



Meetings & More

Monthly Meetings –

HPNA Board: Second Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Meetings:

Third Tuesdays, odd-numbered months, 7:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Chapel, 3801 Gillham Rd.

Crime and Safety: Officers meet with neighbors monthly at 7:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month from Jan–Oct at Central Patrol, 1200 E. Linwood Blvd.

The HP Playgroup: For updates, join the Facebook group at: facebook.com/groups/167822493269853.

Your 2023 HPNA Board

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P.O. Box 32551
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Street Safety Study Results Are In

The draft of the Hyde Park Street Safety Study is now available for viewing at hydeparksafetystudy.com! The neighborhood survey conducted by Street Smarts Design + Build was a success, with 218 responses, though hundreds more were collected via an online interactive map. The draft includes a wide range of suggested safety improvements to help address concerns that were observed by or shared with the Hyde Park Street Safety Committee during the spring months of 2023.

Areas of concerns noted by the study include

- Deteriorating and neglected sidewalks
- Fast-moving vehicles on both arterial and interior streets
- Difficult-to-cross roadways
- Lack of safe access to the neighborhood’s parks
- Unsafe school zones
- Cut-through traffic emboldened by no-left-turn regulations
- High speed limits
- An increase in commercial traffic
- Confusing one-way streets
- A lack of street tree maintenance
- Vandalized infrastructure and signage
- Inappropriate parking
- Parking regulations that prioritize commuter traffic

The nearly 150-page draft contains a wealth of information and suggested improvements tailored to each area of Hyde Park—North, Central, and South—as well as its arterial streets (Linwood Boulevard, Troost Avenue, 39th Street, Armour Boulevard, Gillham Boulevard, and 31st Street) and other problematic streets. (Read the draft study’s “Letter to the Neighborhood” on page 4 of this newsletter.)

Your interest in Hyde Park’s street safety is invaluable. Please view the draft study and leave feedback by visiting hydeparksafetystudy.com.

Nominating Committee Needs Members

Are you looking for a way to get involved? Would you like to help find qualified people to represent you and your neighbors on the board of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association? We are seeking members for the nominating committee. The nominating committee is composed of five (5) voting members of the association who shall be elected by the voting members at the July 18 general meeting. At least two members of the nominating committee shall be current board members. At least one member shall reside in North Hyde Park; at least one member shall reside in Central Hyde Park; and at least one member shall reside in South Hyde Park. The nominating committee shall nominate at least one (1) eligible person for each directorship to be filled and shall report the names of its nominees at the annual meeting.

To volunteer, email hpna@hydeparkkc.org.

Upcoming Neighborhood Events

Dance Performances in the Park

Creative Intersections, in partnership with Owen/Cox Dance Group, will hold dance performances on Saturday, August 12, and Sunday, August 13. The casual, free-to-attend event will take place at the Pilgrim Labyrinth and Butterfly Garden in the north area of Hyde Park.

Exact time is to be decided. Please visit owencoxdance.org for updates.

Ice Cream Social: July 18

Join your neighbors for a general neighborhood meeting and an ice cream social on Tuesday, July 18 at Pilgrim Chapel (3801 Gillham Road). The event will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.



The Circular Saw

The construction of houses in our neighborhood would not have been practical if it had not been for the invention of the circular saw. Saws have been around for more than five thousand years, dating back to the ancient Egyptians, as well as the Greeks and the Romans. However, the saw's utility was limited. Most saws were strips of copper, bronze, or iron with teeth along one edge, and they were all operated by hand. The only exception was a slow "up-and-down" saw, which was powered by a water mill or a steam engine.

Then the circular saw came along.

The first recorded circular saw appeared around 1780, or around the same time as the cut nail. Like that type of nail, its creation had many claimants, including a sailmaker and a carpenter from Southampton, England; a German named Gervinus; a Shaker woman in New England; and Edmond Michel, an American who patented a circular saw in 1800. Each of these folks probably contributed something to the emerging technology.

The circular saw was a round disc of varied sizes lined with teeth specially designed for the type of cut that was going to be made. This tool has also been called a buzz saw because of the unique sound it makes. It could make concentric rings when the lumber it cut was not planed smooth, as was usually the case with the lathe that supported plaster walls.

The circular saw's disc spun around an axis powered by foot (in the case of the Shaker saw), water, and especially steam engine, which was new in the early 1700s. As such, it was faster and more efficient than the saws it replaced and could quickly produce the type of dimensional lumber that was needed for a wood frame. This would revolutionize the method in which houses could be built, including all the homes in the Hyde Park neighborhood.

Author Grant Mallett grew up on construction crews and has restored nine old houses, three of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He has worked on redevelopment/historic preservation projects in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. He is also the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association Historian.

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M. 816-729-1241
O. 816-420-5180

3632 CHARLOTTE | SOLD

Give your home the protection it deserves.

Your home is where you make some of your best memories, and that's worth protecting. I'm here to help. LET'S TALK TODAY.

Tony Guy, Agent
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Bus: 816-221-9066
tonyguy.net

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Find Awareness through Movement with Body and Soul of KC

Dear neighbor,

I bought my Hyde Park home in 2000 because I thought it would be a great place to raise my son. And it was. Hyde Park is a beautiful neighborhood with fabulous restored homes and wonderful people. Its residents know how I feel when I say there is nowhere else in Kansas City I would rather live.

Before Covid-19, my small business, Body and Soul of Kansas City, had been located in Brookside for twenty-six years. The pandemic hit, and then my studio flooded—again. I packed up, went home, cleared out my first-floor furniture, and learned how to work Zoom. All my students came along. Boom! Body and Soul of KC became an online business.

It has been three years since then, and classes are going

great. People like rolling out of bed and attending the studio from home. Night classes allow everyone to be home and comfortable no matter the weather. This is perfect for Hyde Park neighbors; you can walk to class or just roll out of bed and do your movement work for the day. I also offer one in-person class per week in Waldo.

My yoga, awareness through movement, and fitness students are mainly between age sixty and eighty-five. Together we practice fearless aging, fabulous movement, loving life, and living fully.

Does this sound like an experience you want? Find the schedule of classes at bodyandsoulkc.com, or join me on Facebook. Readers of the *Hyde Parker* can email me at bodyandsoulkc@gmail.com to redeem one free session.

I love to move, and I love moving with people. I hope to see you in class soon.

Sincerely,

Barbara Anderson

Get to Know the Historian Grant Mallett

Were you born and raised in Kansas City?

No. I spent my first eight years in North Platte, Nebraska, and the next ten in Hutchinson, Kansas.

What brought you to Hyde Park?

I thought that Armour Boulevard had the most attractive urban streetscape of any street in Kansas City when I moved here fifty years ago, and then Nancy and I had a chance to buy a house in Hyde Park when we moved back to KC ten years ago.

Why did you decide to join HPNA's board of directors?

I was asked to join, and I thought I might be able to help.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Do the same thing that you did, only more of it.

Why is community important to you?

It is central to our lives and our existence.

How do you give back to the community?

Professional work in education and with community-based not-for-profit organizations.

What are you currently reading?

Another history book.

What's the scariest thing you've ever done?

I have taken on a couple of difficult and sometimes dangerous assignments for which I had little training and had to figure out a way to solve the problem with little help.

Where's your favorite place to vacation?

No favorite place, as I have visited many! However, in general, I like places that are exotic and remote with great architecture and a wonderful natural environment. Example: Bhutan.

Favorite KC barbecue joint?

Slap's in KCKS.

Favorite season?

The fall.

Favorite place on the Plaza?

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Is Hawaiian pizza really pizza?

I do not know anything about it.

What is one thing you cook really well?

Soups.

A Letter to the Neighborhood

From Street Smarts Design + Build

Dear Hyde Park residents,

I want to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to study the Hyde Park neighborhood. It is one of the finest, most beloved neighborhoods in all of Kansas City and is a place I care about greatly. My family spends many hours walking through the neighborhood, so I am thrilled and honored to have this opportunity to help improve the safety of your streets.

The street safety issues we have found in Hyde Park are not especially unique to the neighborhood. These are issues that neighborhoods all across the country are dealing with. Many of these issues stem from decisions made in previous eras to prioritize the automobile. This has left us not only with dangerous infrastructure but a cultural expectation that one should be able to drive through the city as fast as they want with as few deterrents as possible, regardless of the effects on others. Some of the recommendations in this study are likely to elicit a few angry reactions. While everyone's voice should be heard, it is important to remember street safety is a serious and urgent issue.

In the course of this study, at least two pedestrians were struck by motorists in separate instances, including a young child on the way to school. In addition, several other car crashes occurred throughout this study. Fortunately, no one was killed, but these lives may be forever impacted due to street design that does not best serve the neighborhood.

Streets that are designed with residents in mind should prioritize walking to school, accessing the parks, or strolling the sidewalks without fear of being run over. By placing our focus on the residents of the neighborhood, we can greatly improve street safety for all users, while also beginning to shift our culture away from speed and convenience toward a higher quality of life.

This study will not solve every issue but hopefully will be used as a major catalyst for improving street safety in Hyde Park. This study should be used to educate residents and decision-makers on current issues, provide potential solutions, and serve as a guide to implement suggested improvements.

This study is simply a plan. It does not guarantee the improvements will happen. It will be on residents to decide which improvements should be made, and it will fall on the residents to work to make these improvements. However, our work does not end when we hand over this study; in fact it may just be beginning. We are here for you, to help you make these improvements. From obtaining funding, ensuring best practice design, or implementing proper construction methods, we are here to help you make your neighborhood as safe and as wonderful as possible moving forward.

With great thanks and appreciation,

DuRon Netsell

Principal, Street Smarts Design + Build

To read the Hyde Park Street Safety Study draft and leave feedback, please visit hydeparksafetystudy.com.