

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association

Volume 37, Number Nine, September 2011



2011 Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt

Is your bicycle ready to ride?
It's only a few weeks before the 6th Annual Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, October 2!

This is not a race. Open to riders of all ages, the Rally is designed as a casual self-paced ride. Choose between a 20-mile course through the Heights and nearby neighborhoods, or a shorter 5-mile ride designed for kids and their adult companions – or do both!

There are fabulous prizes for the riders who correctly identify the most mystery sites along the route.

The Rally will start and end at Marmion Park. After you finish the ride, stay and enjoy the After Party beginning at 3:30 PM and Awards Ceremony at 4:30 PM. There will be entertainment and great refreshments.

Register early – the first 300 entrants receive a commemorative logo water bottle!

Full details are on our website: www.houstonheights.org

Not a bicyclist? Want to help? Volunteers are needed to staff registration, work at the rally checkpoint, and score the clue sheets

...continues on page 2

General Meeting

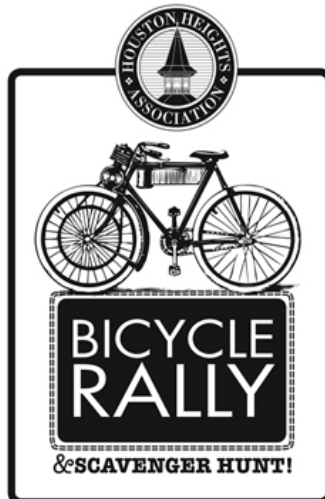
Our September 12 program will be “Spokes, Soccer, and Stadiums here and near the Heights.” Join us at the Fire Station at 7:00 PM.

We will have speakers from Bikes for Houston and the 2011 Heights Association Bike Rally (to be held October 2).

Chris Cannetti CEO of the Houston Dynamo will kick an autographed soccer ball into the audience.

Janet Schmees, Executive Director of the Houston Harris County Sports Authority - Houston's Stadiums & Arenas, will also join us.

The floor will be open for nominations to the HHA Board. Please see the article on page 3 for a complete election schedule.



The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of our 2011 Platinum Sponsor:



Bike Rally from page 1

at the end of the day. If you are interested, please email bikerally@houstonheights.org or call 713-861-4002 and leave a message on extension 6.

So, get in gear! Whether riding or volunteering, we'd love to have you!

New Members

Please welcome these new members to the Houston Heights Association.

- Sidney J. Braquet & Lee Mullenex
- Robert & Jill Chouffot
- Guy Crucian
- Phillip Jefferis
- Jennifer Klein Physical Therapy
- Rebecca & John Paul Otieno
- Ranelle Randles
- Mary & Todd Santee
- Holly & Scott Simmons
- Smotherman & Assoc. QuickBooks Accounting, Lynne Smotherman
- Joyce & David Worthington

Restoration Update

Restoration/Historical Committee Chair Dean Swanson says, "It is too hot for Restoration meetings!"

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Summer Bronze 2011 Sponsors:



Donations

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

- Sarah Adams – Donovan Park Playground
- Bill Green & Brett Bohnn – Firestation Endowment & Boulevard
- Stacey & Mark Courville – Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens, & Firestation Endowment
- Anne & Ken Culotta – Firestation Endowment Fund
- ExxonMobil Foundation Volunteer Grant in honor of Jim & Donna Bennett
- Kirk D. Hood – Boulevard Maintenance
- Rebecca & Matt Marcontell – Donovan Park Playground & Flower Gardens
- Charles & Cordelia Martin – Firestation Endowment Fund
- Jason & Tanya Miller – Boulevard
- Maria & Mike Onufrow – Parks
- Randalls Good Neighbor Program – Parks
- Troy Troxell – Parks, Boulevard, & Flower Gardens
- Terry Trang – Donovan Park Playground
- Jim Ward – Donovan Park Playground
- Mark Ziegler – Donovan Park Playground & Boulevard

Constable Statistics

	June	July
Total Arrests	0	3
Citizen Assists	0	1
Citizen Contacts	108	93
Vacation Watches	652	729
Court Citations	83	53
Alarm Responses	3	2
Suspicious Vehicles	32	38
Park Checks	111	80
Disturbances	5	4
Major Accidents	0	0
Criminal Offenses	5	2
Miles patrolled	3,137	3,000

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.

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Director Election Schedule

Eight 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. One position is for the remaining two years of a term ended by resignation. Two positions are for the remaining final year of terms ended by resignations.

The five nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes will fill the three-year terms; the nominee receiving the sixth highest vote count will fill the two-year vacancy; and the nominees receiving the seventh and eighth highest vote counts will fill the one-year vacancies. See the right column on this page for a list of current Directors.

Time Is Of The Essence

The schedule for the election of Directors to serve terms starting in 2012 will be as follows, in accordance with the By-Laws and Policies of the Association (*as amended at the August 15 Board meeting*):

- September 12 at the General Meeting, the floor will be opened for nominations to the Board of Directors. Nominators and nominees must be current members of the Association. Nominators may speak for two minutes. Please be sure before you nominate someone that your nominee will commit to serve. Individuals may *not* nominate themselves, nor may nominees speak on their own behalf at this meeting. Seconding speeches are no longer necessary.

- By September 14, 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 5:00 PM on the Friday following the General Meeting (September 16), signed statements from nominees are due, as well as a 50-word (maximum) statement from each nominee for publication in the October newsletter and on the website. Statements longer than 50 words (as counted by Microsoft Word) will be truncated after the fiftieth word when published.

- October 10 at the General Meeting, nominees or their representatives may speak on their qualifications for 3 minutes. They will also draw for ballot positions at the beginning of the meeting.

- On or before the Friday following the General Meeting (October 14), the Election Committee will mail a ballot with a control number to each member in good standing whose dues are currently paid as of October 1. (Members invoiced by August 15 and not paid by October 1 are deemed not in good standing.)

- By November 12 at the close of the post office, ballots returned by mail must be received with control numbers intact.

- November 14 before the General Meeting, polls will be open for secret balloting in person from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM *sharp*. The Election Committee will tabulate ballots and announce the results during the meeting. The results will also be published in the December newsletter.

2011 HHA Directors and Officers

Bill Baldwin (2012), President
Matt Bedingfield (2011*)
Donna Bennett (2013)
Keith Crane (2013),
VP Finance

Anne Culotta (2011),
VP Community Outreach
Mike Easley (2013)

Simon Eyles (2011),
VP Historic Preservation
Lindsey Lee (2012), President-
Elect and Treasurer
Ellen Newcastle (ND),
Secretary

Gilbert Perez (2013)
Martin Piké (2011),
VP Property Management

Elizabeth Poirrier (2011*)
Andrea Sharp (2011)
Chris Silkwood (2011*)

Kelly Simmons (ND),
VP Sponsorship
& Fundraising,
VP Information &
Communications

Marianne Sulser (2011)
Bart Truxillo (2012)

(Number in parentheses
is last year of term or ND for
non-Director Officers; * marks
interim appointees.)

Special Thank You

A big “shout out” goes to Gilbert Tree Services. Yet again, Pedro and his wonderful crew are helping out with the appearance of Heights Boulevard.

Pedro has agreed to trim the four large palm trees in Palm Court at the entry to Heights Boulevard at I10 and the feeder road at no cost to the HHA. The trees have been in great need of a grooming and will definitely spruce up the appearance of our wonderful entryway. In addition, they will be removing the tall, dead palm on the same block, which has been an eyesore for quite some time.

Gilbert Tree Services has been a special friend to the HHA for a number of years now, and we are immensely grateful. Pedro can be reached at his business number, 832-814-3332, should you wish to thank him directly.

Volunteer at the 2011 Holiday Home Tour!

The annual Houston Heights “Deck the Heights” Holiday Home Tour will feature six fantastic bungalows this year. On Friday and Saturday, December 2-3, each home will be “decked out” with everything from mid-century vintage to classic Christmas decor. Come be a part of this wonderful neighborhood tradition by volunteering at a home or helping with the big Patron Party shindig the Thursday before the tour. To volunteer, email us at volunteer@houstonheights.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

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 not to 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.

Drought Stresses Trees — Water Judiciously

The hot, dry weather is placing extra stress on our tree canopy. It also has led the City of Houston and other municipalities to impose watering restrictions. Confused about what to do?

Trees for Houston has some suggestions and useful links on their website: <http://www.treesforhouston.org/news.html>.

Fire Station Exterior Renovation Begins



The long-missing initial “H” in “HHFD” for “Houston Heights Fire Department” has been restored and awaits a coat of paint.



HHA members disassemble the southwest bay door in preparation for restoration of the opening to its original 1914 appearance. (It was originally the same width as the others and symmetrical.)

Fire Station Exterior Renovation Begins



Scaffolding is going up to provide access to the entire brick and mortar surface for restoration.

HHWC News

Do you think you know the Houston Heights Woman's Club? You might be surprised! The HHWC will host an open house on Sunday, October 2, 4:00-7:00 PM at their historic clubhouse, 1846 Harvard. Meet members and find out about more information on Club history, current community service projects, and the many fun social events hosted by the Club. This is a great opportunity to learn more about one of Houston's oldest social clubs in an open, casual environment. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Debbie Cranford, Debbie.Cranford@kbr.com.

There will also be invitations available for the October Cork'n'Fork, with a Day of The Dead theme. Cork'n'Fork is a spouse-friendly, potluck-style dinner open to members and non-members! For October's theme, attendees are asked to bring a traditional Mexican-style food dish and a coordinating beverage (alcohol definitely permitted). Your dish is the price of admission, and food is always plentiful! If you can't attend the Open House, or even if you can, this is another fun event to find out more about being a part of this group! For more information on the October C'n'F, please contact Sylvia Villarreal, savillarreal@hotmail.com.

Heavy Trash Notes

September is a "Tree Waste Only" month; October is a "Junk Waste" month. For dates in your area and more information, visit the City Solid Waste site www.houston.tx.gov/solidwaste/treewaste.html.

National Night Out

Texas observes National Night Out on Tuesday, October 4, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Grab a snack, put on a smile, lock your doors, and go outside to meet your neighbors! Join America in a United Stand Against Crime.

It's time to start planning your block party. Find a handy front yard or driveway, start or update a contact list for your block, divide the shopping list for snacks and drinks, and plan to have a fun evening. Maybe the heat and the drought will have abated by then.

Neighborhood non-profit organizations may be making plans for NNO. We'll publish any we hear about in time.

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2 Bike Rally all day Marmion Park and elsewhere	3 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	4 <i>National Night Out (in Texas)</i>	5 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	6 - <i>garbage</i>	7	8
9	10 HHA General "Safety/Security" 7:00 PM Fire Station	11	12	13 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	14	15
16	17 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	18 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	19	20 - <i>garbage</i>	21	22
23	24 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	25	26 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	27 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	28	29
30	31 <i>Halloween</i>					

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

Through September 18, exhibition "Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination" at The Health Museum, 1515 Hermann Drive. More information is available on the museum's website at <http://www.thehealthmuseum.org/starwars>.

August 30 is the official 175th birthday of the City of Houston. Visit www.houston175.org for information about events and exhibits planned for August through November.

September 10, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, St. Mark's United Methodist Church on Patterson and on Pecore, West End Civic Club, and various governmental agencies and service providers will present the Heights-West End Community Health Fair at 1615 Patterson, two blocks south of I-10, near West End Park. Free, open to the public. For more information, visit smumc.org or WestEndCivicClub.org or email HeightsWestEndCommtyHealthFair@gmail.com.

September 20 and 22, 6:30-8:30 PM, GHSNC and SN22 candidate forum for City Council At-Large seats at West End Multi-Service Center, 170 Heights Blvd.

September 22-24, 29-30, October 1-2, Opera in the Heights presents Donizetti's *Daughter of the Regiment* in Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information, visit www.operaintheheights.org.

October 4, 6:00-9:00 PM, 14 Pews will be hosting a potluck for Neighbors Night Out (National Night Out, Texas Edition) at 800 Aurora. For more information, visit <http://www.14pews.com/>.

Future History

December 2-3, Holiday Home Tour

December 13-14, Holiday Basket Preparation and Delivery [note new dates]

2012:

February 26, Awards Dinner
April 13-15, Spring Home Tour
June 2, Heights Fun Run
October 7, 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.

November 16, White Oak Bayou Association Annual Meeting. Social gathering starts at 6:00 PM. program at 7:00 PM.

HOUSTON HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION
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 HOUSTON, TX 77270-0735

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Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events for September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	2	3
4 <i>Deadline for next newsletter (tomorrow)</i>	5 - <i>Labor Day</i> HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	6	7	8 - <i>garbage</i>	9	10
11	12 HHA General "Sports" 7:00 PM Fire Station	13	14	15 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	16 <i>HHA Board candidate statements due by 5:00 PM</i>	17
18	19 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	20 GHSNC Candidate Forum, 6:30 PM, West End MSC	21	22 - <i>garbage</i> GHSNC Candidate Forum, 6:30 PM, West End MSC	23	24
25	26 HHA Education 7:00 PM Fire Station	27	28 PIP meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	29 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	30	October 1 <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>>