

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association

Volume 37, Number Ten, October 2011



2011 Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt

It's not too late to register – you can sign up at Marmion Park on Rally Day, 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 near-by neighborhoods, or a shorter 5-mile ride designed for kids and their adult companions – or do both!

The Rally starts and ends at Marmion Park, 18th Street & Heights Boulevard.

Here's the schedule for the day:

- 8:00 AM Day-of Registration begins; Rally Packet Pick-up begins
Water Bottles distributed to first 300 rider entrants
20-Mile Rally starts
- 2:00 PM 5-mile Rally starts
- 3:30 PM Bike Rally Party in the Park: Music • Food • Fun
- 4:00 PM Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt ends
Last chance to submit rally cards and clue sheets for prizes
- 4:30 PM Awards Ceremony
Door Prize Drawings (you must be present to win)

...continues on page 2

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



General Meeting

The Houston Heights Association's October 10 General Meeting has two topics that will interest you: crime and safety plus Board of Director nominee speeches.

The topic of safety and security will include information about our 2012 Heights Constable patrol program. October is our kick-off month, and our deputies will be on hand to meet all of our neighbors and answer any questions that you may have concerning "safety" in our neighborhood. A representative from Crime Stoppers will be in attendance, as well as our local men in blue from the Houston Police Department.

During the meeting, the 10 candidates who were nominated for the Board of Directors of the Houston Heights Association, or

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Bike Rally from page 1

Bike Safe & Bike Smart! Each rider will receive a Smart ID emergency identification tag courtesy of SmartID™. And don't forget your helmet!

Plan to make a day of it – ride a little, and take a break along the way to use one of the restaurant coupons in your rider packet to stop for a bite to eat or drink. Then make your way back to Marmion Park for the After Party and Awards Ceremony.

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

So, air up those tires and come enjoy a great day in the neighborhood.

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.

Have a 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.

Community Improvement Nominations

Once again, it is time to look around the neighborhood and see who has been improving it. The nomination form and rule sheet for the 2011 Community Improvement Awards will be on the HHA web site soon. Nominees and winners will be announced at the annual Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner on February 26.

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



General Meeting from page 1

their representatives, will speak on their qualifications for three minutes. They will also draw for ballot positions at the beginning of the meeting.

Mark your calendars to attend this information meeting on October 10, which will begin at 7:00 PM in the Fire Station, located at 107 W. 12th at Yale.

Donovan Park Events

Dozens of area children enjoyed Splash Day on August 20.



The next event scheduled for Donovan Park is "Photos With Santa" on December 3.

Constable Statistics

	July	August
Total Arrests	3	11
Citizen Assists	1	0
Citizen Contacts	93	106
Vacation Watches	729	615
Court Citations	53	79
Alarm Responses	2	3
Suspicious Vehicles	38	60
Park Checks	80	92
Disturbances	4	2
Major Accidents	0	0
Criminal Offenses	2	0
Miles patrolled	3,000	3,153

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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 Assistant Editor Kathleen S. Williamson
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- Stephanie Babb, Bill Baldwin,
- Donna Bennett, Angela DeWree,
- Lauriel Hindman, Julie Pettit,
- Lanna vonBaden, Maureen Weyel,
- Marc Ziegler.

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 page 3 of our September issue or page BD6 of the enclosed Business Directory for a list of current Directors.

The remaining 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*):

- 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.

Director Candidate Statements

The following ten candidates were nominated at the September General Meeting of the Houston Heights Association. An eleventh candidate was nominated but subsequently withdrew. Statements are presented as submitted, without editing, in alphabetical order by last name.

Matt Bedingfield

Heights resident for the past ten years and an active participant in Boulevard Beautification and other projects; member of the Heights Finance Committee with a successful career in financial accounting; active in many boulevard beautification projects. Our involvement in the community builds the character and history worth preserving.

Rob Hellyer

Three years ago I relocated my design/build remodeling business, Premier Remodeling, to The Heights. My home is also in The Heights.

Board experience: HOA President, Greater Houston Builders Association, Remodelors Council 2011 President and long-time Board Member, first and only remodeler member of the Houston Archaeological & Historical Commission.

Bill Pellerin

As a member of the HHA board, I will work hard to keep the Heights the best neighborhood in Houston. Being a member of the board while keeping the chair of the Land Use Committee will allow me to better coordinate activities between the board and the committee.

Elizabeth Poirrier

Resident of the Heights since 2005. Volunteered on several home tours; had their 1915 craftsman bungalow on the 2009 Spring tour; Chaired the 2010 Holiday Tour. Volunteers for many HHA events. Recipient of the 2011 HHA New Generation Award. Committed to making the Heights a better neighborhood for all. Married.

Director Candidate Statements from page 3

Alan Ratliff

Built Heights house in 1995, love history, community, character of neighborhood, committed to urban renewal and livable inner cities. CPA-attorney co-owns national small business, investor in neighborhood restaurant, annually supports Candlelight dinner and capital projects. Motto: small things each and every day to make the world a better place.

Andrea Sharp

Chairman; 2009 Spring Home Tour Auction, 2010 Heights 5K Fun Run, Membership committee and 2011 Holiday Home Tour & Patron Party co-chair. Forward-thinker, problem solver, level headed, and proud Heights homeowner since 2006. Maintaining character and integrity while encouraging growth is key to our community's success. Heights business supporter.

Becky Standridge

[No statement received.]

Dave Steitz

As a 15-year Heights resident, my volunteer activities have included: Heights Chamber (President), Heights-based Houston Achievement Place (President), opening my home twice for home tours & helping launch 1st Saturday. As a business coach & advisor, I bring strength and experience working with diverse groups to achieve outstanding results.

Paula Swain

Raised awareness of lot with magnificent oaks targeted for subdivision. HHA purchased lot, deed restricted, sold. Trees saved! Co-chaired home, worked numerous HHA tours, received prevailing building set back. Native Houstonian, working mother, two daughters, married for 21 years. If you want something done, give it to a busy person!

Mark R. Williamson

Over twenty years, I've served HHA as President, Director, Newsletter Editor, Super Neighborhood Delegate, and general volunteer. I would be proud to serve again as the Board faces the continuing challenges of keeping our "small town in the big city" vital, neighborly, and historic. Owner/resident of contributing East District property.

Remember, if you are not current on your HHA dues on Oct.1, you will not be able to vote in the upcoming Board election! You can pay your dues online at www.houstonheights.org; use the "Join or Renew Your Membership Today!" link in the upper left corner under the HHA logo.

Fire Station Exterior Renovation Wraps Up



(Left) The southwest bay door opening has been restored to its original 1914 appearance, matching the other front door openings, and awaits installation of replacement doors.

(Right) Crews wrap up the brick repair, mortar repointing, and surface treatment.

Deck the Heights

2011 Houston Heights Holiday Home Tour

Six Houston Heights homes will be decorated for the holidays and open for visitors at Deck the Heights, the 2011 Houston Heights Association Holiday Home Tour. On Friday, December 2, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, and Saturday, December 3, 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM, tour goers will have a rare opportunity to look inside these unique spaces that reflect the rich architectural tradition of this charming neighborhood.

Homes On Tour

Gribble/Eaton Home – 1116 Allston
Burnett House – 219 W. 11th
Kirksey/Tate Home – 1133 Arlington
Cummings Home – 301 E. 10th
Proto Home – 901 W. 14th
Clark Home – 801 Arlington



Home Tour Tickets & other information

Advance tickets will be available online at www.houstonheights.org beginning October 31 and at various Houston Heights locations closer to the event dates. Tickets will also be available on tour days at the Heights Fire Station (12th and Yale) and at each Holiday Home Tour home.

Tickets are \$20 in advance for all six homes or \$25 on tour days. \$5 per-home tickets can also be purchased on tour days at those particular homes. Bundles of 10 tickets will be available online for \$175 from October 31 through November 30.

Free shuttle buses will operate during the tour on both Friday and Saturday. Patrons may board the buses at the Fire Station at 107 W. 12th Street at Yale, where parking is available.

The Patron Party

This annual festive event will take place on Thursday, December 1, with tickets at \$125. The location is set for 205 Bayland, the magnificent historic home of Bill Baldwin and Joe Gonzalez. Tickets will be available at www.houstonheights.org.

Other Happenings

The excitement of the holidays will be in the air, with Mistletoe Madness and its invitation to “Eat, drink, shop & be merry!” and Heights 1st Saturday (www.heightsfirstsaturday.com) and First Saturday Arts Market on 19th Street (www.firstsaturdayartsmarket.com).

It’s a great time to get in some holiday shopping in the antiques and vintage clothing shops, art galleries, eclectic boutiques, and the ever-popular gourmet food and cupcake trucks, and to relax in the Houston Heights coffee shops and world-class restaurants.

Proceeds

Proceeds from the Houston Heights Association Holiday Home Tour are used to maintain Marmion Park, Donovan Park, and the Heights Boulevard esplanade park. Among its many missions and projects, the Houston Heights Association owns and maintains the historic Heights Fire Station at 12th and Yale (currently undergoing an extensive restoration) as a community center, supports local schools with grants, scholarships, and classroom projects, and fills hundreds of food baskets around the holidays for the needy.

For more information about the tour, visit www.houstonheights.org/holidayhometour.htm, call the Houston Heights Association at 713-861-4002 and select option 7, or send email to the committee at holidaytour@houstonheights.org.

November General Meeting: HHA Business Member Showcase

Monday, November 14, HHA Fire Station, 12th & Yale

Mark your calendar. For this one night only, Heights Business Members will be on hand to showcase their services and wares. It's a great way to familiarize yourself with the grand variety of local businesses and retail shops in our Heights neighborhood. Bring your wallet to pick up some great holiday items from our local Heights merchants, and preview what they are featuring in their Heights locations.

Doors open at 6:30 PM for Mix & Mingle, general meeting commences at 7:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend!

HHA Business Members

Sign up now to reserve your space for the HHA Business Member Showcase. Tables are available with advance reservation, on a first come, first served basis. This is a highly attended evening, and complimentary to HHA Business Members.

Reserve by November 1 to 2011 Business Showcase Co-Chairs Mel Melançon of the Heights Pages gmelancon50@sbcglobal.net and Angela DeWree of Design & Inspiration at info@designandinspiration.net to get all the details.

Donations

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

Robert & Katherine Ayers
Jila Bakker & David Jones –
Donovan Park Playground
Robert Prince-Wright &
Fiona Bills
Jane D. Bryant – Parks,
Boulevard, Flower
Gardens
Bette Channell – Boulevard
in memory of George
Cunningham
Hilary Parr Cobb
Linda & Simon Eyles –
Boulevard, Fire Station
Endowment
Troy Fraske &
Stephanie Riceman
Grogan Building Supply Co.
– Marmion Park
Ramsey Jankowski – Parks,
Boulevard, Flower
Gardens, Fire Station
Endowment
Cheri & Carl Hanemann –
Boulevard
Trudy Nelson – Boulevard &
Fire Station Endowment
Adam & Katie Pearson –
Donovan Park
Denise Martin & Anita Goff
– Boulevard in memory
of George Cunningham
Michael Maxim – Flower
Gardens
Henry Pogorzelski & Blair
Woodall – Boulevard,
Flower Gardens, Fire
Station Endowment
Steve & Linda Rogero
– Boulevard, Flower
Gardens

Education Update

The HHA Education Committee is collaborating with local Heights elementary schools on two exciting projects for the fall semester: "A is for the Arts" and "Writers in the Schools" (WITS). Due to recent budget cuts in school funding, fine arts programs in Heights schools will need community support, especially from local artists.

The purpose of "A is for the Arts" is to bring art, music, and other creative programs to students on an extracurricular basis at little or no cost. Slated to begin in October, current participation includes Field, Helms, and Love Elementary schools. For more information regarding support or participation, please contact Stephanie Babb (stephanie@babbhouston.com).

WITS is a national program that focuses on the power of reading and writing in partnership with classroom teachers; its primary goal is to provide literacy programs via adoption of new approaches to teaching creative writing. Field Elementary will be implementing the WITS program with funding provided by the HHA Education Committee.

These programs replace the Classroom Grants program.

New Members

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

Robert & Katherine Ayers
Jila Bakker & David Jones
Osmar Bastidas
Earl Bergeron
Drew & Lyndsay Burgoyne
Mark & Wanda Cohen
Erin Craig
Preston Ellis
Stephanie & Leeds Eustis
First American Title,
Jeffery Laird
Hayden Foley &
Mike Malone, gift
membership from Mike
& Diane Easley
14 Pews,
Cressandra Thibodeaux
Troy Fraske &
Stephanie Riceman
Richard & Nancy Gaubert
Jeffrey Goetz
Laura & Brad Hipps
Brian & Pam Kalinec
Casey & Kyle Koehler
Steven & Analuisa Laws
Aleta Magana
Constantine &
Danna Markides
Michael Maxim
Richard & Kelly McCarty
Morrison Supply, Joel Selzer
and Tiffany Comley
Paul & Nancy Oppermann
Robert Prince-Wright &
Fiona Bills
Karim & Natalia Shehadeh
Elizabeth Smith
Jennifer Teague
Tonetti Design &
Construction,
David Tonetti
Anna & Stephen Weinzapfel

Heights Urban Forestry

Living in Tandem with Trees

The Heights is home to an extraordinary canopy of native trees, enhancing our neighborhood and providing habitat for wildlife. Here are some tips from the experts. HHA Heights Urban Forestry Day will take place on November 12 – details coming soon.

Tips to Protect Our Heights Trees and Parks

People Protecting Our Parks is a campaign to pro-actively protect the City's parkland in the midst of continuing drought conditions. Its two main goals are fire prevention education and the protection of public parkland. The first step of this campaign was the issuance of a temporary ban on all BBQ pits in all City of Houston Parks.

News Release: www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2011/MayorAnniseParkerAnnouncesNewFireSafetyCampaignForCityParks.pdf

Smoking Banned In Houston Parks

Mayor Annise Parker's Executive Order 1-15 makes smoking in City of Houston parks an offense carrying up to a \$2,000 fine. The local state of emergency brought on by the historic drought we are experiencing makes this necessary, and it will stay in effect until drought conditions improve. *[Remember that esplanades are city parks.]*

Executive Order: www.houstongovnewsroom.org/external/content/document/2155/1196407/1/Executive%20Order%201-15.pdf

Water Restrictions

Due to drought conditions, extreme heat, and water main breaks in many parts of town, Mayor Annise Parker has declared a Stage Two Water Shortage in Houston. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will cut water usage by approximately 18%, and citizens are asked to restrict outdoor watering to two days a week.

News Release: www.houstontx.gov/mayor/press/20110815.html

Tree Watering Tips

As drought conditions continue in Houston, the Texas Forest Service, Texas Urban Forestry Council, and the Texas Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture have some tree watering tips to help your trees survive the drought.

Tree watering tips pdf file: www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2011/WateringYardTreesInSevereDroughtTips.pdf

YouTube video: www.youtube.com/TexasForestService-p/a/u/0/ciEjYvwwQZs

Burn Bans in Harris and Montgomery Counties

Drought conditions throughout Texas have led to burn bans across the state. Burn bans in Harris and Montgomery Counties affect Lake Houston Wilderness Park. Please use the utmost care at Lake Houston Wilderness Park and all other parks.

For more information in Harris County: www.hctx.net/fmarshal/
Montgomery County: www.co.montgomery.tx.us/fire/

4112011BurnBanFireDanger.pdf

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 6 <i>End of Daylight Savings Time</i>	7 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	8 <i>Election Day</i>	9	10 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	11	12 Urban Forestry Day on Heights Boulevard
13	14 HHA General "Business Fair" 7:00 PM Fire Station	15 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	16	17 - <i>garbage</i>	18	19
20	21 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	22	23 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	24 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	25 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	26
27	28 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	29	30	December 1 - <i>garbage</i> Patron Party See p. 6.	2 HHA Holiday Home Tour 6:00 - 9:00 PM See p. 6.	3 HHA Holiday Home Tour 3:00 - 9:00 PM See p. 6.

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

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

October 1, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Annual Rotary Club of Houston Heights Book Sale at the Heights Library, 1302 Heights Boulevard. Proceeds benefit the library.

October 1, Fall Festival at Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11th; free. Urban Harvest class on winter veggie gardening, fun for kids, hot dogs, hayrides, music, and pumpkins.

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 www.14pews.com/.

October 14, 14 Pews 1st Birthday Party at a local home. Tickets free to members at the \$100 level. Visit www.14pews.com to join.

October 23, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Fall Festival at St. Stephen Catholic Church parking lot, 1900 Center Street. Games and rides for kids, live music in Spanish (from 2:00 PM), Mexican food, drinks, and beer (from 12:00 N). For more information, contact Hugo Banda, Parish Administrator, at 713-581-3633.

November 10-12 & 17-20, Opera in the Heights presents Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* in Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information, visit www.operaintheheights.org.

Heavy Trash Notes

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

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.

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Calendar of Events for October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt all day; see p. 1. Marmion Park	3 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	4 <i>National Night Out (Texas)</i>	5 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	6 - <i>garbage</i>	7	8
9	10 HHA General "Crime/Safety" 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 7:00 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>	November 1	2	3 - <i>garbage</i>	4 <i>Deadline for next newsletter (tomorrow)</i>	5 Worthington Plaza Dedication, 10:00 AM, Heights Blvd at 7th, see page 5.

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

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

continued within