

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association



Volume 36, Number Nine, September 2010

Bike Rally

The 5th Heights Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt will be held on Sunday, October 3. Entrants will bicycle a 20-mile course through the Heights, Montrose, River Oaks, South Hampton, Mid Town, Downtown, and Sixth Ward. The entire route is on City of Houston bike trails. Each entrant will be issued a rally card, a rally map, and a scavenger hunt clue list. There is no rain date for this event. Rain or shine, the event goes on.

The rally route starts and ends at Marmion Park at 18th and Heights Blvd. Participants may start at any time after 7:30 AM. (This is not a race.) Children under 12 must wear required safety gear. Riders must obey all traffic laws.

Prize Rules:

To be eligible for prizes, an entrant must complete the rally by 4:00 PM and deposit the validated rally card in the prize entry box at Marmion Park. The rally card must be validated at the checkpoint.

Check Point:

There will be one combination checkpoint and rest stop.

Scavenger Hunt:

Each entrant will be provided a list of clues that describe a sight or an object that can be seen along the rally course. The person who finds the most mystery objects will be judged the winner. The clue list will have a place to write the address or near-by intersection where the mystery object is located. Scavenger hunt entries must be turned in by 4:00 PM.

Registration:

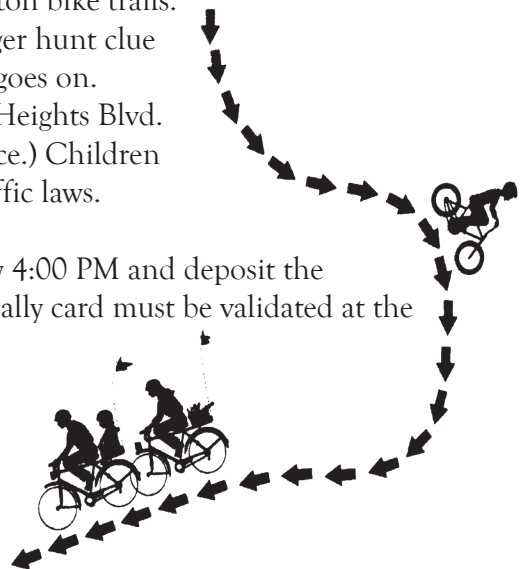
Pre-registration by mail or on-line costs \$15.00 for an adult rider or \$7.50 for a child age 12 or under).

...continues on page 2

September 13 - General Meeting - Bicycling and Board Nominations

Program details unavailable at press time. See page 3 for election schedule.

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following 2010 Platinum Sponsors:



Bike Rally from page 1

You may sign up on-line at www.SignMeUp.com or by mail to Houston Heights Association, PO Box 70735, Houston, TX 77270-0735. The deadline for on-line and mail registration, is Saturday, October 2. Make checks payable to "Houston Heights Association" (or just "HHA"). Rally participants that have pre-registered may pick up their packets at Marmion Park on the day of the event.

Participants may also register at Marmion Park on the day of the event. Registration then will be \$20 for an adult, \$10.00 for a child.

**Historic Preservation Ordinance
Amendment Status**

The next draft of the proposed amendments to the City of Houston Historic Preservation Ordinance is expected to be ready for public review on September 15. The Development and Regulatory Affairs Committee of City Council is expected to review the amendments on September 20.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold the next public hearing about the proposed amendments on September 23 at 6:30 PM in Exhibit Hall E of the George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida de Las Americas. Attendees can park in the Hilton/George R. Brown parking garage located on Polk Street subject to availability. According to the announcement, attendees may submit their parking stub for validation (from that garage only).

Please see City of Houston Planning and Development web site at www.houston.tx.gov/planning/HistoricPres/hist_pres_amend.html for any updates on the status of the proposed amendments.

Views on the proposed amendments are available on the following web sites:

- www.preservehouston.org/
- www.responsiblehistoricpreservation.org/

The Houston Heights Association is remaining neutral on the proposed amendments.

Elves Needed!

The Holiday Tour Patron Party kicks off the Heights Holiday season, and we need a few elves to help! Minimum time commitment. Costume not required. Contact PatronParty@houstonheights.org.

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Fall 2010 Bronze Sponsor:



**HHA Going Green
in 2010**

On January 1, we began sending membership renewal invoices and statement reminders via email to all our members for whom we have an email address. If it is time for your membership renewal, you will receive an email stating that your renewal invoice is attached. The address to mail your check is shown on the invoice, or if you choose, you may renew online at our website, www.houstonheights.org.

If you do not receive the newsletter notices and other HHA announcements by email, we probably do not have your current valid email address. Please notify us of changes in your email.

In addition to saving paper, we will be saving significant money each year on postage to use on our other many projects. Thank you for your assistance.

The Heights is published monthly by the Houston Heights Association, Inc. 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.

EditorMark R. Williamson
Assistant Editor..... Kathleen S. Williamson
September contributors:

- Sharon Balke, Paul Carr, Sally Goodroe, Susan A. Haines, Lauriel Hindman, Angel M. Leal Jr., Elizabeth Poirrier, Chris Silkwood, Lanna vonBaden, Lee Walthall.

Director Election Schedule

Seven of the fifteen positions on the HHA Board of Directors will be filled by election over the next few months. Five positions are opening due to normal expiration of terms; members elected to these five positions will have three-year terms. Two positions are for the remaining last year of terms ended by resignations.

The five nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes will fill the three-year terms; the nominees receiving the sixth and seventh-highest vote counts will fill the one-year vacancies. See our August issue for a list of current Directors.

The schedule for the election of Directors to serve terms starting in 2011 will be as follows, in accordance with the By-Laws and Policies of the Association:

- September 13, Nominations for Board of Directors will be held at the General Meeting. Nominators and nominees must be current members of the Association. Nominators may speak for two minutes, seconders for one. Please be sure before you nominate someone that your nominee will commit to serve. Nominees will not be allowed to speak on their own behalf during the September meeting.

- By September 15, the Election Committee will distribute to nominees election packets containing bylaws, policies, articles of incorporation, committee responsibility list, detailed election schedule, and a statement confirming that the nominee has read the bylaws and policies and agrees to serve in accordance with them if elected.

- By September 18, signed statements from nominees are due, as well as a 50-word statement from each nominee for publication in the October newsletter.

- October 11, nominees or their representatives may speak on their qualifications at the General Meeting for 3 minutes. They will also draw for ballot positions.

- On or before October 15, the Election Committee will mail a ballot with a control number to each member whose dues are current as of October 1.

- By November 6 at the close of the post office, ballots returned by mail must be received with control numbers intact.

- November 8, polls will be open for secret balloting in person from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM *sharp* before the General Meeting. The Election Committee will tabulate ballots and announce the results during the meeting. The results will also be published in the December newsletter.

Donovan Park Renovations Start September 13

Playground closing for a while

September 13 marks the start of an \$87,000 reconstruction project for Donovan Park and the Heights Playground. Starting on that date, Donovan Park will be closed to the public while work is under way. Once the construction is completed, the park will be reopened. In the future, the park will be locked at night to deter vandalism.

The project plan calls for the reconstruction of both play structures, using Trex, a synthetic wood material. Three new swings will be added, and all the lighting in the park will be replaced. There will also be new picnic tables, benches, and a bicycle rack. The kiosk and the mulch area under the play structures will be rebuilt.

The project was made possible by a generous gift to the park from Mission Heights and the Saunders family. Saunders family members are descendants of James Donovan and Marcella Perry. The Houston Heights Association is funding the balance of the project with donations made to the park.

HHA recently installed four new benches along the walkway in the rear of the park and had the gate on Harvard reopened. Details for making donations to the park can be found at www.houstonheights.org.

Fire Station News

The Houston Heights Association has signed a contract with ThyssenKrupp Access to install a wheelchair lift in the fire station. This will effectively solve the problem of 2nd floor accessibility for the handicapped.

For several years a stair chair has been used for this purpose. Experience has shown the stair chair to be unreliable and dangerous. The narrow stairway in which the chair is located has caused some users to have their knees skinned.

Once the wheel chair lift is installed, the stair chair will be removed and will be for sale. The stair chair would be reliable for home use where it could not be tampered with, as happens now. Send inquiries for purchasing the stair chair to Torturet@aol.com.

Construction began shortly before this issue went to press. A new doorway has been cut between the small and large upstairs meeting rooms to replace the existing doorway, which will be blocked off by the new wheelchair lift.

In addition, the floor of the old firetruck bays was resurfaced. Take a peek downstairs on your way upstairs for the General Meeting on September 13.

It's Almost That Time of Year Again!

by Elizabeth Poirier, Chair

"Holiday Greetings from the Houston Heights!" It's that time of year again: time to invite Houston to visit our wonderful neighborhood, to see our beautiful Boulevard and bustling downtown 19th street! Recently described by National Geographic Traveler in their March 2010 issue as a "Small town in a big city: Houston Heights offers Texas history, global cuisine and stately architecture"... the Holiday Home Tour promises the opportunity to experience our unique and friendly neighborhood all decked out in the splendor of the season!

This year's Holiday Home Tour highlights six beautiful homes dressed up to celebrate the Holidays:

- The Sam Blackman Home owned by Victoria Harrison & Jay Wehnert at 729 Rutland
- The Modern Craftsman owned by Gene & Trinh Kuo at 1222 Allston
- The Wade Home owned by Jeffrey Wade at 1432 Tulane
- The Classic Queen Anne owned by Ruth Davis at 1629 Cortlandt
- The Batterson-Drouin Home owned by Debbie Drouin at 1445 Harvard
- The Batterson Home owned by Dan & Kyna Batterson at 1439 Harvard

With all of these stunning homes to showcase on the Tour, it takes many volunteers to create a successful event! Although many have already volunteered, more Docents are needed, and there are other planning essentials to complete. Many volunteering opportunities are available! So, if:

- you are willing to spend a three-hour shift in one of our fantastic Holiday Tour homes, guiding folks through the home while giving a few details of the home – you'd be a great docent!
 - you have any decorations you'd like to clean out of your attic (Our Holiday Tour homes can never have too many decorations!),
- or
- you are a musician who would like to provide live Holiday music for a three-hour shift or know a musician(s) you could recommend,

then send an email with your interest and/or offering to holidaytour@houstonheights.org and be added to our volunteer list.

Beautiful, unique, friendly, warm, and inviting – the Heights and the Holiday Home Tour offer a glimpse to all that is the Houston Heights! Mark your calendars, invite your friends and join us on Friday, December 3, 6:00 to 9:00 PM or Saturday, December 4, 3:00 to 9:00 PM! Happy Holidays!!

Constable Patrol Program

The July statistics for the three constable patrol areas appear below. Watch for a brief introduction to our newest Deputy next month.

	East	West	North
Total Arrests	6	6	20
Citizen Assists	0	0	1
Citizen Contacts	34	57	30
Vacation Watches	76	74	77
Court Citations	13	25	41
Alarm Responses	3	0	1
Suspicious Vehicles	20	30	4
Park Checks	11	33	22
Disturbances	1	3	0
Major Accidents	0	0	0
Criminal Offenses	0	1	3
Miles Patrolled	845	980	810

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the Houston Heights Association.

Joel Cognevich
 Matt & Rebecca Marcontell
 Carine & Philip Meyer
 Morningside Architects LLP,
 Gail Schorre
 Obsidian Art Space,
 Tom Stell
 Michelle & Aaron Scheffler
 Southern Green Builders,
 Sam Seidel
 Mandi Winter

Donations

Our thanks to the following donors for their generous support of the programs of the Houston Heights Association.

Anne & Ken Culotta –
 Firestation Fund
 Exxon/Mobil Volunteer
 Grant – in honor of
 Donna Bennett
 Bill Green & Brett Bohnn –
 Parks, Flower Gardens, &
 Boulevard
 Perry & Caroline Kotsinadelis
 – Boulevard
 Charles & Cordelia Martin –
 Parks Maintenance
 Jason & Tanya Miller –
 Boulevard
 Dixie & Jim Paden

Back-to-School Bike Safety Reminders

Many students ride their bicycles to school. Unfortunately, a majority of kids are not familiar with the rules of the road or the guidelines they should follow to keep safe. If your child is riding a bicycle to school or around the neighborhood, please review these guidelines and create a safe route for the child.

When riding a bicycle:

1. You are considered a driver by law.
2. You are subject to the rules of traffic signs and signals just as motorists.
3. You should be alert to traffic signs and know what they mean.
4. You should know the rules of the road.
5. You should stay to the far right of the roadway or stay in bicycle paths.
6. You should have a high-flying flag on your bike so motorists can see you.

Bicycle Safety Tips

- Instruct your child to always Take A Friend when walking or riding a bike to and from school. It is safer and more fun to be with your friends. Walk and ride in well-lit areas and never take shortcuts.
- Bike helmets should have a sticker that says it meets standards set by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Bike helmets should fit properly and the straps should always be fastened.
- Wear brightly colored clothes and place reflectors on your bike to help other people see you. Also, wear the right clothes and shoes that fit so that nothing gets caught in the bike chain.
- Avoid wearing headphones because the music can distract you and cause you to not notice potential hazards around you.

Bike Maintenance

- Make sure your seat, handlebars, and wheels fit tightly.
- Check and oil the chain regularly.
- Check the brakes to be sure that they are working and not sticking.
- Check the tires for the right tire pressure.

To learn more about laws dealing with bicycle riding, please visit www.biketexas.org.

White Linen Night in the Heights!

Over 125 Heights retailers, businesses, and visiting sponsors hosted the 5th annual White Linen Night in the Heights on August 7 to a record number of attendees. This year, event organizers closed the 200 and 300 blocks of 19th Street and wish to thank Councilman Ed Gonzalez and staff for their assistance as well as Gregory Griffin, Event Coordinator with the Mayor's Office of Special Events.

New this year: an event-sponsored fashion show in the middle of 19th Street at Rutland featuring clothing from area merchants, additional shuttle buses, and a pie-eating contest that featured off-duty firefighters from five fire stations. A Heights fire station won the competition, naturally!



This year the event was coordinated by First Saturday Arts Market founder Mitch Cohen with assistance from The Homestretch owner Maura Cannon. Mitch and Maura extend special thanks to Sara Jackson of Kenektid, Karen Mann, Lindsay Peyton of Cadence Enterprise, Sarah Nezamzadeh of SPEAK Fashion, Jeff Taplin, Becky Holmes of Houston Web Gal.com, and Fiesta Mart.

More than 100 artists exhibited work throughout the neighborhood, and more than two dozen bands and musicians performed. Images from the event's photo competition are available for viewing at www.WhiteLinenNightHeights.com.

Heights First Saturday, White Linen Night, and Mistletoe Madness have previously been operated as part of the Business Committee of the Houston Heights Association. This year, they have been spun off to other organizations. First Saturday will operate as part of the Houston Heights Merchants Association (HHMA), a 501(c)(6) formed in the mid-1990s at the end of the Heights Main

Street Project. After the initial transition, White Linen Night and Mistletoe Madness will probably also become parts of the Merchants Association.



Immanuel Restoration Fund

by Chris Silkwood, Immanuel Church Restoration Committee Community Representative

Dear Community Members,

The Immanuel Church Restoration Committee is pleased to inform you of the progress currently underway in the restoration of this important historical structure. The church is located on the southeast corner of Cortlandt and 15th Street in the Houston Heights. For months, the committee has worked diligently to secure an architectural plan and construction costs to move the project forward. Paul Lodholz of Ziegler Cooper Architects and Bob Fretz of Fretz Construction have provided all the pertinent information.



If you have driven by the church over the past couple of weeks, you would have seen a roofing crew working hard to replace the entire roof, flashing, and gutters. A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to the extremely generous donation of KBR, Fretz Construction, the Immanuel Church congregation, and the greatly discounted replacement cost extended to this project by Vogler Sheet Metal. The intention is to have the church become a “flex” space that can be used by the school, church, and community upon completion. The lower floor will be a dedicated community youth center, and the main floor will serve educational and church purposes as well as allowing area organizations to host performances and art events. We have realized a huge victory in the saving of this beautiful structure built by German architects in the early 1930’s. The plan is to bring the building back to its original splendor while adding an elevator, updating and adding restrooms, revamping the electrical and plumbing, installing a/c units along with major cosmetic upgrades.

The restoration of this building will be a costly project, and we need your help. A professional grant writer has been hired, and she is working diligently to secure funding from major foundations. Community participation is always needed, and we are ready to receive your donations. It is our goal to raise over \$1,000,000 to comprehensively complete this undertaking. Financial donations are welcome at any level. Every dollar will make a meaningful difference, and what a great opportunity to be able to say that you were part of this historic preservation effort.

A fund has been established through the Greater Houston Community Foundation. Attached is a form to send your donation by check or online. All donations in excess of \$250 dollars will receive a tax-deductible receipt from GHCF. If your donation is less than \$250, your check will serve as your tax deduction. Checks can be mailed and made out to the Greater Houston Community Foundation, 4550 Post Oak Place, Suite 100, Houston TX 77027. On your check memo, please indicate Immanuel Restoration Fund. If you wish to send a donation online, the attached form will provide easy instructions. [See the link below. –Editor] Our contact at GHCF is Judy Everett and can be reached at 713 333 2202.

Mark your calendar and please plan to attend the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. The event will take place at the church and will be immediately followed by an informal reception.

Sincerely, Chris Silkwood, Immanuel Church Restoration Committee Community Representative
306 East 15th Street – Houston, Texas 77008-4239
Telephone: (713) 861-8787 – Fax: (713) 861-8787

Web site: www.immanuelhouston.com

[Visit <https://npo.networkforgood.org/Donate/Donate.aspx?npoSubscriptionId=1000393> and select “Immanuel Restoration Fund” in the Program Designation drop-down menu to contribute online. –Editor]

Ghost Stories In Marmion Park

The Houston Storytellers Guild will present their annual free Skyline Screammers event in HHA'S Marmion Park from 7:30 to 9:00 PM on the evening of Saturday, October 30. The event features several Guild storytellers who like to tell ghost tales, meant for adults and kids who like to be scared. At the end of the evening, anyone who's had a scary experience or would like to tell a scary story is invited to come up and share it.

You might want to bring a blanket, chairs, and snacks. The event takes place rain or shine. They have been known to gather everyone under the bandstand in the rain.

Skyline Screammers is the oldest event that the Houston Storytellers Guild produces. The Guild was formed in September 1986 and did their first free ghost story performance that October.

Visit the Guild's website at www.houstonstorytellers.org for more information.

Reagan Lodge Ice Cream Social

Continuing Reagan Lodge No. 1037 AF&AM's celebration of their centennial year, they are hosting a 1910 Ice Cream Social at the lodge (1606 Heights Blvd.) on September 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. To hearken back to fond memories of days of late summer in the beginning of the 20th century, the lodge plans to have ice cream and cookies, croquet and horseshoes, a dunking booth, and a homemade ice cream contest. They encourage boaters and bow ties, hats and umbrellas, anything reminiscent of older times.

They are inviting other long-standing institutions in the Heights to participate. Ways to participate could include a bake sale or cake walk, putting together your ice cream making teams and joining the contest, adding a game or booth, or providing entertainment. Come discover what your neighbors have decided to do.

Come and participate! All family members are welcome for this afternoon of old-fashioned fun!

Woman's Club News

The next general meeting of the Houston Heights Woman's Club will be Thursday, September 14, at the clubhouse, 1846 Harvard, beginning at 7:00 PM. All members and prospective members are invited to attend.

It isn't too early to begin having bewitching thoughts for a costume for the second annual Witch's Luncheon on Friday, October 29. The site will be announced at a later date. Last year's event proved highly successful with many members and guests attending, all decked out in witch's wear. This year should be even better.

Mark Sunday, December 12, on your calendar and plan to attend the Victorian tea held at the clubhouse. The live tree with handmade ornaments will grace the stage and each of the tables will be filled with china, crystal, and silver and decorated by club members. It's a special holiday treat that is quickly becoming a Heights tradition.

Housing Needed for Reagan Intern From Spain

The Spanish Department at Reagan High School is looking for a small apartment or room to rent for a young woman, a recent University graduate, who will be interning at Reagan under a special US/Spanish grant. Housing that is a walk or bike ride from the High School would be most desirable. The intern will be able to pay modest rent, and both landlord and tenant will benefit from the "exchange," as the VanDuzers, who provided housing the past two years, can testify. Please call Mindy Zapata, head teacher of Reagan's Spanish Department, at 713-861-5694 if you are able to offer housing by October 1st for the remainder of the school year.

Prepare for November 2 General Election

by Betty Lawson

In case you are new to Texas or forgot everything you learned in Political Science class, let's take a look at the General Election we will be holding on Tuesday, November 2. If you are not registered to vote, go to www.tax.co.harris.tx.us and follow the "Voter Registration" prompts to download a printable form to mail in, no postage required. If you do not have access to a computer, ask a friend to do it for you, or call 713-368-VOTE.

You may also download a form to mail in to request a Ballot by Mail, from Harris County Clerk's office www.cclerk.hctx.net, click "Elections" on left side of page, then on "Ballot-by-Mail Application," just under the banner. You can also request a mail ballot by calling 713-755-6965.

Important Dates

September 3, 2010 - First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail for November 2 Election

October 4, 2010 - Last Day to Register to Vote for November 2 Election

October 18, 2010 - First Day of Early Voting for November 2 Election

October 26, 2010 - Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail for November 2 Election (received, not postmarked.)

October 29, 2010 - Last Day of Early Voting for November 2 Election

November 2, 2010 - ELECTION DAY

Early Voting

Because of the fire that destroyed nearly all of Harris County's electronic voting machines, County officials are urging citizens to vote early this year. Early voting takes place at about 30 polling locations around the county, and you may vote at any of them during the 12-day period of Monday, October 18 to Friday, October 29. Some of the locations are Moody Park, 3725 Fulton, and downtown in the Harris County Administration Building, at the corner of Main and Preston. At early voting, election workers will scan your Texas Drivers License or State-issued Identification Card, which speeds up the process considerably. Early voting locations close October 29; after that you must go to your precinct's polling place on November 2. The Heights includes all or parts of Precincts 54, 57, 58, 59, 75, 86 and 501.

During early voting, the Harris County Clerk's office staff marks the list of eligible voters to show the words "Voted Early" next to the appropriate names, as a guard against election fraud on Election Day. Please bring your blue Voter's Registration card. If you do not bring the card with you, please bring another form of identification, such as your driver's license.

The Decisions To Be Made

In 2010, Texans will vote for 177 positions, including Governor, Congress, and State Legislature, as well as more than 100 judges and other local officials. In Texas, the Governor serves a term of 4 years, so we vote for our state's highest office in even numbered years in which we do not elect the President of the United States.

Also, each precinct will determine which political party will be responsible for conducting its precinct elections for the next years. For example, in Precinct 1 in 2006, the Democratic candidate for Governor received more votes than the opposing parties in the precinct, even though the Republican Party's candidate won the general election. Therefore, during the next election cycle, Harris County Commissioners' Court will appoint a Presiding Election Judge for Precinct 1 from the list of names provided by the Harris County Democratic Party, for every election except the primaries. The Alternate Election Judges will be appointed from lists from opposing parties. It's another example of Checks and Balances – the parties keep each other honest.

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Preparing For The General Election from page 9

Making The Decisions

Please read and study everything you can find on the candidates who are running in the General Election. One good source is the Houston League of Women Voters (LWV). On Saturday, September 18, the LWV will conduct a Candidates Meet and Greet at George R. Brown Convention Center from 3:00 to 5:30 PM. Doors will be open from 2:00 to 8:00, and all of the candidates have been invited to set up booths in the hall. After that, there will be two debates: the first between Tax Assessor/Collector candidates Don Sumners and Diane Trautman. The second debate will feature Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and challenger Gordon Quan. It is possible that room for the debates will be limited but if there is enough interest, the LWV may move it to a larger hall.

Although the gubernatorial, congressional, and other top of ballot races get more press, there are many, many judicial races on the ballot. It is very difficult to inform yourself fully about each candidate in each race, but the elected judges will have a bigger impact on your personal safety than those above them on the ballot. If you are called to serve on a jury or find yourself appearing before these judges, you will see that some are qualified and some of them have no idea what they are doing. How do they get these jobs? You elect them.

Talk with your friends to compare your thoughts, and read some blogs. Two of the best-known local bloggers are Charles Kuffner (www.offthekuff.com), who has been following Democratic candidates and David Jennings (www.bigjolly.com), doing the same for the local GOP. You may vote by mail, vote early, or vote in your precinct on November 2. By casting a vote, you are buying your “license to complain.”

Proposed Retail Development – Update

The Houston Heights Association Board and the Greater Heights Super Neighborhood Council (GHSNC) continue to follow the proposal for a large retail development at Yale and Koehler Streets (south of I-10), referred to by the developer (The Ainbinder Company) as “Washington Heights” and known to some as “the Heights Wal-Mart.” Members and representatives of the Board and of the Council have met with representatives from the developers, the City of Houston, and Wal-Mart itself to discuss how the development might affect our neighborhood and how the potential impact can be mitigated.

Mayor Parker hosted public meetings on August 25 and September 1 to air public concerns about the developer’s plans for this center and negotiations on a possible “380 Agreement” between the City and the developer. In the 380 Agreement, the developer pledges to make improvements to public infrastructure beyond the standard city requirements; if the project yields increased *ad valorem* tax revenues over the subsequent ten-year period, the developer will recoup some or all of these increased expenses. At the second public meeting, Mayor Parker stated that she expected to bring the proposed 380 Agreement to City Council for a vote in about two weeks.

The City has established a website with links to the August 25 presentation and answers to questions brought by the public: <http://www.houstonx.gov/koehler/index.html>

The Ainbinder Company’s plans for infrastructure improvements can be accessed on their website <http://www.washingtonheightsdistrict.com>. Walmart’s Houston website: <http://walmart-houston.com>

Community opposition to these plans and to the city’s negotiation to enter a 380 Agreement is being organized by a newly created non-profit organization, Responsible Urban Development for Houston (RUD). Information about RUD and its efforts is available at <http://www.rudh.org>.

The HHA Board has chosen to take a neutral stance on the development as a whole, focusing rather on mitigation of potential negative impacts on the neighborhood. The GHSNC has not yet taken a position on these plans, but is working along similar lines.

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 HHA Bicycle Rally and Scavenger Hunt See page 1.	4 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	5 <i>Texas Night Out; see below. Deadline for next newsletter</i>	6	7 - <i>garbage</i>	8	9
10	11 HHA General "Urban Animals" 7:00 PM Fire Station	12	13	14 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	15	16
17	18 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	19 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	20	21 - <i>garbage</i>	22	23
24 Heights Urban Forestry Day	25 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	26	27 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	28 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	29	30
31 <i>Halloween</i>						

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

Every Wednesday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Historic Houston's salvage warehouse is open. See www.historichouston.org.

Every Monday, 7:30 to 10:00 PM, Houston International Folk Dancers introductory lessons at Oddfellows Hall, 115 E. 14th.

September 8, 6:00 PM, ribbon-cutting ceremony at Immanuel Lutheran historic sanctuary building, Cortlandt at 15th. See page 7.

September 11, 10:00 to 11:00 AM, Texas Children's Pediatric Associates offers a free lecture on "Newborn Basics" at 1919 North Loop West, Suite 140. Call 713-869-1692, option 3 to register.

September 11, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Reagan Lodge AF&AM presents an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social at the Lodge, 1606 Heights Boulevard at 16th Street. See page 8.

September 25, 10:00 to 11:00 AM, Texas Children's Pediatric Associates offers a free lecture on "Healthy Sleep Habits for Children" at 1919 North Loop West, Suite 140. Call Tonya Wiltz at 713-869-1692, option 3 to register.

September 25, 4:30 PM, Sunset Heights Centennial celebration in Halbert Park, Cortlandt at 23rd.

October 5, National Night Out (Texas Edition). Please leave your porch lights on that evening. Consider planning a get-together on your block. The City of Houston NNO Coordinator suggests collecting non-perishable food for the Houston Food Bank.

October 30, 7:30 to 9:00 PM, Houston Storytellers Guild presents Skyline Screamers (scary stories for all ages) in Marmion Park, Heights Boulevard at 18th Street. See page 8.

Future History

December 3-4, Holiday Home Tour

December 6-8, Holiday Basket Preparation and Delivery

February 27, 2011, Awards Dinner

April 1-3, 2011, Spring Home Tour

June 4, 2011, Heights Fun Run

October 2, 2011, Bicycle Rally

At The Fire Station

Events at the Houston Heights City Hall and Fire Station, 12th and Yale

The second Monday, 5:00 to 7:00 PM, and the last Monday of the month, 8:00 AM to noon, the City Council District H Satellite Office is open at the east (office) door.

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events for September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	3	4
5 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	6 <i>Labor Day</i> no Land Use meeting	7	8	9 - <i>garbage</i>	10	11
12 <i>Donovan Park closes for renovation tomorrow. See page ?.</i>	13 HHA General "Bicycling" 7:00 PM Fire Station	14	15	16 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	17	18
19	20 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	21 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	22 PIP meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	23 - <i>garbage</i>	24	25
26	27 HHA Education 7:00 PM Fire Station	28	29	30	October 1	2 <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>>