

### Bus Stop Beautification

-Jonathan Day and Molly-

Hello, Neighbors! The Board needs help with the bus stops in our neighborhood. My daughter (Molly - age 4) and I worked together last fall to improve two bus stops at the corner of Watson and Highland. It was a joy. It was also a chance to learn. First, Molly and I went to C&D Hardware. The staff recommended teak and tung oil to preserve the wood benches. After applying several coats, we painted the iron on one bench with colors picked out by Molly - pink and green! Molly's favorite part was painting the previously unseen flowers pink. We also had an encounter with an ant colony - three mounds. Those had to go, with a chance to talk about how and why. Last, a neighborhood contractor (Carlos Gallegos of HSM Plastering) helped balance the planters. All in all, it was a great opportunity to get outside, meet people, and spend time with family. For the security-minded, Rudy Giuliani learned while serving as Mayor of New York that maintenance of public spaces reduces crime. For more on how to help, please contact Sharon Greiff at [sharon@glassattraction.net](mailto:sharon@glassattraction.net).

February 2010



### Winter Wonderland at Travis Elementary School

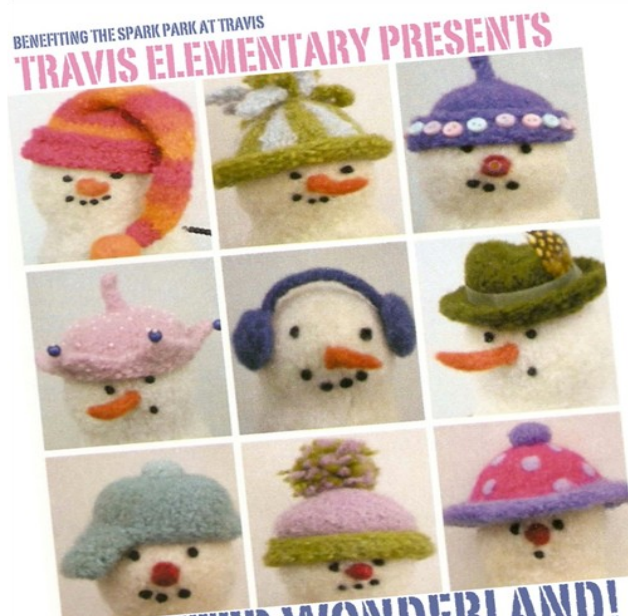
-Jennifer Aiyrer-

**Calling all families: it is snowing at Travis Elementary School!** A Winter Wonderland event that provides fun cold-weather activities for families will take place at Travis Elementary School's SPARK Park on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 6pm. The Winter Wonderland event will provide families with safe and fun activities in the Travis Park including tons of snow for sledding and play, "sleigh"-type rides, photos with Frosty, a bouncy house, music DJ, food and hot chocolate.

Organized by the Parent Teacher Association, it is a fundraiser for SPARK Park renovations benefiting both the school and the local community. We'll see you at the blizzard in Houston!

### CALENDAR

|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| February 4  | Junk Waste, W. of Watson |
| February 4  | Recycling                |
| February 9  | WHCA General Meeting     |
| February 11 | Junk Waste, E. of Watson |
| February 18 | Recycling                |
| March 4     | Tree Waste, W. of Watson |
| March 4     | Recycling                |
| March 11    | Tree Waste, E. of Watson |



**A WINTER WONDERLAND!**  
**REAL SNOW ❄️ REAL FUN ❄️ COME!**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 ❄️ 1-6 PM**

**SPARK PARKS KEEP YOU WARM IN THE WINTER!**  
Sled Down a Snow Slide ❄️ Make A Snow Angel ❄️ Have a Hot Chocolate ❄️ Take a "Sleigh Ride" ❄️ Picture Yourself with Frosty ❄️ Bounce for Joy!  
**TRAVIS ELEMENTARY**  
3311 BEAUCHAMP AVE  
HOUSTON, TX 77009

Woodland Heights newsletter printed by Star Copier

1701 Durham

713.802.0794

[starcopier@swbell.net](mailto:starcopier@swbell.net)

**Woodland Heights Civic Association Board Elections**

-Terri Guerra-

It's nearly time to elect a new board for the Woodland Heights Civic Association and members of the nominating committee will soon be ready to interview and then present a slate of candidates for the election at the March general meeting.

The following board members will stay with us. Their names will be put in nomination, of course; but happily we can say we have nominees for these positions:

Vicky Bettis as VP- Membership,  
 Sharon Greiff as Webmaster,  
 Terri Guerra as President,  
 Peggy Pugh as VP- Treasurer,  
 Glen Sementelli as VP-Security.

Our current VP-Deed Restrictions, Tony Maluski, our VP-Newsletter, An Armstrong and our Recording Secretary, Louise Moss has decided to retire.

The vacant positions are:

**VP – Beautification**

- Garden/ Yard of the Month
- Bus Stop Maintenance (Benches, planters etc.)
- Oversee Watson Norhill Esplanades and/or both Houston Ave entries (*the one with the clock and the one south of main*)
- Solicit bids, establish maintenance costs
- Make service arrangements with vendors
- Monitor to confirm landscaping service is to standard
- Monitor sprinkler system operations, work with installer
- Coordinate "Friends of the Esplanade" committee
- Neighborhood signage (Watson esplanade, Houston Ave south of N Main, throughout neighborhood).
- Neighborhood Trees - Advise city forester of tree pruning need (street trees and esplanade)
- Neighborhood Parks
  - White Oak Park: monitor and clean up
  - Stude Park: inform us of events, needs
  - Report to the board on the progress and activities of the Friends of Woodland Park
  - Freed Park: monitor and clean up
  - Additional tree plantings in conjunction with other organizations

**VP-Deed Restrictions**

- Monitor new permits from city Planning & Development. Follow up with appropriate communication to sellers/buyers.
- Solicit and view new build or remodel plans.
- Confirm plans meet deed restrictions. Write relevant letter to builder.
- Submit findings to board re new builds or construction
- Maintain project status for each property in WH
- Coordinate revisions/updates of existing deed restrictions
- Coordinate new deed restrictions for unrestricted subdivisions
- Educate neighbors/realtors about the importance of deed restrictions, the role they play in historical integrity and quality of life in Woodland Heights.
- Maintain accurate records of original deed restrictions

**VP – Infrastructure:**

The main responsibility of the VP - Infrastructure position is to be the public face of the association and first line of contact for the members on issues facing:

- Streets/Roads; monitor CIP plans with city & consultants

- Bayous/Sewers/Flood waters; monitor CIP plans with city & consultants
- Water supply pipes; monitor CIP plans with city & consultants
- Transportation liaison for I-45 freeway expansion issues
- Transportation liaison for I-10 freeway expansion issues

**VP – Newsletter**

- Has the responsibility for the editorial aspects of publication of the WHCA newsletter including establishing submission/ approval/publication deadlines, soliciting submissions, collecting news items (articles, announcements, photographs, membership updates, etc.), determining appropriate layout of the newsletter, and working with writers to obtain clear, concise, and grammatically correct text by the approval deadline.
- Upon completion of each month's newsletter, the VP – Newsletter Editor will submit the final draft to the board for approval before publication.
- The VP – Newsletter Editor will work within the budget to produce a monthly newsletter (no fewer than 9 issues per year) for distribution on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

**Recording Secretary:**

- Attend monthly Board and General Meetings and record proceedings of each (Minutes of the Meeting)
- Maintain Minutes archives (hard copy/electronic)
- Provide General Meeting Minutes to webmaster for posting.
- Preserve various documents for Houston Library Texas Room. Arrange for documents to be delivered to Texas Room at least annually.

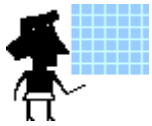
The civic association bylaws specifically designate the board positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary and then specify "at least 4 Vice Presidents" as the remaining positions. The specific areas of focus of these VPs are not defined in the bylaws which enables the board to focus on whatever issues are most relevant at the time. Some of these areas include Deed Restrictions, Infrastructure, Security, Newsletter, Beautification and many more. The bylaws also specifically prohibit floor nominations at the General Election. All candidates must go through the nomination process and review.

On behalf of the entire neighborhood, the board extends their deepest gratitude to Tony Maluski, An Armstrong and Louise Moss for all their efforts during their terms on the board!

So, to sum up, your civic association is in need of at least 2 more Vice Presidents for the upcoming year. Please give this some thought. We need new people from among our 2,000 residents to devote just 12 months to keep the organization as active and alive as it has been. New residents that have just moved here in the last few months have just as much to contribute to the organization as residents that have been here for 5 or 10 years or more.

Any one of the existing board members would be more than happy to visit with you about any of these positions. The need is real. Please contact me if you are interested in serving your neighborhood or just want more information about what is involved. Deadline for nominations is February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,  
 2010 Nominating Committee  
 Terri Guerra, Board President  
 Glen Sementelli, VP, Security  
 Michelle Gardener, WHCA Member  
 Jane Ista, WHCA Member  
 Lara Purser, WHCA Member



**WHCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
By Vicky Bettis, Vice President, Membership

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH MARCH 31.** If you have not yet paid your 2009/2010 dues, please remit them as soon as possible.

As of January 15, 2010 our year-to-date membership totals are:

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Dues          | \$15,600        |
| Contributions | \$ 8,358        |
| Total         | <u>\$23,958</u> |

Homeowner Members based on 1,945 qualifying homes: 533 homes or 28%

This compares to \$22,910 from 514 Homeowner Members raised by this time last year.

Fund raising efforts for the 2010/2011 membership year will begin in Mid-March.

Dues and related contributions are used to cover the operating costs of our neighborhood with all amounts over that going toward neighborhood improvement projects. Dues are never used for purposes outside our neighborhood. Additional details can be found under "Membership" on our web site.

**Save the Date**  
March 20, 2010 – 9:30am  
Dedication of The Woodland Heights Historical Marker  
Details will be included in next month's newsletter and on the Bulletin Board

**Citizens on Patrol**

-Glen Sementelli-

Some of you may not be aware, but the Woodland Heights has a Citizens Patrol program. Currently the program has roughly 15 volunteers. The Citizens Patrol is one of the most effective means of front line crime prevention that we have at our disposal. What makes the program effective is neighbor involvement. Participation in the program requires a short training session (mine was 30 min.), and as much time as you are willing to give. There is no minimum patrol time required. If you are a late night walker, or an early morning runner, your exercise time could help in neighborhood crime prevention. If you are interested in getting involved in the program please contact Glen Sementelli at gsementelli@yahoo.com or by phone at 713-864-1069.



**Laura Michaelides, ASID**  
Registered Interior Designer  
Texas #10776

|            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| interior   | 3012 beauchamp street      |
| planning   | houston, texas 77009       |
| design     | 713.802.1699               |
| decoration | foursquaredesignstudio.com |

**DAY PLLC**  
LITIGATION & COUNSELING

*Local  
Effective  
Fair*

1100 Studewood St. (832) 673-0220  
(above DaCapo's) [www.daypllc.com](http://www.daypllc.com)

**AUTUMNGROVE**

*Specialized Alzheimer's Care*

- Alzheimer's care is not what we do, it's ALL we do
- 100% focus is memory care to provide THE BEST care
- Licensed specifically for Alzheimer's/dementia care

*Simple*

- Limited to 16 private rooms
- One monthly price, no worries about levels of care

*Our purpose is to honor our residents and those who love and care for them.*

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Abascocilla<br>LIC. #194819<br>Katy<br>LIC. #193682 | Champions<br>LIC. #190559<br>Kingwood<br>Lizanna Phillips | Copperfield/CyFair<br>LIC. #193247<br>Pearland<br>LIC. #194819 | Heights<br>LIC. #190559<br>The Woodlands<br>LIC. #193247 |
|---|---|--|--|

Call 832-349-5735 or 713-870-1393 [www.AutumnGroveCottage.com](http://www.AutumnGroveCottage.com)

**WHCA General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 9**

7:30—Zion Lutheran Church—3606 Beauchamp

## Prepare for March 2 Primary & Precinct Convention/Caucus

-Peggy Lindow-

In case you are new to Texas or forgot everything you learned in Political Science class, let's take a look at the Primary Election & Precinct Conventions we will be holding on Tuesday, March 2. If you are not registered to vote, go to [www.tax.co.harris.tx.us](http://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 (8683).

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](http://www.cclerk.hctx.net), click "Elections" on left side of page, then on "Ballot-by-Mail Application," just under the banner. Or, you can call 713-755-6965.

### Important dates:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| January 1 – February 23 | Apply for Ballot by Mail                |
| February 1              | Last day to register to vote in Primary |
| February 16 – 26        | Early voting                            |
| Tuesday, March 2        | Primary Election Day                    |
| Tuesday, April 13       | Primary Runoff Day                      |

The Woodland Heights neighborhood is limited by I-45 on the east, Pecore on the north, Studewood on the west and I-10 on the south. WH is so large that we have 4 different voting precincts!

Precinct 1, which runs from North Main, along the west side of Houston Avenue and down into First Ward, across I-10, votes at Crockett Elementary, in First Ward.

Precinct 3, bounded by Pecore on the north, Studewood on the west, Julian-Taylor-Sawyer on the east, Center on the south, then a skinny isthmus crosses Washington Avenue and connects to another piece bounded by Washington Avenue, Waugh Drive and Buffalo Bayou. The last border is a line approximately 2 blocks east of Studemont. Precinct 3 votes at Hogg Middle School, at the northern-most point in the precinct.

Precinct 4 is the only one situate entirely within Woodland Heights, bounded partially by Pecore on the north, Florence on the east, White Oak Bayou on the south and Julian on the west. The polling place is Travis Elementary.

Finally, the area of Woodland Heights known as "German Town," lying east of Houston Avenue, is a part of Precinct 44 and votes at Woodland Park. Most of the precinct lies on the east side of I-45 and Woodland Park is the temporary location for voting. The old elementary school which can be seen from I-45, is being converted to Leonel Castillo Community Center (south of Fulton/White Oak) and will host future elections, once renovations are complete.

Early voting takes place at about 30 polling locations around the county and you may vote at any of them during the 11-day period of Tuesday, February 16 to Friday, February 26. 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 before March 2 voting so you must go to your precinct's polling place.

During early voting and Election Day, 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. Please bring your blue Voter's Registration card, which will be mailed to you very soon. The old orange one has expired. If you do not bring the card with you, please bring another form of identification, such as your driver's license.

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. Also, each precinct will determine which political party will be responsible for conducting its precinct elections for the next 4 years. For example, I live in Precinct 1. In 2006, the Democratic candidate for Governor received more votes than the opposing parties in our 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.

Once you have voted in the party Primary, you qualify to attend and vote at the party precinct convention. Voters need to report back to the same room in which the day's polling took place for the "Party Precinct Convention" (GOP) or "Precinct Caucus" (Democratic, Green, Libertarian, Constitution, etc.) The party precinct convention/caucus is the most basic level of our democratic system and you owe it to yourself (and to your well-behaved children) to experience the system at work. I attended my first Precinct Convention at the age of 11 and found it quite fascinating—but that's me. You will meet your neighbors and make new friends. Citizens will introduce initiatives which will become your Party's official platform, if adopted later at senatorial district and state party conventions. You will choose delegates to represent the precinct at each party's Senatorial\_District 6 Convention, which will be held on Saturday, March 20. Our State Senator is Mario Gallegos, District 6. That office is not on the ballot in 2010.

Primary ballots usually include Propositions for each party. The GOP ballot will have 6 Propositions, but as of this writing, 1/11/2010, Democratic Party had no Propositions on its ballot. You may want to check back with them. If approved by the voters, Propositions will be considered at Precinct, State Senate and State conventions/caucuses to become part of each party's platform. That is how you can help form your party's positions on issues of concern.

Positions of County Chairman and Precinct Chairman for your party appear at the very bottom of the list of candidates. Please don't forget to vote for these candidates. Winners will be directing your local party for the next 4 years and as you know, all politics are local!

Please read and study everything you can find on the candidates who are running in the March 2 Primary. One good source is Houston League of Women Voters. Talk with your friends to compare your thoughts, and read some blogs. Then vote by mail, vote early or vote in your precinct on March 2. By casting a vote, you are buying your "license to complain."



**Woodland Heights Newsletter**

The Woodland Heights Newsletter is a publication of the Woodland Heights Civic Association (WHCA), and seeks to keep the community informed of board activities and developments of interest to area residents.

**WHCA General Meetings** are held the **second Tuesday** of every month (except June, July, August and December). Unless otherwise noted, meetings are located in the meeting room at Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp.

**WHCA Contact Information**

P.O. Box 7754  
Houston, TX 77270-7754  
**Tel: 713-200-3610**  
Website: woodland-heights.org

**WHCA Board Members**

**Terri Guerra, President**  
Email: president@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: (713) 598-3403

**Louise Moss, Secretary**  
Email: recorder@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: (713) 880-0060

**Peggy Pugh, Treasurer**  
Email: treasurer@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: (713) 899-9070

**An Armstrong, VP, Newsletter Sponsorship**  
Email: newsletter@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: (832) 202-5372

**Vicky Bettis, VP, Membership**  
Email: membership@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: 713-397-9336

**Tony Maluski, VP, Deed Restrictions and Infrastructure**  
Email: deed\_restrictions@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: (713) 528-8822

**Glen Sementelli, VP, Security**  
Email: security@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: (281) 772-3529

**Sharon Greiff, Webmaster**  
Email: webmaster@woodland-heights.org  
Tel: (713) 868-1579

**WHCA Newsletter Accepts Advertisers**

-An Armstrong, VP—Newsletter-

Monthly advertisement fees are \$50/month for a 1.75 x 3 inch (approximately business card size) advertisement/promotions block. The WHCA Board will review all applications for advertisement. Individuals interested in becoming WH Newsletter advertisers, should contact the WH Newsletter Sponsorship VP, An Armstrong at **newsletter@woodland-heights.org** for further details and pricing for larger blocks. Checks are payable to the Woodland Heights Civic Association, P.O. Box 7754, Houston, TX, 77270-7754.

***WHCA Membership Form***

Membership Year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

Mail to: **Woodland Heights Civic Association, P.O. Box 7754, Houston, TX 77270-7754**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

New Member? (Circle One) YES NO

Please check the appropriate space:  Homeowner - \$35  Senior (60+) Homeowner - \$10  Renter - \$10  
 Friend of Woodland Heights ( Non-resident /Any amount)

***In addition to my dues, I would like to contribute the following amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_***