Message from the Incoming HHA President

by Bill Baldwin, 2017 President

I’m back for what, in all likelihood, is my last hurrah as President of the Houston Heights Association. I am overwhelmingly grateful for this opportunity, and I’m proud to be joined on the board by such a dedicated group of friends and neighbors who have spent countless hours in service and have worn many hats over the years. As currently the longest continuously serving board member, I look forward to leading the board and the organization in 2017 through some important goals and outstanding issues based on observations I have reflected upon in this last decade of service to the HHA.

In the field of real estate, I often hear from those new to or outside of our neighborhood that Houston Heights has “arrived” — that it was somehow undiscovered or underdeveloped and is just now reaching its full potential. To those of us who have lived here 10, 20, or 30+ years, we know Houston Heights is just as resplendent today as it was a century ago, and one of the board’s goals will be to better disseminate its history and all that the Houston Heights Association does for the neighborhood. We also want to learn from our newer neighbors who arrive with fresh perspective and great ideas of their own.

We have all been drawn to the Houston Heights area for its strong neighborhood character, deep sense of community, generous and beautiful parks and green space, and an array of amenities close

...continues on page 3

MONTHLY MEETING & HAPPY HOUR

Meet new neighbors and friends on the second Monday of the month at the historic Heights Fire Station at 12th and Yale. The socializing starts at 6:30 PM; the meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Attendees on December 12 enjoyed holiday music, treats, and fellowship after placing their toy donations under the tree.

January 9: Heights School Fair

At the January 9 meeting, we will welcome the principals of area schools to present their schools’ goals for 2017. Please come to meet and greet these dedicated educators and learn about their schools’ programs and how they feel our community can assist them in achieving their goals.

This is a splendid opportunity for parents to learn about the wonderful area schools and explore the option of a public school education for their children. The principals will be...continues on page 2
Constable Patrol Reminder

If you haven’t renewed your Constable Patrol Program subscription for 2017, or if you haven’t been a subscriber before, think about signing up for 2017. Remember, the additional patrolling is only made available because of funding through subscribers.

Paid subscribers have a direct phone contact with the Precinct 1 dispatcher for a quicker response time to any calls or reports of suspicious activity, either by the deputy on patrol or a nearby deputy. A paid subscription also comes with vacation watch services, special watches for unusual circumstances, and free home security inspections.

Visit www.houstonheights.org/html/constable.html to get more information and sign up.

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of our Winter 2016-2017 Sponsors:

Platinum

Gold

Bronze

February 13: Share The Love

The February 13 meeting will be our annual showcase of HHA committees and events. Visit with committee chairs and members to learn how you can get involved with the various projects of the Houston Heights Association. Bernie’s Burger Bus in the Heights will provide sliders and their famous chips.
Incoming President’s Message from page 1

at hand — all due, in no small part, to the hard work and dedication of hundreds of volunteers each year. The HHA has responded to the renewed interest and changing population in the neighborhood by expanding and evolving its scope, mission, and operations.

The HHA is at its peak of fiscal health, operational strength, and reach, and with the Constable program, the renovation of the Fire Station, beautification and maintenance of the Boulevard esplanade, the creation, maintenance, and improvements to two fine parks — and the list goes on and on — we continue to realize our stated vision “for Houston Heights to be recognized as a diverse, small town community in the heart of Houston, where neighbors and businesses thrive, children learn and play, and history lives.”

In business, though, I realized long ago that all things are cyclical. There is a natural rhythm to expansion and contraction. In an exceedingly resilient organization like ours, contraction can simply be seen as a time for reflection and expansion as a time for renewal. While the HHA has not experienced any great downturn in membership, involvement, or other metric, I suggest we are due for a period of reflection and renewed focus when it comes to our core mission: “to foster a sense of community among the diverse segments of the neighborhood ... in an atmosphere of friendliness, cooperation, and fun.”

Many of us on the board yearn for more fresh servant leaders to join our efforts, to see new faces in the mix so we can profit from the same ingenuity and diversity of thought and experience that led to the last great period of renewal for the association roughly a decade ago.

Now is also a time to carefully review our vast array of programs and whether they foster a sense of community and cooperation. In other words, which of our individual programs are beneficial and thriving and in sync with our mission and which are stagnant, possibly project a negative message, or are simply outdated. I believe it’s important to analyze these issues regularly and not allow the organization to rock along, just maintaining the status quo.

This is where I wish to lead this organization in the year to come:

• I want to ensure the HHA is not seen by newer generation neighbors as some sort of old guard.
• I want to ensure we are focused on our core mission in a way that allows other local institutions (schools, businesses) to be challenged to share in our vision and accountability for the community.
• I want to see those fresh new faces on our committees and eventually on the board.
• I want to mentor and advise those who will become the next generation of long-serving board members and volunteers.
• I want to create a space where new ideas about how we remain a “diverse, small town community in the heart of Houston” flourish in this second century of Houston Heights life.

I am obsessed with the idea of momentum. In both my personal and professional life, I am guided by the definition of momentum as “the impetus gained by a moving object.” Houston Heights is a constantly moving object whose impetus is created by the propulsion from its past. We want to move forward not from our past, but with our past.

Here’s to another grateful and exciting year of service!

Bill Baldwin, 2017 HHA President
2017 Organization
At its Organizational Meeting in December, the 2017 HHA Board welcomed new Directors, elected officers, set meeting dates and times, designated check signers, and appointed the Executive Committee.

Officers
*President: Bill Baldwin
*President-Elect: Bill Baldwin**
*Secretary: open
*Treasurer: Matt Bedingfield
VP of Communications: Sharon Dearman
VP of Community Affairs: Mark Williamson
VP of Community Relations: Laura Menefee
VP of Finance & Operations: Damian Ogier
VP of Fundraising & Special Events: Danae Stephenson & Kenny Terrell
VP of Properties: Jim Bennett
* These officers are members of the Executive Committee.
** Bill Baldwin will serve as both President and President-Elect in 2017. The HHA board agreed that the longer term will ensure continuity of leadership and allow sufficient time to make the association and community improvements that are planned over the next two years.

Directors
Laura Menefee (2017)
(The year each Director’s term expires is shown in parentheses.
*Asterisks indicate members of the Executive Committee.)

Meeting Dates
The monthly General Meeting will continue to be on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 PM; the program will start at 7:00 PM following a social half-hour. The HHA Board will continue to meet on the third Monday at 6:30 PM.

Heights Sights
Heights Sights
Along White Oak Bayou
On December 9, Houston Parks Board, Memorial Heights Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ 5), the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and the Harris County Flood Control District celebrated the opening of a new segment of the White Oak Bayou Greenway. This new hike-and-bike trail branches off from the Heights trail where it crosses Studemont and extends west two miles along White Oak Bayou.

Heights Garden Club
Happy New Year! We are very excited to visit Wabash Feed and Garden Store at 4537 N. Shepherd Dr. on February 11 at 10:00 AM. They recently moved from their Washington location, and we are very excited to get a personal tour. Our Annual Plant and Seed Swap will be 7:00–9:00 PM on March 15 at the Fire Station.

The segment under the Yale Street Bridge wasn’t quite ready then, but it will be soon.

Speaking of the bridge, construction is expected to be complete by the end of February per a TxDOT spokesman.
Coming Soon! Design Guidelines Survey

As the City of Houston continues developing design guidelines for the three Houston Heights Historic Districts, your opinion is needed! At workshops in September and December, property owners have helped the City and its consultants understand the different factors that make an addition or new construction “compatible” or “incompatible” with existing historic buildings. Those of you who have participated so far have provided clear direction on what is definitely compatible and definitely incompatible.

Now the City is looking for your help to clarify those “in-between” examples for which there was no consensus. To accomplish this, the City will send out a Visual Preferences Survey to every property owner in these three districts during the week of January 9, 2017. The survey can be completed on paper and mailed back, or an online version will also be available if you prefer to use that instead.

Why It Matters

Your answers will help the design guidelines consultants make recommendations for building design tools to be included in the Houston Heights Historic Districts design guidelines. In some cases, these tools will provide quantitative parameters to help guide property owners and their design professionals during the process of planning a project, with the goal of enabling property owners to save time and money during the Certificate of Appropriateness design review process.

When Is It Due?

Please take note of the survey when you receive it, and return your responses in the mail or online as soon as possible. All responses are due by January 27, 2017, and results will be presented in a strategy paper at the end of February, as well as in a community workshop on March 30 (location to be announced).

Want to Help Out?

The City is seeking volunteers to go door-to-door on the weekend of January 7–8 to encourage your neighbors to complete and return the survey. Training and materials will be provided. To sign up, or for more information about volunteering, please contact Brian McCollum at 281-728-7830.

Questions or comments about the design guidelines project? Please contact project manager Steph McDougal at 832-393-6541 or Steph.McDougal@HoustonTX.gov.

New Members

Please welcome these new members to the Houston Heights Association.

14th Street Flats, LLC,
Catherine Cochran
George & Carmen Armistead
Jack & Delaney Bellinger
Darling Way, Beth Liebling
Rene Harris &
Shannon Clark
Grant Harvey
Heather & Justin Henson
ICON Home Houston,
Damian Ogier
Jeff & Caroline Lafond
Johan Melan & Peta Williams
Andy Mogensen
Jorge & Sally Munoz
Michelle Natarajan
Patrick O’Mahen &
Molly Horstman
Luis & Kawin Pena
John Simmons &
Federica Berra
Kevin Stokes
The Heights Theater,
Steve Shein

Feedback Request

We want to hear your feedback about the newsletter.
What sections are most helpful?
What other information do you want to see in it?

We will use your feedback to help make it even more informative. Send your comments directed to the VP of Communications at editor@houstonheights.org, drop them in the slot at the Fire Station, or mail them to 107 W. 12th Street, Houston, TX 77008-4002.
Community Improvement Awards Reminder

Last call for nominations!
by Brie Kelman, Community Improvement Award Chair

We need submissions for this year’s Community Improvement Award! Please take a look around and send in a nomination when you think “Wow, look at that new/renovated house or business — it makes Houston Heights an even better place than it was before.” The four categories are: Commercial New Construction, Commercial Renovation, Residential New Construction, and Residential Renovation.

We will be accepting nominations through January 12, 2017. The Nomination Form is in the print edition of this newsletter and on the HHA website at [www.houstonheights.org/pdf/16CIAform.pdf](http://www.houstonheights.org/pdf/16CIAform.pdf). New this year, we are also accepting online submissions; visit [www.houstonheights.org/html/com_community.html](http://www.houstonheights.org/html/com_community.html) for the new electronic submission option!

Finalists will be selected based on the Nomination Form and before and after exterior photographs. The judges will personally view all the Finalist properties, and the winners will be selected. All Finalists will be invited to the HHA Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner in February, where the winners will be announced. Reminder: the judges can only consider exterior improvements!

Next time you see a special home or business that was recently renovated or constructed, one that makes you slow down and say, “Now that’s a nice change!” please send it in. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to celebrate the great things that our neighbors are doing to make the Heights an even better place to live!

Awards Dinner

HHA annually recognizes outstanding volunteers and community improvements during a fun evening at the Fire Station. This year’s Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner will be on Sunday, February 26. Doors will open to the Fire Station at 5:00 PM for a happy hour, followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. During the program, which will begin at approximately 7:00 PM, winners of the Community Improvement Awards, Citizen of the Year, Marcella Perry Award, and Corporate Citizen will be announced. Bill Baldwin and Andrea Hellyer are chairing the dinner portion of the event.

Seating is limited for this surprise-filled event that will once again be catered by Butter and Company. Tickets are $25 per person and will be available online beginning around February 1. In the meantime, more information about the Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner will be posted on the HHA website and Facebook page as details become available for this fun event.

Patron Party Wrapup

This year’s patron party was held at the historic Houston Heights City Hall & Fire Station. There was a great turnout for this kickoff to the holiday season as well as the 2016 Holiday Home Tour. The special edition ornament for the party featured a 13th and Cortlandt street sign bedecked in holiday style. Southern Goods catered the event, and Gelazzi donated scoops for all the guests!

The silent auction donors included Town in City Brewing, Premium Draught, Opera in the Heights, Presidio (coming soon), Eureka Heights, and artist Tatiana Escallon.

A string trio delighted guests with a variety of classical, pop, jazz, and Christmas tunes.

Thank you to all who attended this party fundraiser! All proceeds go to support HHA neighborhood projects and programs! See you next year!

[Thanks also to Chairs Marianne & Kenny Terrell!]
Holiday Home Tour Wrap-Up
by Kathleen Williamson and Janet Buchheit, Co-Chairs

The 2016 Houston Heights Association Holiday Home Tour “Jingle Bell Block” drew rave reviews and over 1,000 visitors and neighbors through this year’s featured homes. This year’s tour was unique in that all six homes were on the same block — the 1300 block of Cortlandt (although one house had an address on 13th Street).

The tour included old homes and new, including older residences with large additions. Decorations included a large collection of Santas, items reminiscent of an owner’s New Orleans roots, tree ornaments collected during years of traveling abroad, and many other treasured items.

Because all the homes were contained within one block, extra attention was paid to scheduling a variety of musical groups to entertain throughout the tour hours. The intermittent rain prevented some groups from performing, but we extend our sincere thanks to all who agreed to join our festivities: Heights High School (director Stephen Becker): Jazz Group, Christmas Choir, and Mariachi Group; Field Elementary Choir (Carolyn Davis); Travis Elementary Choir (Rachel Wrabel); St. Pius High School Beppo’s Bells (Sondra Warner); and St. Mark’s United Methodist Church Bell Choir (Wes Landry). Eileen Crowley Reed recruited the musicians; Damian Ogier supervised them during the tour.

We estimate that the tour raised over $11,000 for the HHA, which supports the Heights community, parks, education initiatives holiday food baskets, and more! This net was only slightly below budget and a remarkable success considering the uncooperative weather on the tour weekend.

Congratulations to our fine group of Cortlandt neighbors: Trudy Nelson, Sondra and Darrell Warner, Terri and John Arnold, Barbara and Jim Potter, Mary Scott Hagle and Daniel Kornberg, and Anne and Gottfried Schiller. Other neighbors on the block participated by hosting musical groups and by contributing to the luminarias that lined the entire block. Thanks to the whole block for their cooperation to close the street and to Pat Mayo for opening her yard to the tour.

Head docents organized volunteers and kept the tour moving smoothly: Gilbert Perez and Nick Eronko, Rae Lynn White, Teresa Matlock, Anna Gay, Margaret Ferenz, and Donna Edison. Thank you to Kevin Chenevert as Shuttle Chair, Richard Anhorn and Jim Bennett as Operations Chairs, and Thomas Wheaton for his graphic designs.

A big thank you to our participating designers: Flower Power, Flower Vibes, Lanson B. Jones, Bramble and Bee, and Heights Floral Shop.

Most of all, heartfelt appreciation to all the docents and other volunteers who helped make this event a success!

[Thanks also to Janet and Kathleen for organizing everything. —Editor]
Holiday Food Basket Wrapup

The Heights Rotary Club and the Houston Heights Association annually underwrite, prepare, and distribute food baskets to local families in need. These families are chosen by a local charity; this year it was Family Services of Greater Houston.

A truckload of canned, dry, and fresh food plus some household supplies was delivered the morning of December 12. Volunteers from Heights Rotary Club unpacked the pallets and arranged the food onto a score of tables.

One hundred baskets (actually sets of six bags) were assembled on the first floor of the Fire Station on the evening of Tuesday, December 13. Volunteers from Heights Rotary, the Hamiton Middle School chapter of Interact, HHA, the YMCA, and Family Services of Greater Houston sorted the bulk groceries among the bags in record time — only a hour and a quarter this year.

Delivery started after lunch on Wednesday, December 14. Many of the same volunteers came by the Fire Station to pick up a set of bags and the name and address of a family to receive them; some with large cars, pickups, or vans picked up several.

Thanks to everyone involved in planning, buying, delivering, unpacking, sorting, repacking, mending, entertaining, coordinating, and cleaning up afterwards. We couldn’t do it without you!

Donations

Thanks for your generous support of the programs of the Houston Heights Association.

Rich & Amanda Anhorn — Boulevard
Rachel & Yvette Feay-Cazier — Donovan Playground
Ginger Gates & Gail Cheramie — Boulevard
Marybeth & Matt Gebauer — Donovan Playground, Flower Gardens
Grant Harvey
Houston Zen Center — Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens
AnnMarie Johnson — Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens, Fire Station Restoration
Jeff & Caroline Lafond — Boulevard
Alex Loddoch & Maisha Amaru — Donovan Playground
Patty & Bob Mahlstedt — Boulevard
David Martin & Kristy Godwin — Boulevard
Berta Mejia & Renato Santos — Flower Gardens
Jane & Alvaro Montealegre — Boulevard, Flower Gardens
Todd & Bea Moseley — Boulevard
Jorge & Sally Munoz — Boulevard
Katie Pearson — Donovan Playground
Sheila Richmond — Boulevard
Angela & Michael Tedone — Flower Gardens
### Calendar (continued from back cover)

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<td>February 5</td>
<td><strong>Deadline for next newsletter</strong></td>
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<td>HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station</td>
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<td>PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>HHA General “Share the Love” 7:00 PM Fire Station</td>
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<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
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<td>Presidents Day HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>GHSNC Annual Meeting 6:30 PM Fire Station</td>
<td>22 - heavy trash (junk waste in even months)</td>
<td>23 - garbage and recycling</td>
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<td>26 Volunteer Appreciation &amp; Awards Dinner 5:00-8:00 PM Fire Station</td>
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<td>Mardi Gras</td>
<td>March 1</td>
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### Community Calendar

**Events planned by other community organizations**

- First and third Thursdays, 7:30 PM, English Country Dancing in the Heights. For more information, email jnjbloom@gmail.com or visit [http://www.hatds.org/index.php?page=ecd](http://www.hatds.org/index.php?page=ecd).
- February 3–11, Opera in the Heights presents Bizet’s *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* at 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information or tickets, call 713-861-5303 or visit [www.operaintheheights.org](http://www.operaintheheights.org).
- March 31–April 8, Opera in the Heights presents Adamo’s *Little Women* at 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information or tickets, call 713-861-5303 or visit [www.operaintheheights.org](http://www.operaintheheights.org).

### Heavy Trash Notes

The heavy trash pickup date is the third Wednesday for most of the HHA coverage area. Service schedules, including collection dates and information, tree waste and junk waste collection, and the Neighborhood Service Maps page can be viewed at [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html).

### Did You Know?

- Did you know that the Houston Heights Association Board reserves an early slot on the agenda of its monthly third-Monday meeting for a short Public Forum? Email info@houstonheights.org to sign up for a two-minute speaking slot.

### Future History

**Beyond the calendar grid...**

- April 7–9, Spring Home & Garden Tour weekend
- June 3, Fun Run
- October 1, Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt
- December 1–2, Holiday Home Tour [tentative dates]
- December 12-13, Holiday Food Baskets [tentative dates]
- February 25, 2018, Awards Dinner

### Did You Know?

- Did you know you can ask not to receive a paper newsletter? Just drop us a line at info@houstonheights.org and let us know you prefer to read us online only. We can use the savings on printing and postage for other HHA projects, and you’ll have that much less paper to recycle.
Calendar of Events for January 2017

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HHA headquarters: The Fire Station is on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets.  
HHA web site: <http://www.houstonheights.org>