

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association

Volume 34, Number Two, February 2008



Awards Dinner — Sunday, February 24

The annual HHA Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner will start things off this year at 5:00 PM with a cocktail hour, complete with “Volun-tinis” and a Walk Down Memory Lane — a very special exhibit of memorabilia, going back to days of yore.

The theme and attire are Black & White, Martini Dapper.

The elegant dining experience will consist of Italian fare with table and venue décor by Design and Inspiration, Jubilee, and Newton Nursery. A live auction will be held-for the first time at this event,

offering donated artwork from three popular Heights artists with proceeds going to the HHA.

The evening will continue with the recognition of past and present volunteers, including prestigious awards for the 2007 Citizen of the Year, Corporate Citizen of the Year, and Marcella Perry Award. Results will also be announced for Community Improvement Awards, consisting of Residential Renovation, Commercial Renovation, Residential New Construction, and Commercial New Construction.

For tickets of \$20 per person, please visit www.houstonheights.org. Seating is very limited.

General Meeting

Bill Eley, Program Development Director for the Houston Arboretum, will speak on “Birding in Inner City Houston” at our next general meeting, Monday, February 11, 7:00 PM at the Fire Station. Bill has over 25 years of experience birding the Gulf Coast, Mexico, and South America, and over 15 years involvement with computers, project management, and data analysis. He received his B.A. in Anthropology and his M.S. in Zoology from Louisiana State University, where he

...continues on page

Attention Former houston.rr.com Email Users!

If you have not notified us of your new email address (probably at comcast.net), you are not getting our notifications about the newsletter and other neighborhood happenings. Please send email to info@houstonheights.org or use the form on page 5 to send us your new address. Thank you.

The Houston Heights Association is proud to have the following 2007-2008 Platinum sponsors:



San Jacinto Stone

Marmion Park Camp Out

An over-night camp out in Marmion Park is planned for Saturday, April 19 at 5:00 PM to Sunday April 20 at 9:00 AM. The event is restricted to HHA members and their families.

Members are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, tents and coolers for an over night adventure without leaving the Heights. Heights musicians will provide acoustic music. There will be porta-cans and running water. Adult beverages are permitted.

If you are averse to sleeping on the ground or don't own a tent, bring your lawn chair and join the camaraderie anyway. For those campers that spend the night, Berryhill's will be serving breakfast tacos and coffee Sunday morning.

There will be two campfire circles, one for adults and one for children. A storyteller from the Houston Storytellers Guild has volunteered to entertain the children.

Camp out volunteers needed: Marshmallow Marshal to supervise and facilitate marshmallow and hot dog roasting at the children's campfire.

Musicians: all types of instruments (non-amplified) - no drums please! For information, contact chairman Paul Carr at 713-869-0505 or Torturet@aol.com.

General Meeting from page 2 participated in four separate scientific expeditions to Peru with the Museum of Natural Science. Bill has maintained an intense interest in all conservation issues throughout his varied career, and has been an active supporter of the Ornithology program at the LSU Museum. Come learn about opportunities for birding in your own backyard!

Help HHA Make Plans for 2008

The Board of Directors of the Houston Heights Association is conducting a survey of the membership to determine where the efforts of the HHA should focus in 2008. With so many issues such as curbs & gutters, neighborhood preservation, quality of public schools, alley use, safety, and the maintenance of our two parks and the Heights Boulevard esplanade, the HHA Board would like to hear from members. Please e-mail your comments and suggestions to editor@houstonheights.org or send them by post to HHA Editor, P.O. Box 70735, Houston, 77270-0735.

The Houston Heights Association is proud to have the following Winter 2007-2008 Sponsors:

Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



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PAPER
COMPANY

The Heights is published monthly by the Houston Heights Association. Its purpose is to acknowledge achievements and to inform HHA members of events.

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Newsletter inquiries, suggestions, or submissions should be directed to: Editor, *The Heights*, P.O. Box 70735, Houston, TX 77270-0735, email editor@houstonheights.org, or leave a message on 713-861-4002.
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Heights Trees Count: HHA Urban Forestry Committee 2008



“The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the next best time – Today!”

HHA’s Urban Forestry Committee 2008 focus is to plant trees, with community partner TREES for HOUSTON. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to plant trees in your, or a neighbor’s right-of-way.

Monthly, watch for “LIVING in TANDEM with TREES” Properties in our neighborhood will be featured that demonstrate how they are reaping the benefits of Trees! Natural flood and pollution mitigation, natural energy savings (saving on air conditioning by shielding homes and gardens from Houston’s heat) as well as providing beauty and a natural habitat for Texas



birds and wildlife. This Month, 3 homes are featured:

2007 New Construction : 408 7th Street

This home was designed to preserve the existing trees, L.S. Anderson washed by the home owner to consult on the project prior to design & construction.

2007 Renovation : 945 Arlington

This home has under gone restoration & addition of a new garage. Diseased trees were removed by the City in the right-of-way~ and replaced with new oak trees, 2 additional oaks were planted in the home’s garden at the same time.

Original Bungalow with large native trees : 801 Cortlandt.

This pristine historic bungalow sits in a verdant urban forest of native trees.

If you have a suggestion for a property that “LIVES in TANDEM with TREES” and / or would like to get involved with HHA Urban Forestry activities, rsvp: adewree@earthlink.net.

2008 HOUSTON HEIGHTS SPRING HOME & GARDEN TOUR

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 5 & 6, 2008

Please mark your calendars now for the 2008 Spring Home & Garden Tour. We are proud to announce the beautiful homes for this year’s tour:

- Schooley’s @ 807 Rutland
- Vandywalker’s @ 2035 Rutland
- Thayer-Gayle’s @ 533 Cortlandt
- Newberry’s @ 705 East 19th Street
- Standridge’s @ 1509 Oxford
- A sixth home is pending

CANDLELIGHT TOUR, DINNER & AUCTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008

Plans for the much-anticipated Candlelight Tour, Dinner and Auction—to be held this year at the SPJST Lodge on Friday, April 4—are once again underway, and it is shaping up to be another real extravaganza.

The Spring Home Tour is the Houston Heights Association’s largest fundraiser of the year, and proceeds benefit a number of HHA properties and endeavors. Stay tuned for more exciting information...

Homes Needed for Holiday Home Tour

If you would like to volunteer to feature your home for the Holiday Home Tour, Dec. 5-7, contact Trudy Nelson at trudynelson@bankofscotlandusa.com or call 713-802-0773 or 832-200-9858.

Donations

Thanks to the following for their generous support of the programs of the Houston Heights Association

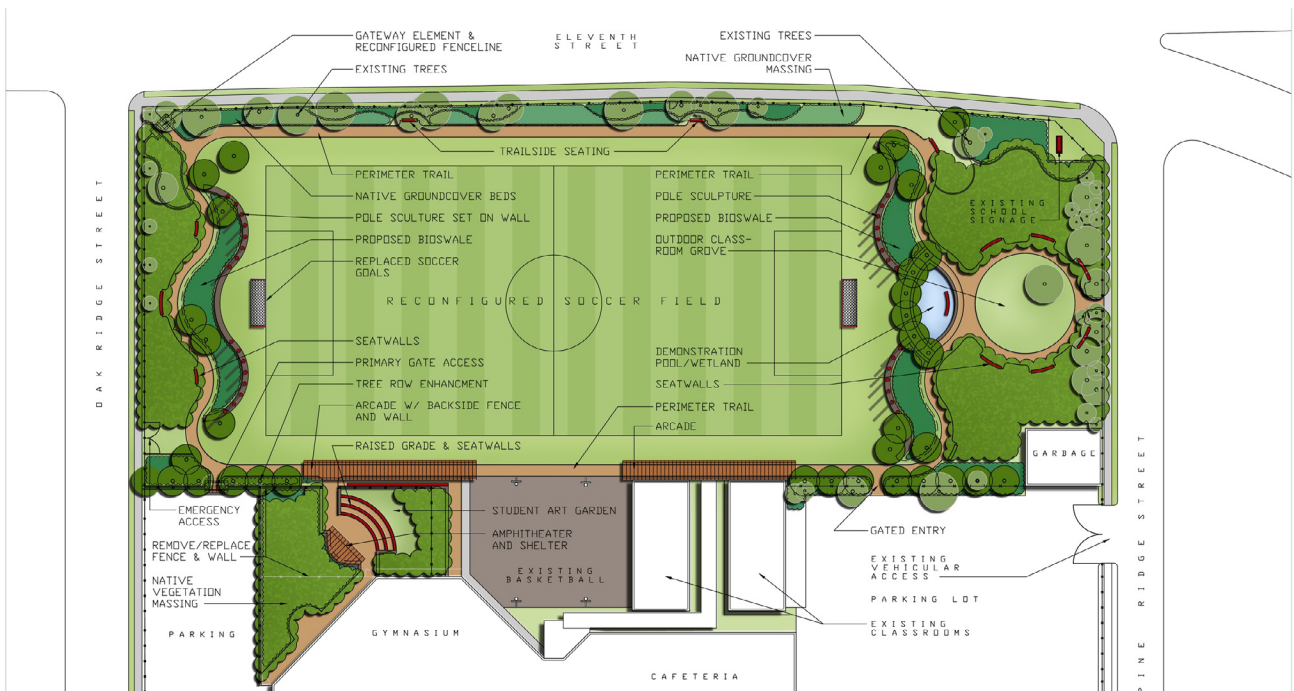
- Caroline Reeder-Alvarez & Jose Alvarez – Graffiti Abatement
- Julie Cohn & John Connor – Boulevard in memory of Michael Gran
- Ruth Davis – Boulevard (Redbud)
- Lynn Duncan – Graffiti Abatement, Boulevard, Flower Gardens & Parks
- Iain Evans – Boulevard (3 Redbud)
- Andrea Farr
- Beth Gallagher – Boulevard
- Gary Gehbauer – Boulevard & Parks
- Michelle Hale – Historic Preservation
- Don & JoAnn Hardey – Graffiti Abatement
- Bradley & Peggy Holmes – Boulevard in memory of Michael Grant
- AnnMarie Johnson – Parks, Boulevard, & Flower Gardens
- Julie Kenyon – Boulevard
- Charles & Cordelia Martin – Graffiti Abatement
- Margaret & Nicholas Noecker – Boulevard in memory of Michael Grant
- Julie Pettit – Education
- Joan Robins – Boulevard
- Anne Rodgers – Boulevard (Maple)
- Kay Sasso – Graffiti Abatement
- Earl Smith & Janice Wensveen – Jogging Trail
- Jackie & Robert Witt – Graffiti Abatement

Hogg SPARK Park Update

What's all the hype at Hogg Middle School? There's a SPARK Park coming soon! Hogg's Park is expected to include a walking path/track, an outdoor theater and classroom, beautiful artwork to brighten the neighborhood, and much more (*see plan below*).

As promised, Hogg is asking for the help of the neighbors to help reach their goal. There will be a silent auction on March 8 at Karen Derr Realty on Heights Blvd from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Look for flyers at local businesses for more information and how to purchase tickets. Tickets will be available for purchase by February 8. All proceeds go toward the building of the community park.

For more information, contact Principal Imelda Medrano or Anne Cobb at 713-802-4700 or email acobb1@houstonisd.org.



2008 Heights Association Youth Art Show

The Education Committee is proud to sponsor its third annual Youth Art Show at the historic Fire Station on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets. The show will be open to the general public during the Spring Home Tour on April 5 and 6 and will include a special artists' reception on Friday, April 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The show will be judged by prominent Heights artists, and prizes will be awarded including gift certificates to Texas Art Supply. Go to www.HoustonHeights.org for more details or contact Sheila Tybor at stybor@comcast.net.

Who may enter: Any child who either lives or goes to school (PreK through grade 12) in the Heights area. Art teachers may enter ten (10) students' works of art. All other students may enter one (1) work of art.

Youth artists wishing to participate, please note the following: All work must be two dimensional – no crafts or sculpture. All work must be ready to hang (framed and wired; matted or mounted on sturdy mat board.) All work must have a contact label on the back with name and telephone number.

This event promotes several of the 40 Assets necessary for youth to succeed which the Heights Association Education Committee has committed to provide to Heights youth residents and students including:

External Support - Young person receives support from non-parent adults.

Community Empowerment - Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.

Constructive use of Time - Encourages youth to spend three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.

For more about the 40 Assets go to www.search-institute.org.

HHA members: Please pass this membership form along to a friend or neighbor who is not a member. You can also use it to update your email or postal address should either have changed.

Houston Heights Association Membership Application

Please indicate Membership Category on reverse.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

Mail this form with a check made to Houston Heights Association or HHA to:
Houston Heights Association – Membership
P.O. Box 70735
Houston, TX 77270-0735

Future History

April 4-6, Spring Home Tour
June 7, Fun Run
October 5, Bicycle Rally
December 5-7, Holiday Home Tour
February 22, 2009, Awards Dinner

Help HHA Make Plans for 2008

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There are many opportunities for volunteer service. Please indicate your interests on the reverse of this form.

Houston designates Houston Heights Historic District West

[This is the official City press release about the adoption of the first district.]

HOUSTON, December 19, 2007 - Houston City Council designated the Houston Heights Historic District West which makes it the City's tenth designated historic district. Other historic districts include Broadacres, Courtland Place, Westmoreland, Avondale East, Avondale West, Main Street Market Square, Norhill, West Eleventh Place and Old Sixth Ward Protected Historic District.

"With the passing of this ordinance, the property owners of the Houston Heights Historic District West can feel slightly more at ease that the historical character of this neighborhood will remain intact for future generations," said David Beale, Houston Heights Historic District West co-chair.

The Houston Heights Historic District West stretches from West 16th Street south to West 11th Street and from Ashland to Allston Streets. The District is contained within the boundaries of the Houston Heights which was originally developed by the Omaha and South Texas Land Company in 1891, as one of the largest, earliest planned communities in Texas. It was named the "Houston Heights" because of its elevation - 23 feet above that of downtown Houston. The Houston Heights was incorporated into a city in 1896, but annexed by the City of Houston in 1918 to guarantee a broader tax base for the public schools. The churches in the area were also of great importance and in 1912, Houston Heights voted "dry" and much of it remains so today.

The Houston Heights has retained its architectural and civic identity to a high degree despite on-going pressures from development. Several notable late-Victorian mansions and substantial early 20th century public, ecclesiastical and commercial buildings serve as the anchors of the neighborhood. However, the landscape is dominated with quaint one and two story homes and cottages dating from 1893-1941. Influences from the Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, and Bungalow styles clearly dominate, but noteworthy examples of other styles occur throughout the picturesque tree-lined streets.

Volunteers in a grassroots effort supported by Houston Heights Association worked tirelessly over the past few years to gather signatures and support for not only this historic district, but a companion district, the Houston Heights Historic District East, which is pending designation.

Houston's Historic Preservation Ordinance, adopted by City Council in 1995, recognizes and protects the city's historic sites. The ordinance allows Council to designate buildings, structures, objects or sites that have historical, cultural, architectural or archaeological significance. By preserving the city's valuable historic resources, residents and visitors are visibly reminded of our culture and heritage, boosting civic pride and economic prosperity. Economic incentives and reduced permit fees are available for renovations on designated historic properties. More information is available online at the Planning Department web site at www.houstonplanning.com under Historic Preservation.

Houston Heights Association Membership Application

Membership Categories

- Individual (\$20)
- Household (\$25)
- Nonprofit/Church (\$50)
- Small Business (\$65)
- Standard Business (\$150)

- New membership
- Change of name or address
- Change of email address

Volunteer Opportunities

- #### Events
- Spring Home Tour
 - Heights Fun Run
 - Heights Bike Rally
 - Holiday Home Tour

Committees

- Boulevard Beautification & Flower Gardens
- Business Community
- Crime & Security
- Education
- Friends of the Parks
- Historical Preservation
- Land Use
- Membership
- Newsletter

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2	3 - recycling HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	4 HHA Urban Forestry Group 6:30 PM Fire Station	5	6	7 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	8
9 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	10 HHA General Topic TBA 7:00 PM Fire Station	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 - recycling <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Easter</i>	24 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	25	26 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	27	28	29
30	31 - recycling	April 1	2	3	4 Candlelight Tour, Dinner & Auction	5 Spring Home & Garden Tour; Heights 1st Sat

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

Every Wednesday and Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Historic Houston's salvage warehouse is open. Call 713-522-0542 or visit their web site www.historichouston.org.

February 8 - 23, UpStage Theatre Evening Series presents the Texas premiere of *Judy Garland*, "World's Greatest Entertainer" by Greer Firestone, based on the 1950's TV series. Friday and Saturday evenings, 8:00 PM, Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.upstagetheatre.org or call 713-838-7191.

February 16, 6:30 to 9:30 PM, "Corazon Derretido" Dinner and Silent Auction benefiting Helms Community Learning Center will be held at Talento Bilingue de Houston Cultural Arts Center, 333 South Jensen Drive. Dinner Buffet

tickets can be purchased for \$15 at the door or by contacting Lynda Chadbourne at 713-397-4054.

March 27 - April 5, Opera in the Heights presents *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini in Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For tickets or more information, visit www.operaintheheights.org or call 713-861-5303.

April 12 - 27, UpStage Theatre Young Audience Series presents *Pinocchio*, based on the story by Carlo Collodi. Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 2:00 PM, Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.upstagetheatre.org or call 713-838-7191.

May 9 - 24, UpStage Theatre Evening Series presents *Rumors*, a comedy/farce by Neil Simon. Friday and Saturday evenings, 8:00 PM, Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.upstagetheatre.org or call 713-838-7191.

2nd Annual Valentine Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7:00 PM, Houston Heights Woman's Club 1846 Harvard Street.

An Evening of Fun and Food Potluck dish plus \$10 per person Or \$20 per person without potluck dish. Mail checks as soon as possible to:

Marguerite Swanson
831 Harvard Street
Houston, Texas 77007

New Members

Please welcome the following new and returning members to the Houston Heights Association.
Jeffrey Fleisher
Jason Giaquinto
E. Drew Mehlhaff
Linda Poyser & Mike Maler
Becky Proler
Scott & Jennifer Rennie
The Reyna Group, Mel Reyna
Laura Rowley
Whitestone Builders, David Gordon

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 P.O. BOX 70735
 HOUSTON, TX 77270-0735

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Calendar of Events for February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Heights 1st Sat.
3	4 - <i>recycling</i> HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	5 HHA Urban Forestry Group 6:30 PM Fire Station	6	7	8 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	9
10	11 HHA General "Urban Birding" 7:00 PM Fire Station	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16
17	18 <i>President's Day</i> HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	19 - <i>recycling</i>	20	21	22	23
24 HHA Awards Dinner, 5:00 PM Fire Station, see article on page 1.	25 HHA Education 7:00 PM 1545 Heights	26	27 PIP meeting 6:30 PM 1602 State Street	28	29	March 1 Heights 1st Sat <i>continued within</i>

HHA headquarters: The Fire Station is on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets.

HHA web site: <<http://www.houstonheights.org>>