

# NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# President's Letter: Winter, and a New Communication Tool, is Coming By Brandon Tucker

The holidays are always a good time to perform a little housekeeping to get lean and mean for the New Year. In that spirit, our neighborhood executive committee has been rethinking how we communicate with our neighbors.

The current Yahoo! discussion board many of you have joined over the years has become a sore spot for many folks. While it has been a staple of the neighborhood for about as long as the Internet has been around, you may not know that the neighborhood does not have administrative access to it. Over the years, we have had neighbors approach the executive committee about being unfairly censored or even banned from the listsery. We are in a helpless position when there is a dispute because we have not been granted access to moderate it.

Also, in recent years, the Nextdoor website has grown substantially in user mass and we see many of our neighbors utilizing that platform more. With this in mind, the neighborhood executive committee has spent much of the past year debating how we want to communicate with our neighborhood in a secure but effective way. We think Nextdoor's ability to connect with other neighborhoods makes it a good place to find dog walkers or sell furniture. But there are also ways the neighborhood association needs to conduct its business for which Nextdoor is not designed.

We believe we have a useful and secure solution from a local provider in the tech community that will allow the neighborhood to conduct critical business – like membership dues, Sparky Park rental info, handover notes, and other civic documents and news items – that will allow us to more effectively function as a neighborhood association.

We look forward to revealing this new tool in 2017. For now, we hope you have a wonderful holiday, whether you are traveling or welcoming friends and family to North University

#### In This NUNA Newsletter

- Brandon Tucker on a coming neighborhood communication tool...
- Rick Iverson on celebrating a valuable neighbor...
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- Jan Moyle with important news on NUNA dues...
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### Celebrating a Valuable Neighbor, Truman Breed

By Rick Iverson

Please join us in wishing Truman Breed, longtime owner of Breed & Co., the very best in his retirement. He quit his job as an officer at Austin National Bank in 1969 and purchased Davis Hardware which was located where Ken's Donuts is today. Shortly after, he moved it to the current location on 29th Street.

Over these many years he has befriended all who walked into his shop. Truman was diligent in providing his best advice over all our many home repairs. The store was a convenient place to meet up with our friends and neighbors who were so busy with their daily lives. Ann Breed expanded into kitchen wares and gifts which saved us many trips to the mall.

We will honor the Breeds at the December general membership meeting and give you an opportunity to thank them personally. Leoda Anderson has promised some good stories to help with the send-off.

Truth is that they are both dearly missed from all of us in North University and surrounding neighborhoods!



Picture of the Month - Neighborhood children cracking harvested pecans in Hemphill Park, courtesy of Lindsey Smith.

#### Welcome to North University!

You've joined one of Austin's most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods. North University is home to faculty and students, young professionals, young and established families and people of all stripes. Many of your neighbors have lived here for decades. We're all proud of the special character of North University, its historic homes and public spaces. It's an inclusive and inspiring place — and we're glad you're here.

On behalf of the North University Neighborhood Association, welcome to NUNA. This note answers some frequently-asked questions and provides some practical information helpful for new neighbors.

You can also check out our website: nunaaustin.org.

## NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Sparky Park 3701 Grooms St, Austin, TX 78705

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM **AGENDA** 

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes of f October 18, 2016 meeting
- III. Guests:

Truman Breed Assistant Chief Manley (Austin Police Department) Sigma Chi Fight Night Chairman Ricardo Martinez

Dan Keshet, Waller Creek Conservancy

IV. Reports:

ANC Mary Ingle

CANPAC

Historic District Rick Iverson &

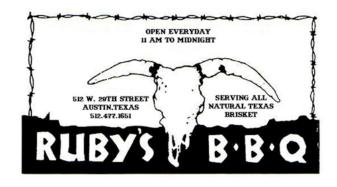
Roger Binkley

DRC Steven Tomlinson
Newsletter Michael J. Gaudini

Parks Bill Bednar Treasurer Jan Moyle

**Quadrant Leaders Reports** 

- V. Items for Action: None
- VI. Adjourn



**NOISE** - People in NUNA love a good party and great music. As a NUNA neighbor, you also have a right to a good night's sleep! The City of Austin Noise Ordinance requires that your neighbors not be playing loud music after 10:30 p.m. or before 7 a.m. If a neighbor loses track of time, a friendly knock on their door will usually do the trick. If for some reason, they don't respond to your request, you can call 9-1-1 to report a violation. **Please ask for a case number as that may come in handy later.** 

Here's an excerpt from the City of Austin's Noise Ordinance in case you need it:

#### § 9-2-3 - GENERAL RESTRICTIONS.

A) A person may not: (1) use or permit the use of sound equipment at a business in excess of the decibel limits prescribed by this chapter; ...(5) operate sound equipment in a vehicle audible or causing a vibration 30 feet from the equipment

§ 9-2-5 - RESTRICTION ON USE OF SOUND EQUIPMENT IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA. (A) This section applies to property zoned as residential under Section 25-2-32(B) ( Zoning Districts and Map Codes).(B) A person may not use sound equipment that produces sound audible beyond the property line of a residence in a residential area between 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. § 9-2-61

§ 9-2-61- OFFENSES. (A) A person commits an offense if the person makes noise or uses sound equipment in violation of a provision of this chapter or a sound impact plan or temporary event impact plan required under this chapter. (B) An offense under this chapter is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500. The full Noise Ordinance is available here: https://www.municode.com/library/TX/Austin/codes/code\_of\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT9PRAC\_CH9-2NOAMSO&searchText=#TOPTITLE

#### TRASH AND RECYCLING

Friday is trash and recycling collection day in NUNA.

Trash and yard trimmings are collected every week. Recycling is collected every other week.

You can find the current schedule of recycling collection and rules for recycling here: www.austintexas.gov/department/residential-curbside-collection-schedule.

Please put the recyclable items in the blue bins, not the trash cans. By keeping non-recyclable items out of the blue bins, you

#### DOGS!

NUNA loves dogs, and walking your dog in the 'hood and the parks is a great way to meet your neighbors (and their pets). To keep our streets and parks clean (and to avoid fines), we're all picking up after our pets. If you forget to bring a plastic bag with you on a dog walk, you can find them in the dispensers at either end of Hemphill Park and in Sparky Park.

Don't be surprised if a neighbor offers you one!

Here's the ordinance, just in case: § 3-4-6 - DEFECATION BY A DOG OR CAT. An owner or handler shall promptly remove and sanitarily dispose of feces left on public or private property by a dog or cat being handled by the person, other than property owned by the owner or handler of the dog or cat.

#### PARKING AND SAFETY

The police are pretty vigilant about enforcing parking in NUNA. To avoid a ticket, you'll want to be careful about parking in the direction of traffic.

Also, we have Residential Permit Parking on most of NUNA's streets. Be sure to warn your friends that they can be ticketed for parking in the residential zone without a pass. You can get a parking sticker for yourself and day passes for your friends by contacting NUNA's volunteer parking coordinator, Sara Pietsch (sarapietsch52@gmail.com)

The City of Austin does not permit front-yard parking in NUNA. Park in the driveway or on the street to avoid fines. More information here: www.austintexas.gov/department/front-yard-parking

### JOIN NUNA!

North University Neighborhood Association (NUNA) has a meet up every other month. Check our website for more details: http://www.nunaaustin.org/.

make Austin's recycling cost effective.

Your garbage bin, recycling bin and yard trimmings must be placed at the curb or in your alley by 6:30 a.m. on Friday. All carts must be removed from the curb by 10 p.m. on Friday. If neighbors are leaving their carts out over the weekend and they're getting in the way of your street parking, a friendly reminder will usually do the trick. If a problem persists, you can call 3-1-1. Any of us who leaves carts out past Friday can get cited and fined.

The sanitation trucks can collect only what's in the bins. So, your neighbors implore you not to leave plastic garbage bags on the curb. (Since the sanitation workers can't take them, they turn into party favors for raccoons and opossums.) If you find you're generating more trash than fits in your bins, please contact the City (using the link above) and they'll get you a bigger bin.

The City schedules bulky item and brush (tree and bush trimmings) collection from time to time. You'll get a postcard letting you know when one of these collections is coming up. Your neighbors will really appreciate it if you do not leave bulky items on the curb except during the designated collection period.

Many neighbors volunteer with party planning, park improvements, and other committees that contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood. Your neighbors are great folks, and you'll enjoy meeting them. To stay informed, join our Yahoo Group at: Nuna-residents@yahoogroups.com.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you in person. In the meantime, enjoy your new home and reach out with any questions to your neighborhood officers.

Yours,

#### **Brandon Tucker**

Co-President NunaAustin@Gmail.com

#### **Rick Iverson**

Co-President NunaAustin@Gmail.com

#### Steven Tomlinson

Vice President Steven@abporter.org

#### Join the Discussion!

Listserves are a great way to become more connected with your community. The North University Yahoo Group is

a hands-on, public communications resource, helping neighbors inform, communicate, and build a stronger community. The list is inclusive,



open to anyone who lives in the North University Neighborhood and to people who have a material interest here, such as operators of a business, non-profit, or civic process. One can subscribe by sending E-mail to:

#### nuna-residents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

or by visiting the Yahoo! Groups site at:

groups.yahoo.com/group/nuna-residents



@crimeatx is a crime watch Twitter feed that promotes crime prevention and public crimeatx safety awareness in our area. It was established by the Central Austin CDC in

January 2012 to help inform and prepare the returning student community in the immediate aftermath of the NYE attacks and murder of Esme Barrera. To sign up or learn more, visit twitter.com/crimeatx and tweet with the hashtag #NORTHUNIVERSITY.

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#### What's Up with NUNA Dues?

By Jan Moyle

This is what is happening this year. When Residential Parking was changed to August, the date for paying NUNA dues also changed to August. If your dues were paid with your parking, you are all set. If not, please pay now using the form in the newsletter and send your check to Jan Moyle.

What will happen next year? Because the Residential Parking program is being taken over by the City of Austin in 2017, we will change the date for dues back to what it has always been, January to December. Dues that have been paid already or will be paid as soon as you read the newsletter will be good until December, 2017.

Dues are \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, and \$10 for students. Please fill out the form, enclose your check and mail it to Jan. The address is on the form.

If you have any questions, please email Jan at : moylejan@gmail.com

## A Little Bit Wild... Notes from the NUNA Gardens

-Lindsey Smith

"When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."

-Wendell Berry, "The Peace of Wild Things"

Fall in Austin reminds me of Spring up North, truly a season to celebrate! All living things seem to rise up out of summer's scorched stupor and life force quickens a bit in delight. The light seems to sharpen and with it our resolve. Here in Hemphill, summer's cicada song gave way to the maw of Asplundi's chain saws and dashes of shouts from tree trimmers dangling in branches. Much as I loved careening down the hills on my bike under the tree canopy the power lines had other plans for the sky.

It's been a strange fall, unseasonably warm and flummoxing to





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the Central Texas Gardener. I planted my usual winter garden in September only to watch most of the cool weather greens bow down bitterly to the heat. Tomatoes, basil and arugula continue to thrive deep into November and may even make their way onto the Thanksgiving table.

Thankfully the buckthorn berries have fruited in their festive shade of holiday red, delighting both our pesky grackles and eager holiday decorators. I'm still waiting for the oak leaves to crimson and crisp, adding some much-needed variety to the fall canopy of our little forest. Of course, the pecans themselves quietly steal the show in our neighborhood, providing endless opportunities to hunt, gather, and pilfer through with relish.

#### Award-Winning Efforts of NUNA Residents

By Doug Plummer

On October 28 at the Driskill Hotel, Preservation Austin handed out its 2016 "Merit Awards" for efforts in Historic Preservation – and NUNA residents won two of the awards!

Jill and Stephen Wilkinson were recognized for their long history of saving and restoring homes in the NUNA and Heritage Neighborhoods. Along with preservation architect Jay Farrell, the Wilkinsons have purchased and restored a number of historic homes. Their most recent project can be found on the corner of 30th and Salado and is a stunning example of a historic structure which has been beautifully preserved on the outside with a modern "downtown loft feel" on the inside. The neighborhood is truly lucky to have neighbors like Jill and Stephen.

The other award winner was our very own Sparky Park. Douglas Plummer and Mary Ingle attended the awards luncheon and ceremony. Mary Ingle accepted the award on behalf of the neighborhood, along with HUO architects Tom Hatch, Kristina Olivent and Austin Parks and Recreation Department staffers, Kim McKnight and Kevin Johnson.

Neighbors should be proud of what NUNA neighbors have accomplished in preserving our architectural history.



Mary Ingle and Doug Plummer attended the Preservation Austin awards ceremony at the Driskill Hotel

#### **Demolition and Affordability**

By Steven Tomlinson

As developers, neighborhoods, and city staff negotiate the overhaul of Austin's land use code (the project known as CodeNEXT), we are hearing a lot of debate about what sorts of policies will make Austin more affordable. In particular, some proponents of making it easier to demolish houses in our core neighborhoods argue that demolitions allow developers to replace old, smaller single-family houses with larger condominium projects where each unit rents for less than the old house. Let's look at that argument closely.

First, we'll want to know what sort of household fits in one of the new units. If these condos have just one or two bedrooms, they're a tight squeeze for a family of five. Next, we'll want to know the rent on the new units. New usually means a higher price tag and attracts renters who put a premium on new. Also, each condo has a kitchen, and so a higher kitchen-to-bedroom ratio. Suppose an old single-family house has four bedrooms and rents for \$2,800 per month. Suppose you could demolish the old house and build three new one-bedroom condos that rent for \$1,400 each?

This is great for the landlord and could be great for new tenants, but the property has become significantly less affordable for the family of five who might have been living in the old house. If single adults rent two of the condos and a couple rents the third, we also get decreased density on the property.

Older houses are usually the most affordable option for larger families in the urban core. This is not to say that demolitions always produce less affordable options or are always bad. It is just that the impact of demolitions on affordability is complex

Fierce and thoughtful conversation around CodeNEXT can inspire innovative ways to balance the competing objectives at play. Those of us who advocate for affordability and preservation want to be prepared to counter simplistic arguments that create a false choice.

#### To Cap It Off, the Capitol

By Leoda Anderson

When we were living in northeast Austin, my cousin Arthur of Illinois came for a visit. About 55, divorced, he was the older brother of the cousin Viola I mentioned in a previous story. Arthur had a warm personality, an easy-going disposition, and a quirky sense of humor.

Over the weekend we took him to several places of interest. Then on Monday he was free to explore a bit on his own. He came with me downtown, where at the time I was working for the City's "Planning Department," as it was called then.

Among the few suggestions I made one was to see the Capitol, another was to have lunch at the Piccadilly Cafeteria at 8th and Congress.

That evening as we sat down to supper, Arthur announced, "Well, I had quite a day!" "What did you do?" All six of us wanted to know.

"The main event started at the Piccadilly Cafeteria that you recommended. After I had my lunch, which was very good, I reached for my jacket that I had hung on one of the hooks,

and in doing so brushed against a fellow who was reaching for his jacket. Because we were so near the Capitol, where I was headed next, I jokingly said, 'Excuse me, Senator!'"

"Well, it turns out that he actually is a senator, a real live Texas senator! He took me up to the Capitol, showed me his office, introduced me to everyone we met. Then took me on a grand tour of that magnificent building—the red-carpet treatment! For me, just a stranger in town, I was impressed." So were we.



Texas State Capital Building

#### Introducing State Representative-elect Gina Hinojosa

A native Texan and a proud product of public schools, Gina Hinojosa arrived in Austin in 1992 to attend the University of Texas at Austin. With the exception of her years in law school in Washington, D.C., she has called Austin home ever since.

The daughter of legal aid lawyers from Mission, Texas, Gina was steeped in social justice and activism at a young age. Her mother, Crisanta Guerra Lozano, was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States. She now resides in Austin's Hyde Park neighborhood.

Gina graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Plan II Honors/Government degree. She received her law degree from George Washington Law School in 1999 and was licensed that same year.

Gina's first legal job was working for AFSCME in the Office of Legal Counsel in Washington, D.C. There she learned the importance of organized labor in securing a strong middle class and workers' rights. In Austin, Gina joined the law firm of Kator, Parks & Weiser, representing employees who had been discriminated against based on race, gender, age, and disability.



Gina Hinojosa

Gina worked on the prevailing legal team that sued House Majority Leader Tom Delay for illegal campaign contributions to Republican members of the Texas House.

Once she and her husband started their family, Gina worked part-time for Catholic Charities, Office of Immigrant Concerns, Texas Rural Legal Aid, and the Equal Justice Center where she helped to secure unpaid wages for low-wage workers. She still serves on the Equal Justice Center Board.

Throughout her career, Gina volunteered with Austin Interfaith and was a key leader in the organization's successful efforts to require corporations that receive economic incentives from the City to pay their employees a living wage or higher.

Gina ran for the Austin Independent School District (AISD) School Board primarily because she was frustrated with the District's proposed plan to close neighborhood schools, including the school her son attended, Pease Elementary. She was elected to an at-large position on the Board in November 2012 and was elected Board President by her fellow trustees in January 2015.

In the short time that Gina served on the School Board, she led successful efforts on workers' rights, advocated and testified at the legislature in support of increased funding for public education, partnered with the city to secure millions in additional funding for students, and secured the rights and safety of LGBTQ employees and students. Under her leadership, every AISD high school met state accountability standards for the first time, a major step forward in improving academic performance for all students.

Gina lives in the Old Enfield neighborhood with her husband, John Donisi, two sons, Matteo and Pablo, and their dog, Baffi. John is an Austin attorney who served as a special assistant to Governor Ann Richards.

This piece was reprinted from Representative-elect Hinojosa's website.

#### Who Ya Gonna Call?

Michael J. Gaudini

There has been a bit of talk recently about public safety – such as when and who to call for public assistance. Emergencies First things first, if there is an emergency, dial 9-1-1 immediately.

Emergencies include (but are not limited to) situations in which someone's life is in danger, a suspect is in the act of perpetrating a crime, or a suspect has already committed a crime but is still at the scene.

Non-Emergencies If you need to report a non-emergency incident, you can do so by calling 3-1-1 or submitting an incident report online at IReportAustin.com. You should be given a case number when the Austin Police Department (APD) accepts your report; you can use this case number to track the status of your case.

Keep in mind that reporting crimes can fall into the Nonemergency category. For instance, in situations where a crime has already occurred, no one is in danger, and the perpetrator is long gone (for instance, if you come home to find your bike was stolen several hours ago), that may be a Non-emergency call.

Your District Representative In addition, APD runs a district representative program in which areas across the city are assigned specific officers to serve as a liaison between the department and the community.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can always feel free to contact the district representative serving our neighborhood directly. His name is Officer Eric Copeland and he can be reached at: (512) 974-8124.



#### NUNA General Membership Meeting, 14 June 2016

6:31 Meeting called to order by Brandon Tucker.

John Davis moves the April meeting minutes approved. Jack Brannon seconds. No votes against. PASSES.

#### Visitor:

Barbara Epstein from Hancock NA. Asks the NUNA supports the Hancock NA code enforcement efforts with respect to occupancy limits on duplexes (four unrelated people per site) and the parking limits. Barbara plans to send a message to neighborhood reminding them of the occupancy limits and encouraging people to call 311.

Mary Ingle reminds us that due to the Urban Core Parking Reduction (20% reduction of parking requirements) developers must provide only 3 parking spaces (not 4) for nine-bedroom duplex. We could advocate with CodeNext to maintain four-person occupancy limits on new duplexes.

Mary Ingle, ANC Report. NUNA doesn't have a representative at ANC. We need a rep to attend monthly meeting plus a (monthly) sector meeting — and it will be fun! Recent resolutions concern fire stations in areas where needed. Also the group has produced a set of performance metrics of City Manager.

Also the group saw a presentation on affordable development and discussed density bonuses and linkage fees (permit fee to raise money for affordable housing). David Butts discussing the Prop 1 campaign and residents discussing the Cactus Rose trailer park case. Mary Ingle, CANPAC Report. West Campus (2502 Nueces) case where developers are requesting significant reduction in parking requirements. CANPAC wins at Board of Adjustment. Developer will lease spaces required.

Janet Beinke, Local Historic District. Aldridge Place Case submitted in April. Probably going to Historic Landmark Commission in July. Steve Sadowsky offering language as part of city approval. The columns are a contributing resource to the LHD. Columns and streetlights, parks and bridges also included in the plan.

Development Review Committee, Steven Tomlinson Sidewalk plan for north side of 34th Street. Multifamily development planned for 107 – 109 West 31st Street. Demolition permit requested.

Steven Tomlinson moves we authorize \$400 for NUNA 4th of

July party. (If we get a volunteer to oversee a water slide, we'll rent one for the party.) Mike Marcom seconds. No opposition. PASSES.

Randy (NW Quadrant) reports on graffiti on the sidewalk, mowing in City right of way and khaki weed (a noxious plant with large burrs now appearing in Hemphill Park).

Mary (NE Quadrant) reports on landscaping at Sparky Park. We'll soon be able to have NA meetings there, in October if not August.

Dick (SE Quadrant) reports we still have questions about changes in residential permit parking.

Streetlights: We're still waiting to find out if Austin Energy will turn over control of the streetlights on our columns to some other authority. We're waiting on conversations between Austin

Energy and City Staff: Allen continues to research long-term solutions for lighting the columns.

Lindsey Huddleston is taking the lead on the playground equipment in Adams Park.

New Business: Mary Ingle moves that NUNA authorizes \$100 for a plant for June Hawley whose husband recently passed away. Rick Holland seconds. No opposition. PASSES.Rick and Mary will deliver the plant on behalf of the neighborhood.

Susan Pryor raises concerns about the placement of cable wires and large service boxes in NUNA.

Jeff Autrey raises concerns about the City removing trees from the right-of-way around his property.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.





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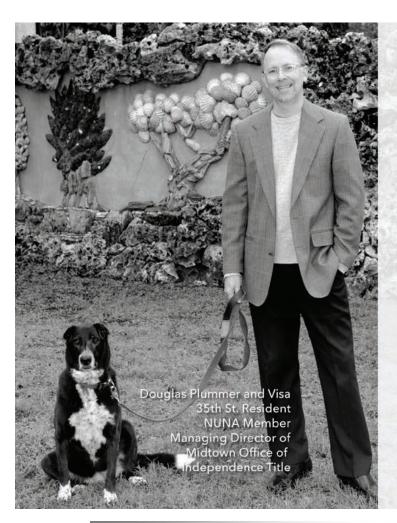
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## **HYDE PARK & NORTH UNIVERSITY HOMES GALLERY**



#### 2311 SHOAL CREEK BLVD.

1949 Mid-century modern home overlooking Caswell Tennis Courts. Over 3,000 SF with 3BR, 2BA, open floor plan, wonderful natural light, great outdoor areas, .384 acre lot. Listed at \$1,095,000



#### 103 WEST 32ND STREET

1930s Colonial Revival with guest house and swimming pool. Main house has 3,064 SF with 4 BR,4 BA, 2 LIV, 2 DIN. Beautifully updated kitchen & baths. 1-car garage. Listed at \$1,045,000



#### 838 EAST 37TH STREET

Spacious 1940s Austin stone house located just south of Hancock Golf Course. 2,271 SF, one-story, 3 BR, 3 BA, 1 LIV, 2 DIN, 2-car garage. Walk to UT and Lee Elementary. Listed at \$675,000



#### **4605 EILERS AVENUE**

Hyde Park bungalow with 2nd story master bedroom addition. Open floor plan, approximately 2,010 SF with 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 LIV. Covered back porch, large fenced backyard. Listed at \$675,000



#### **4202 AVENUE C**

Classic 1920s Hyde Park bungalow featuring 2 BR, 1 BA plus separate 1 BR, 1 BA garage apartment. Both have hardwood floors and many recent updates.

Listed at \$529,500



#### **3303 LIBERTY STREET**

Beautiful modern Craftsman style home with high-end finish-out. Maple flooring throughout. Gourmet kitchen. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 LIV, 2 car

Listed at \$989,000



#### **821 HARRIS AVENUE**

1930s storybook cottage just steps from Lee Elementary. 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 LIV, formal dining. Upstairs master suite. Stone patio, pergola, private gardens. Detached workshop.

Listed at \$650,000



#### 3306 HARRIS PARK AVENUE

Charming renovated 1930s duplex available for January 1st move-in. Adorable downstairs unit has hardwoods, 2 BR, 1 BA, 1 LIV, 1 DIN, screened-in porch. All appliances.

Listed at \$1,995/mo.

The Central Austin real estate market remains strong! Contact your neighborhood expert for a complimentary market analysis and customized marketing plan for your property.

## Suzanne Pringle

Broker, REALTOR® 512.217.1047 suzanne.pringle@sothebysrealty.com



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