COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, is a worldwide pandemic that has had wide reaching impacts on every member of our community.

The Hyde Park Historical Society wants to hear from you about how you, your family, and our community are being affected. Please tell us your story so we can add your voice to the history of our community. While the Historical Society is focused on the Hyde Park Township area, we value responses from anyone who would like to participate.

Please fill out the form at COVID-19 Hyde Park Archive to share your story with us.

If you would like to share photographs or a video, or both, please email them to hphscovid@gmail.com.

If you would like to submit a diary or journal of your experience, please email it to hphscovid@gmail.com or mail it to the HPHS Headquarters.

Any physical ephemera can be mailed to the Hyde Park Historical Society's Headquarters at 5529 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60637. Anything received will not returned to the sender and will become property of the Historical Society.

We at the Hyde Park Historical Society hope to be able to share selected stories with the community on an ongoing basis.
HYDE PARK BOOK CLUB – STAY HOME AND READ

The Hyde Park Book Club has been reading books about Hyde Park, and/or books by Hyde Park authors since 2015. The current “stay at home” directive gives everyone an opportunity to read. Members of the book club have put together a list of some of the most interesting books discussed by the book club and is sharing it with the community. To download the entire list, go to this link:

NON-FICTION
- Chicago’s Historic Hyde Park
- Chicago by the Book
- The Culture of Opportunity
- The Third Coast
- The Leopold & Loeb Files
- Where Has All the Ivy Gone
- Their Day in the Sun
- Ghosts in the Schoolyard
- High Risers
- Another Way Home
- A Few Red Drops
- The Devil in the White City
- The Story of Jane
- Southern Exposure
- The Housewife Loved a Bandit

FICTION
- Native Son
- Maud Martha
- The Lake on Fire
- Sweet Clover
- The Adventures of Augie March
- Chasing Vermeer
- Death at the Fair
- Indemnity Only
- That Hyde Park Affair

HYDE PARK BOOK CLUB
The Hyde Park Book Club was formed in 2015 to explore the literary wealth of Hyde Park. The club reads fiction and non-fiction about Hyde Park and it’s history. The club also celebrates Hyde Park authors.

Under normal circumstances the club meets on the third Monday of each month, except December, at 7:30 pm at the Hyde Park Historical Society, 5529 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

For additional information or to be added to the mailing list contact:
Carol Vieth, utra5100@earthlink.net
Michal Safar, msafar@ameritech.net
Emmet Till House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence –

Since 2017 Preservation Chicago has been proposing to landmark the house where Emmett Till and his family were living when he was murdered in 1955. The City would be like to landmark the house but would prefer to have the owner's consent. The current owner is an absentee speculator and has not responded to messages from Preservation Chicago. Also, out of respect PC does not want to go ahead without the full cooperation of the Till/Mobley Family. Preservation Chicago has been unable to contact family members. HPHS board member Clinee Hedspeth has been helping Preservation Chicago make contact with the family. Landmarking the Till House would focus attention on the real injustices of racial oppression in our country and would honor his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, for her activism in the years following Emmett's death.

For more information:
https://chicagocrusader.com/push-to-make-emmett-tills-house-a-landmark/
https://www.wbez.org/stories/_/f8abe096-9cbc-4eed-9deb-81aed022954b

Roseland’s South Michigan Avenue Historic Commercial District, S. Michigan Avenue, 100th to 115th Streets

Roseland is the neighborhood just beyond where the Dan Ryan Expressway divides at 95th Street and just west of Pullman and east of Morgan Park. It was once the commercial center of the Far South Side and many of the historic commercial buildings along Michigan Avenue survive. Andrea Reed, Executive Director of the Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce, is working to designate the area a Chicago landmark to bring attention and encourage development.

For more information:
https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/chicago-7-most-endangered-2020-roeland-michigan-avenue-commercial-district/

United Church of Hyde Park, Blackstone Avenue at 53rd Street, 1889
The congregation is facing serious financial difficulties. The church leaders are searching for new ways within the bounds of their mission to use their building to generate additional income. After a recent public meeting seeking counsel from the community the church is considering its options. Landmarking the building might help with raising money. The Society and Preservation Chicago have been advising and supporting landmarking and await the leadership's response.

For more information:  

**Jeffery Theater Building, Jeffery Boulevard and 71st Street, 1923**

The owner of the building (most recently offices of ShoreBank) applied for a demolition permit on 2/11/20 in preparation for a new theater and bowling alley development. As an 'orange-rated' historic building the permit was held for 90 days but is now available to the owner. Preservation Chicago has asked that as much of the historic terra cotta masonry be preserved and reused as possible.

For more information:  
https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/washington-park-bank/

**Washington National Bank Building, Cottage Grove Avenue & 63rd Street, 1924**

The building remains vacant and deteriorating. A developer, DL3, has control of the property and intends to demolish and replace with a new building. The 20th Ward Alderman, Jeanette Taylor, is delaying demolition until she feels the community has decided what it wants. Nearby historic buildings, the Cinderella Ballroom and the former Strand hotel, have recently been restored. The Society has publicly encouraged a reuse of the building and a restoration of its façade. (The developer, Leon Walker, is a past Despres Preservation Award winner for the restoration of his house at 4912 S Woodlawn Ave.)

For more information:  
https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/washington-park-bank/
The Forum Building, 318 East 43rd street, 1897

The Forum was a hub of Bronzeville commerce, culture and community. It was one of the most important gathering places on the South Side. The owner is raising funds to restore the building.

https://secure.givelively.org/donate/urban-juncture-foundation/raise-the-roof-fund-the-forum

Promontory Point, 55th Street and Lake Michigan

The Promontory Point Conservancy continues to talk with Chicago Park District and the US Army Corps about ways to rebuild the historic limestone revetment at Promontory Point. The Point is now on the National Register of Historic Places (January 2018). The intention is to follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards for 'preservation' and 'rehabilitation' under the supervision of the Army Corps’ Technical Center of Expertise for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures. The recent storm damage along the lakefront and the high lake water level make repair of the revetments more urgent but as the Point is farther from Lake Shore Drive than some other adjacent areas, the Point may become less of an immediate priority.

https://www.promontorypoint.org/about
https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/Burnham-Park/

Jackson Park, The Obama Presidential Center
The Hyde Park Historical Society continues to be concerned about the potential loss of historic features of Jackson Park if the OPC is built as currently planned. Our concerns focus on the demolition of the Women's Garden, the loss of hundreds of mature trees, and the reconfiguring of the historic roadway pattern. The Federal Highway Administration, leader of the federal 106 Review, has concluded that there will be 'adverse effects' to historic features of the park as a result of the OPC project. As a 'consulting party' for this ongoing Section 106 Review, the Society has written letters pointing out these effects and insisting that the losses be avoided or minimized.

The FHWA will hold a series of consulting party meetings beginning in May to discuss why they have chosen to 'mitigate', the weakest of the three legal options for protecting historic features, rather than 'avoid' or 'minimize'. As a consulting party the Society will be invited to participate in these meetings.

**Meeting #1**  
May 6, 2020 (1pm – 3pm)  
The first meeting will provide information on resolving adverse effects and the purpose of mitigation measures. Examples of mitigation measures used for other projects will be reviewed as well as ideas that have previously been submitted by consulting parties for this project. Consulting parties will have an opportunity to engage in a discussion with the project team on ideas for appropriate measures to resolve adverse effects. After the meeting, a summary will be sent to all consulting parties along with a poll designed to solicit additional ideas to resolve the adverse effect.

**Meeting #2**  
May 20, 2020 (9:30am – 11:30am)  
The second meeting will focus on reviewing the ideas collected during the first meeting and the poll results. The project team and consulting parties will discuss the proposed ideas and evaluate them in terms of feasibility and execution. After the meeting, a draft MOA will be sent to the consulting parties for review and comment, prior to Meeting #3.

**Meeting #3**  
June 17, 2020 (1pm – 3pm)  
The third meeting will include a discussion of the draft MOA among the consulting parties and discuss next steps to conclude the Section 106 process.

For more information on any of the above Hyde Park Historical Society preservation efforts contact Jack Spicer, jackspicer@earthlink.net