

# T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association



Volume 44, Number 1, January 2018

## From the incoming HHA President

### Welcome to the Heights of 2018!

I am excited and honored to serve as the 2018 Houston Heights Association President. The HHA Board of Directors is fulfilling a plan we laid out in 2016 to temporarily allow for a two-year presidential term so that we would have uninterrupted leadership into the next phase of the HHA, and I am humbled to have been elected again for this purpose.

As your neighborhood's servant leaders, we on the Board are actively seeking out how to be a civic association for a 21st century urban environment without separating from our roots, which stretch back to the 19th century. I can say that we suspect the key lies in you.

At November's rededication ceremony for the renovated Cohen Plaza we were honored to have the presence of HHA Charter Member and plaza namesake Melvalene Cohen. As you may know, Mrs. Cohen is a local luminary who, along with her husband the late Carl Cohen (the HHA's first President), ushered in an era of unprecedented civic fervor in the Heights that endures today.

Throughout the mid-20th century, as Houston's urban core began to decline, with the professional class and development patterns shifting to our surrounding suburban areas, the Cohens and their generation of peers took it upon themselves to reinvest in all that was good about public, urban life. From planting more trees along Heights Boulevard to adding trash bins on more street corners to designating more green space for the enjoyment of their neighbors, these individuals took a project by project, block by block approach to transforming not only their neighborhood but, in turn, their city.

Whether you are a longtime resident or a newer neighbor, you might be surprised to learn just how much of what you know and love here is the direct result of volunteer efforts from private citizens just like you.

**As a Heights resident, where do you come in? What will your special project and future Heights legacy be? What do you need to learn about the neighborhood in order to discover that undertaking?**

*...continues on page 2*

## MONTHLY MEETING & HAPPY HOUR



**February 12th, 7:00 PM at the Fire Station**—The Heights Association “Shares the Love” with the Neighborhood.

Everyone is invited to this annual Valentine themed evening. Heart themed refreshment bar courtesy of HHA. The evening is hosted by HHA Membership Chair, Donna Bennett.

Get to know the groups and committees of the Heights Association. Fun Run, Bicycle Rally, Home Tours, Boulevard, Parks, Business, Garden Club, Urbanites Social Club, Urban Forestry, Land Use, Heights Area Schools and more! Meet everyone that makes it happen in Your Neighborhood - and the perfect opportunity join and get involved!

There's something for everyone in the Heights! You are invited to find out about the activities and fund-raisers that support your neighborhood. HHA is the place to meet new neighbors and make great friends.

### From the incoming HHA President from page 1

To support those endeavors, the Board is focused heavily on the transformation of the HHA from an entirely volunteer effort to a professional development function for our community. This will mean the recruitment and hiring of a full-time Executive Director for the association, which continues to operate as a non-profit, charitable organization, in 2018.

Through continued adaptive reuse, greenspace and multi-modal transportation connectivity, and our stellar community programming, we will continue to grow the value of our neighborhood, drive healthy residential involvement, and create a climate for local business growth. We will see how we can push the envelope as a model for urban life in America well into the next century. We will continue to be the sort of place where world-renowned online retailers choose to open up brick-and-mortar shops on our walkable, historic streets alongside businesses that have been here for generations. This is where our connection the past makes us a neighborhood for tomorrow.

Among our other plans for 2018:

- Increase our membership by educating you and your neighbors further about the work of the HHA.
- Increase participation in our Constable Program, where giving just a little extra of your resources helps to create invaluable peace of mind for you and your neighbors.
- Diversify the leadership of the HHA and bring in new committee and event chairs than ever going into 2019. In fact, we are still seeking a chair for the 2018 Bike Rally at the time of writing.
- Strengthen the character of our neighborhood by promoting accurate information regarding deed restrictions and other land use tools.
- Continue our fantastic community programming, with educational topics as varied as development regulation and flood resiliency...though we will certainly continue to put forth our best pies and gingerbread houses from time to time too!
- Continue to foster a strong business climate in the Heights which contributes to our exceptional quality of life via outstanding retail and dining.

As our neighborhood evolves demographically and economically, I am proud to see that we retain such a reverence for our rich history. From the expanded historic bungalows to several long-awaited commercial projects, adaptive reuse is an important part of the Heights story because it represents our desire to advance into this century without sacrificing the best of our past.

For me, the best of our past is in the people who consciously set out to make a mark. So, then, the best of our future will lie in who wants to make a mark now. We hope that you will continue the tradition of strong individual and household involvement in the neighborhood.

From our standpoint, with increased numbers, improved communication, and a dedicated professional who is focused on the mission of your neighborhood association and our properties, we are creating the space for your next innovation in the Heights.

**Bill Baldwin**

2018 President, Houston Heights Association

## Donations

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

Anne Rodgers—Boulevard  
Another Place in Time, Mike  
Lowery—Boulevard  
Ronald Jay Corcoran, Sr.  
Matt & Marybeth Gebauer—  
Donovan Playground &  
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Megan Graf—In Honor of  
Mark Williamson  
Anabelle Keene & Stephen  
Brothermann—Flower  
Gardens  
James & Angela Slaughter  
Michael & Angela Tedone—  
Boulevard

## New Members

Please welcome these new members to the Houston Heights Association.

Leslie & Jeremiah Ashley  
Bill & Mari Bumstead  
Ronald Jay Corcoran, Sr.  
R. Aaron Flores  
Angel Fultz  
Ronda Gary  
Anabelle Keene & Stephen  
Brotherman  
Tony & Kristen McLean  
Shashank Nanavati  
Josh & Emily Newby  
James & Angela Slaughter  
Selby Stevens

This is a truncated print version of *The Heights*, now emailed 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*, 107 W. 12th Street,  
Houston, TX 77008-6907,  
email editor@houstonheights.org,  
or leave a message on 713-861-4002.

## Annual Volunteer 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 25. Doors will open to the Fire Station at 5:00 PM for a happy hour (BYOB), 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 \$30 per person or \$240 for a table of 8 and are available now. Visit [stores.houstonheightsstore.org/events](http://stores.houstonheightsstore.org/events) or call 713.861.4002 to purchase tickets.

## 2017 Patron Party Wrap-Up (Success!)

This year's annual Houston Heights Association Holiday Party was a huge success! The event drew a crowd of around 100 attendees to the home of Summer and Brad Smith. Guests gathered for merriment and good cheer while the holiday music was playing and the martinis were flowing. A big thank you to Lemond's Kitchen for catering the event and providing such a high quality of service. Huge thanks to Danae Stephenson, Martin Pike, Marianne Terrell and Kenny Terrell for heading up the efforts to coordinate this year's silent auction and ticket sales.

## Holiday Food Basket Wrap-up

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 local charities; this year they were Family Houston and the YMCA.

A truckload of canned, dry, and fresh food plus some household supplies was delivered the morning of December 11. 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 12. Volunteers from Heights Rotary, the Hamiton Middle School chapter of Interact, HHA, and the YMCA sorted the bulk groceries among the bags in only a little over an hour.

Delivery started after lunch on Wednesday, December 13. 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!



*Volunteer Awards Dinner*



*2017 Patron Party*

## Reminder: Community Improvement Awards Nomination Deadline January 21, 2018

Continue to take a look around and send in a nominations when you think, "Wow, look at that new or renovated house or business... it makes the Houston Heights an even better place than it was before."

The four categories are:

- Commercial New Construction
- Commercial Renovation
- Residential New Construction
- Residential Renovation

Mail in the nomination form in last month's newsletter or visit [houstonheights.org](http://houstonheights.org) to submit electronically!



*2017 Holiday Food Basket*

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of our Winter 2017–2018 Sponsors:

## Platinum



## Bronze



Bayou City Aire, LLC  
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## Calendar of Events for January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4 - <i>garbage</i>	5	6
7	8 HHA General Meeting: "2018: Your Fresh Start Fast" 7:00 PM Fire Station	9	10	11 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	12	13
14	15 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> HHA Board Meeting: 6:30 PM Fire Station	16	17 - <i>heavy trash (tree waste in odd months)</i>	18 - <i>garbage</i>	19	20
21 <i>Orientation Meeting for 2018 Committees</i> 12:00 PM Board Meeting	22	23	24	25 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

HHA headquarters: The Fire Station is on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets. HHA website: [houstonheights.org](http://houstonheights.org)