ..... 454-6584  
• Elaine Meenehan • elainemeenehan@austin.rr.com ..... 323-9772  
Secretary • Sam Waring • 4610 Ave H..... 453-0730  
Treasurer • Carmin Way • carmin.way@photomask.com ..... 310-6594  
PO Box 49427, Austin, TX 78765

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

AISD • Ann S. Graham, 3815 Ave H..... 458-8096  
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Beautification • Margot Thomas, 4106 Ave. F ..... 454-7284  
• Merle Franke, 4102 Ave. D ..... 452-0414  
Children's Programs • ..... Volunteer needed  
Church/Neighborhood Liaison • Niyata Spelman, 3802 Ave. F, 459-8349  
Communications/Web • Robin Silberling, robin@wcook.org ..... 452-1783  
Crime and Safety Chairman • Hermelinda Zamarripa ..... 974-9097  
Development Review • Stan Kozinsky, 4604 Ave. G ..... 451-4455  
Graffiti Patrol • E. Meenehan elainemeenehan@austin.rr.com ..... 323-9772  
Homes Tour • Alan Marburger, alan@mcgrawmarburger.com ..... 459-2261  
Membership • Doris Coward dcoward@mail.utexas.edu ..... 453-2476  
Neighborhood Planning • Karen McGraw, 4315 Ave. C ..... 459-2261  
Shipe Park • Joe Jerzejcic ..... 302-4074  
Sidewalks • Jamie Caras jcaras@sciencetechnologies.com ..... 323-6565  
Sidewalks • Rob Clinchard .....  
38th Street Taskforce ..... Volunteer needed  
Triangle Development • Cathy Echols, 4002 Ave. C ..... 206-0729  
Zoning • Dorothy Richter, 3901 Ave. G ..... 452-5117  
Austin Neighborhoods Council Rep. .... Volunteer needed



our zoning ordinances, which would, for example, allow increasing the zoning classification for a particular use but which would revert to its previous, lower zoning after the tenant left.

Another tool would be creating finer gradations in the existing zoning classifications. Thus a wine bar or a tapas bar would be zoned differently than a "real" bar, and all would be zoned differently than a liquor store. This is still a democracy; why shouldn't we be able to do this? Because of inertia in the city bureaucracy?

In the meantime, I think we need to be creative in seeking parking solutions, and flexible and realistic in accommodating development. I assure you some creative thinking is going into the parking issue related to the wine bar and may bear fruit by the November general meeting.

We also need to be willing to take a chance. Developments like the wine bar gives us a chance to experiment on the smallest possible scale: the unit of one. Yes, if the wine bar doesn't succeed, it could be replaced by a real bar. Could it be the kind of bar that attracts Hell's Angels, piercing our tranquil Hyde Park nights with roar of big Harleys, gunshots and the screams of outraged housewives? Maybe, but not likely. There are other parts of Austin where such establishments naturally gravitate. High rents see to that. If we always apply worst-case scenario thinking, we wouldn't have any restaurants. For example, what if the owners of As-ti's and Hyde Park Bar & Grill decide to cash out and are replaced with Hooter's and Joe's Crab Shack? What then?

Successful densification will likely require, more than ever before, out-of-the-box thinking, flexibility and courage. I invite all the neighbors to participate in this discussion. We can never have too many heads working on this complex, thorny question.

Good neighbors: Thanks to everyone who provided food and help and their presence to make our latest Fire Station Festival an enjoyable and productive afternoon. And thanks to students from the Griffin School who spent an afternoon cleaning up Shipe Park and Waller Creek. They serve as an example for all of us.

— John Kerr  
451-3931  
<jfkerr@yahoo.com>



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Please make checks payable to HPNA and mail with this form to:  
Doris Coward, Membership Committee, 4810 Red River, Austin, Texas 78751.

**2005-06 Membership**

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**<hgthomas@youthlaunch.org>**

\*Send your poems to:

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**4001 Duval**  
**Austin 78751**  
**<Nancy@ciphersbyritter.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.

## October Meeting Minutes...

...cont'd from page 1

the council for adoption on October 6th. All other parts of the NCCD have been adopted by the City Council. She reminded the meeting that there were still properties which had valid permits that were issued before the NCCD was enacted, so there may be a few more non-conforming structures started and built, but that permits issued after August 18th must be in compliance with NCCD zoning.

Bruce Nadig asked the association to consider providing a matching contribution from the legal fund for the neighbors who are in a **legal fight** over development at 609 Fairfield that violates deed restrictions. Bruce said the neighbors have pledged more than \$600 and asked the association to contribute \$600 in matching funds to contest the suit, to be used if and after the neighbors' funds are exhausted. There was considerable discussion of whether HPNA making a contribution to one party in a lawsuit would make it a party to the suit. The motion to provide the matching funds passed.

John Kerr brought up a proposed amendment to the city's **front yard parking** ordinance, authored by another neighborhood association, which will be going before City Council. After discussion, the association voted to oppose a change of language to allow any parking on grass in the yard.



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

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The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a heated and confused discussion of the zoning change to CS-1 and associated parking variance for the **proposed wine bar** at 4117 Guadalupe. Property owner Thad Avery fielded a mixture of questions and objections. The general question of changing zoning and use was mixed with debates over adequacy of parking and sidewalks in the immediate area, and the desirability (or lack thereof) of the wine bar as a member of the neighborhood business community. Several proposals to reconsider the decisions taken at the September meeting were floated, but the meeting adjourned without taking further action. Action to reconsider may be taken at the November meeting, as the variance application is supposed to come before City Council on November 14th. Some in attendance asked that voting on proposals affecting zoning and use issues should be announced a month ahead of time in the *Pecan Press* to allow maximum participation by neighbors. John Kerr said this was the procedure the Development Review Committee had been following and would continue to follow for future zoning and use change requests.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

– Sam Waring  
HPNA Secretary  
4610 Ave. H



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## Around & About the Avenues

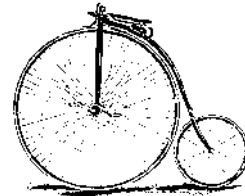
☞ **Chronicle to Hyde Park: You're # 1!**: In this year's edition of the *Austin Chronicle's* annual "Best of Austin" poll, none other than good ol' Hyde Park once again copped top honors in the "Best Neighborhood" category. The citation read as follows: "Hyde Park's beauty doesn't just lie in its location or the splendor offered by the tree-lined streets. It isn't simply her ties between the diverse community, nor unique treasures like the Avenue B Grocery and the Elisabet Ney Museum. What makes Hyde Park special might just be applicable to all of Austin; so many factors are contained in one, small(er) community that is as proud of its heritage as it is inclined to improve upon it." Thanks to the *Chronicle*, and Congrats to us!



☞ **Good Citizen Dept.:** Congrats as well to Karen McGraw of 4315 Avenue C – who, at the Fire Station Festival on Oct. 16th, was honored as this year's recipient of the HPNA's Walter and Dorothy Richter Good Citizen Award. Among her many contributions to the betterment of the 'hood, the award cited Karen's lead role in the successful efforts of the NCCD Planning Team – efforts which took fifteen years to come to full fruition -- and noted that "You serve as a model of the concerned, knowledgeable and involved neighborhood activist for all of us." Also honored at the Festival were Grande Communication, as a Corporate Good Neighbor; and Councilmember Brewster McCracken, for his efforts in support of sidewalk improvement/expansion on 45th. To all the honorees, congratulations and thanks!

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## Around & About the Avenues

⇒ **Festival Kudos Dept.:** Speaking of congratulations, and thanks, and the Fire Station Festival, grateful felicitations are very much in order for Deaton Bednar of 4103 Avenue G, who served so gamely and ably as Chair of this year's Festival. And while we're at it, Deaton suggests that we offer special thanks to Caroline Grimes for her help in setting things up; to Carol Jackson for managing food preparation, delivery and set up; to Corporate Good Neighbor Grande Communications for their generous \$500 donation; and to Common Goods, The Movie Store, Celebration and Fresh Plus for donating door prizes.



⇒ **Pet Adoption Dept.:** Thanks to Catherine Moore, we've learned of a new pet adoption opportunity that has begun at the Petco store in Hancock Center. Every Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Paw Match will offer homeless cats and dogs for adoption. The pet hopefuls are brought from outlying animal shelters in the Central Texas area, such as the Bastrop Animal Shelter, which get less exposure to potential adopters. On a recent day 6 kittens, 3 puppies and 3 adult dogs were wagging, greeting visitors and napping in front of the store. Paw Match maintains an online placement site at <www.pawmatch.org> or can be reached at 512-573-3281. Donations of cat and dog food and cat litter are also urgently needed by the group and are accepted at the Hancock Center location.

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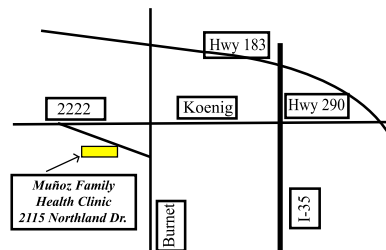


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⇒ **Triangle Dept.:** A recent piece in the *Statesman* -- "Triangle Finally Comes Together" -- notes that businesses and residents are beginning to move into the Triangle project north of 45th. Noting that the project is far more neighborhood-friendly than the strip mall that was originally proposed, the article concludes thusly: "Cathy Echols, a 12-year Hyde Park resident who represented the neighborhood in shaping the Triangle, says she's happy with the project and hopes its success will encourage neighborhoods and developers to work together more. 'The project going in has more monetary value than the original project,' she said. 'I think that if people see that when neighborhoods and developers work together you can come up with something that meets the needs of both groups, but can also be a better project, hopefully this kind of thing can happen more.'" To Cathy, and all the other neighbors who worked with her towards this goal, we say Amen, and Thank You!



⇒ **Sierra Club Dept.:** Our friends at the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club sent us a copy of their October newsletter, which included news of all sorts of Club-sponsored adventures, including a boffo 6.5 mile hike in Pedernales Falls State Park in early November. There was also a feature article on Austin's newly-unveiled plan for Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles -- a plan that, in our post-Katrina world, is likely to be seen as increasingly wise and timely. If you're ready to sign up, and/or want more info, you can call 472-9094, and/or visit <www.texas.sierraclub.org/austin>.

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# Letters Dept.

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### Who and When

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### How much

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### For information and to register.

You can reach me at 779-9679 or visit our website at <[www.kidzartaustin.com](http://www.kidzartaustin.com)>

I hope to have some of your kids in my class!

Thanks so much,

— Sharon Freilich, 4115  
Avenue B



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Hyde Park Poets — 



## Tanka for Miss Kitty

The cat has her way:  
we go outside to eat grass.  
Neighbors passing by  
do not observe our munching.  
We pluck each blade so gently.

— Constance Campbell

**HPNA web site has *MOVED***  
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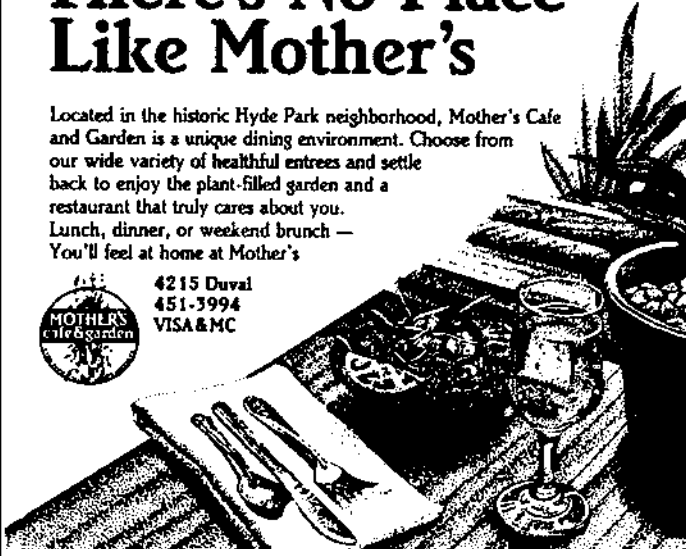
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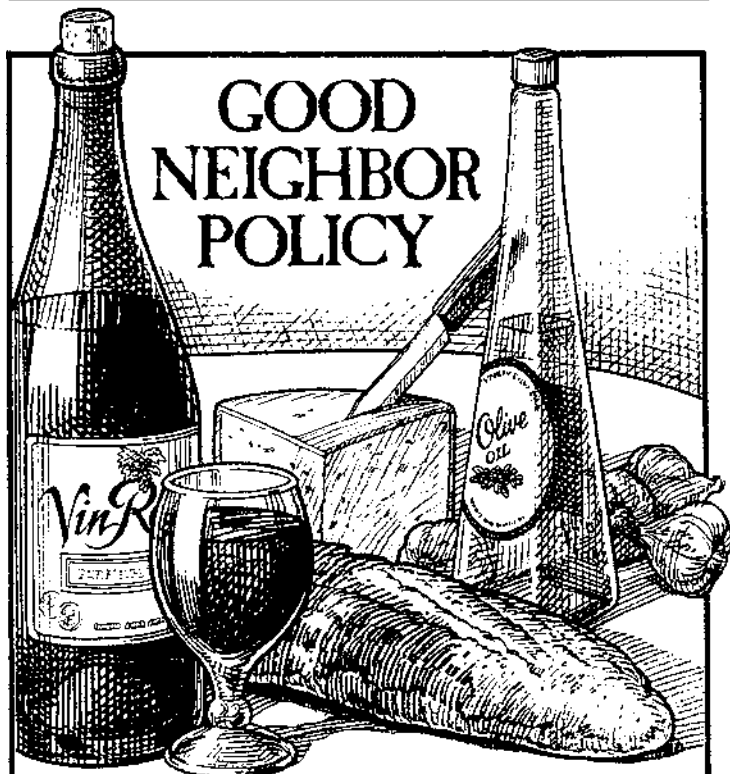
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# Hyde Park Poets —

## October Prayer

The October sky is brilliant

pure in blueness

in my garden sanctuary

butterflies

wings of stained glass

flit from daisy to amaranth

I drink in the awesome beauty of this day

and give thanks

And wonder what greed

what evil appetite

drives man to destroy

what God has made

has entrusted to his care

Do my brothers and sisters

in Baghdad

Darfur,

Palestine

see the blue

the butterflies

are their days too full

of bombing

starvation and filth

walls that divide

to notice

I pray for the day when mankind

will be satisfied with enough

when the world's table

will know plenteousness

and hearts everywhere

will rejoice in the beauty

of an October day

— Ginna Franke

10.2004



HPNA web site moved to

<[www.austinhypark.org](http://www.austinhypark.org)>



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## Hyde Park Poets —

### Knowing You

Out of a dozen shirts  
I pick yours  
nuzzle into it  
hold you in absentia  
against my face  
a mother thing  
I'm told, some innate  
association, ancient gift  
given before we  
named our young  
We touch, you  
trusting that no harm  
will flow between us  
a certain intimacy  
swaddled beneath the  
barber's cape  
outrage and agony.  
If on my face tears,  
then our truths  
have met, bare, vulnerable  
You ask me: what is  
the price of gasoline?  
Is the war still going?  
You beckon me to you  
arthritic fingers curling  
oddly around the request.  
I kneel close, as if I were  
the deaf one, and you ask:  
Now who are you?  
Old woman deserving only love  
I knew you once as Mama.

— Nancy Taylor Day  
9.2005



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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association salutes Grande Communications on receiving our first-ever **Corporate Good Neighbor Award**. From generously underwriting our major social events and hosting our Web site to cleaning our alleys and graffiti, Grande Communications has set the gold standard for close-up neighborhood support. For their past and continuing support we say a most heartfelt "Thank you."

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## “Books and the Big Top” Children’s Book Drive

All Austin Cooperative Nursery School and Family Connections are working with Circus Chimera to help disadvantaged preschoolers. People who come to experience the magic of this year’s Circus Chimera are being asked to help bring the magic of books to disadvantaged preschoolers. The ‘Books and the Big Top’ book drive, which runs from Oct. 17 to Nov. 13, will collect new or gently used children’s books for Central Texas Hearts, a Family Connections program providing mentoring, early-childhood training and educational materials to preschools serving disadvantaged children. Family Connections will distribute donated books to preschools here and in the Gulf Coast region hit hard by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

All Austin Cooperative Nursery School, a nonprofit preschool that receives a portion of Circus Chimera ticket sales, is coordinating the book drive. “We are eager to share our own school’s good fortune by working to bring books and an early love of literacy into preschools across Texas,” says Liz Garton Scanlon, president of the board of the nonprofit that has provided quality early-childhood education since 1953.

Book collection barrels will be at Hyde Park’s Dolce Vita at 4222 Duval and up the street at Fresh Plus 408 E 43rd. Circus Chimera’s new show, “Magimystical,” will run from Nov. 3 through Nov. 13 at the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport. It’s a family-friendly, non-animal circus that some fans call “Cirque du Soleil without the attitude.” As a thank you to book donors, coupons good for \$3 off the \$12 gate ticket price will be attached to the book collection barrels. People who buy advance tickets may bring books to the circus, which will also have collection bins. For more information go to [www.allaustincoop.org/circus](http://www.allaustincoop.org/circus)

– Jenni Berry

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## ALL of North Hyde Park NCCD Now In Effect!

The North Hyde Park Neighborhood Conservation Combining District (NCCD) is now all in effect. The City Council adopted the main ordinance on August 18, 4505 Duval (the Oak Park Apartments) provisions on September 29 and 609 Fairfield on October 6 to finally complete this effort.

The signed North Hyde Park NCCD ordinance has now been posted on the HP website <[www.austinydepark.org](http://www.austinydepark.org)> thanks to William Cook and Robin Silberling who run the Hyde Park news-group and website.

Congratulations everyone for your hard work! It has been a pleasure working with you all and getting to know so many neighbors.

– Karen McGraw AIA  
Chairman, Hyde Park Planning Team

HYDE PARK

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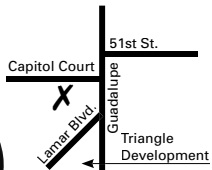
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11:30-1:00						<b>Basics</b> Amy	<b>Vinyasa</b> Keith
4:30-6:00	<b>Mixed</b> Keith	<b>Hatha</b> Seva	<b>Mixed</b> Tara	<b>Vinyasa</b> Keith	<b>Hatha</b> Seva		
6:30-8:00	<b>Vinyasa</b> Keith	<b>Mixed</b> Seva	<b>Basics</b> Tara	<b>Hatha</b> Keith	<b>Mixed</b> Seva		

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