

January 2010

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We know we have many others to thank who give their time (and their porches), packaged t-shirts, scooped sand, had a garage sale, placed luminaria, sold t-shirts and cleaned up the next morning. Without all these people and the support of the neighborhood we would never be able to have such a great event!

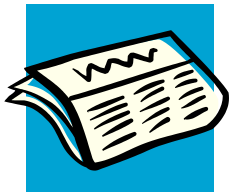
The Amazing 2009 LITH Committee

Terri Guerra, Sharon Greiff, Susan Morreale, Carrie Farmer, Kelly Fereday, Daniel Glazner, Tony Maluski, Dana Loudon, Jane Ista, Vicky Bettis, Lauren Earthman, Eileen "Tootie" Olson, Amber Lewis, Mike Lewis, Michelle Gardner, Hillary Podolsky, Carrie Thompson, Florence Clark, Catherine Callaway, Kyle Fake, Yanni Konstantinidis, Angela Williams and Glen Sementelli

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713.802.0794
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**WHCA General Meeting
Tuesday, January 12**

7:30—Zion Lutheran Church—3606 Beauchamp



**Woodland Heights Newsletter Volunteer Opportunities-
Have fun and be an active member of the Woodland Heights community**

-An Armstrong-

Several volunteer opportunities exist in regards to the compilation, completion and distribution of the Woodland Heights Newsletter:

First, though it has been both a rewarding and fun two years as the Newsletter VP, I am ready to retire the responsibility and allow someone with new, fresh, creative ideas to take over and continue the tradition. If you are interested, please contact me at armstrong13@yahoo.com or Terri Guerra at president@woodland-heights.org for additional information.

Additionally, if you have an interest in taking over as the Distribution Leader of the NE quadrant or as Block Captain for Beauchamp and Morrison (north of Bayland) and the condos on Norma, please contact me at armstrong13@yahoo.com.

**A Big Thanks to Lights in the Heights
Cookie Bakers**

-Carrie Farmer and Kelli Fereday-

Thank you to all the Woodland Heights cookie bakers! We were overwhelmed with your generosity to this unique tradition. You helped make many parties merry and tasty! It seemed many of the hosts were new to the neighborhood, and even those who are not, were delightfully surprised with this great part of Lights in the Heights.

All your contributions were wonderful, but we must recognize our top bakers:

Tracy Smith and her father contributed 52 dozen!!!

Christian and Todd Parsons delivered 47 dozen!!! Not to mention very labor intensive cookies-cinnamon swirls and stamped peanut butter cookies.

Vicki Bettis baked up a whopping 32 dozen!!!



Once again, thank you so much for contributing. We look forward to seeing all of you and your cookies next year!

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.

CALENDAR

January 7	Tree Waste, E. of Watson
January 7	Recycling
January 12	<i>Civic Association Meeting</i>
January 14	Tree Waste, W. of Watson
January 21	Recycling
February 4	Junk Waste, W. of Watson
February 4	Recycling
February 11	Junk Waste, E. of Watson



Friends of Woodland Park: Inaugural Family Fall Festival

-Becky Houston, Beth Fischer, Louise Moss, and Pat Rutledge-

First we would like to extend a special thank you to the WHCA Board for donating the funds that made our inaugural fall festival such a tremendous success.

We were truly blessed with a perfectly delightful autumn day to show off this treasure in our immediate neighborhood. And judging by the number of attendees and the comments we received there is much support for the conceptual plans that have evolved through our initial planning period. Our neighbors and colleagues with SWA, Scott Slaney, Scott McCreedy, and Brad Cowan, have done a masterful job consolidating and accentuating the desires of so many of you who have given your feedback on what you would like to see as part of the improvements to this park.

And judging by the support we are receiving from our elected officials, our plans have a realistic chance of being achieved. We can't thank enough State Representative Jessica Farrar, County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, and City Council Representative Ed Gonzalez, for taking time from their busy weekend schedules to attend our festival. And we are especially grateful for their specific advice on particular aspects of the project as well as their direct support for our plans. As the plan evolves we look forward to working closely with them along with our colleagues in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department and all stakeholders to build a consensus for a final plan.

There are many people to thank for putting on this successful event both for their volunteer time and labor but more importantly for their vision and ideas for an even better event. So in no particular order:

Pat German, longtime Woodland Heights resident and environmental naturalist, for organizing and supervising the group of industrious volunteers from a local high school who served as docents along the nature trails created for the festival.

Eric Ruckstuhl, chairperson of the Bayou Preservation Association, for his expertise and assistance in identifying the plants that were featured in the park tour.

Lisa Slaney, long time Woodland Heights resident and neighborhood volunteer, for her creative talent and artistic skill in creating all of our children's activities and our signage. And most importantly for the concept and design of the pledge program. (More on that later.)

Rock Robinowitz and Debbie Markey, with the Houston Arboretum: Debbie, one of our Woodland Heights neighbors, continues to provide us with sage advice on numerous matters and Rock manned an environmental exhibit throughout the event that proved very informative to all.

Joe Stewart, the director of the Park's community building, for providing the electricity for our tremendous band and for the advice on the use of the Park.

Randall Ellis, another tremendous neighbor and Friends of Woodland Park (FWP) supporter, for securing all our political connections and support.

Dee Dillman, a tremendous neighbor and owner of Kaboom Books, who has provided the FWP sage advice and support plus materials for the festival.

The Bayou Trio ("Sparky" Parker, Richie Mejia, & Omar Khan) and Puppeteer (Sondee Weiss) for providing excellent entertainment for all.

Carmel Henderson and her assistants Trevor Carter and Grayson Scheiner (both of Carnegie High School) for organizing and supervising all the children's games.

Pam Lowe, Yvonne Meyer, and Carmel Henderson for serving on the event planning committee and working the event.

And the hard working event volunteers who set up and ran the entire event:

Lisa Yilalys, Marty Cohen, Louy Meacham, Steve Fischer, Evelyn Fischer, Nat Smith, John Moss, Jayne Porter, RJ Dowell, and Matt Hartzell

The FWP would like to extend a special hello and welcome back to Dustee Gutierrez who has been a staunch supporter of all our efforts. It was great to have you and your family at Saturday's celebration of the Park.

The event was originally conceived with the goal to introduce the neighborhood to the natural beauty of the Park and create an appreciation for the habitat it provides for a diverse group of animals and plants. It was intended as an opportunity to show the community what has been developed as a general improvement plan. But it was soon suggested that this event also be used as a fund raiser for park improvement efforts. In this regard, we want to recognize Lisa Slaney for the idea and creation of the "pledge tree" which will be used until the FWP obtains tax deductible status (IRS 501c3 designation). We are proud to say that more than 25 pledges were received in this initial effort and our pledge tree is growing nicely! Thanks to all who believe so strongly in this effort that they have contributed funds toward its success.

We will certainly keep you informed of all future developments and planned events.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL TREE PLANTING

-Janet Tallichet-

The annual WHCA tree planting will take place on January 9, 2010 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We need **you** to volunteer! Please call Janet Tallichet if you can commit to help plant trees this year. The day will begin with a demonstration tree planting at the Norhill esplanade at 9:00 a.m. Then you will join a team and get a list of addresses with trees to plant. With enough volunteers we can be through before lunch! Those who will be planting their own trees are welcome to attend the demonstration.

To volunteer or ask questions:
Janet Tallichet (713) 459-5308
Brad Shumway (713) 927-8944



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Woodland Heights Wildlife

-Kay Lockard-

It is sometime past midnight; I awakened from a light sleep about 10 minutes ago. I didn't look at the kitchen clock for fear that it would jolt me into a lucidity too strong to permit an easy return to sleep. I don't know exactly what I was dreaming of, but when I awakened, I felt a bit uneasy. I am not generally afraid or easily spooked, but something had upset me in my sleep, and whatever it was had yet to let go of its hold on me. I lay in bed for only a short while before deciding to go to the kitchen. Maybe a glass of milk or something would help - anything to shake off the uneasiness.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. It's December 15, the middle of the month, and the night air is foggy and damp. I've always enjoyed the night, and the nearly-bare trees of winter, in addition to the fog, add to the "atmosphere." Street lights have taken on a surreal quality, and while it is not misting, the air is moist enough to give a wet sheen to the surface of everything substantial enough to have a surface. The ambient light from the city lights has been captured by the thick cloud cover, somehow adding a lightness to the night, as though the sun, which would not make its arrival for several hours, was almost ready to come up. I noticed that the pecan tree had yielded a large number of yellow-brown leaves that were now decorating the patio and grass in the back. I leaned lightly against the kitchen door in the dark, my breath fogging up the glass. And then I heard it.

It came as from far away, and it was almost inaudible at first, but it was unmistakable. There was a low, deep hoot, followed by two lighter ones. Then all was quiet again, except for the kitchen clock mounted on the wall. I knew at once what it was. Not because I'd heard it before, but because it was so exactly like how it was always portrayed in movies, or described in books. I listened for some time in the dark, and finally decided I'd been dreaming. Then I heard it again.

I looked up at the tops of the pecan tree standing sentinel by the cottage. I could see most of the branches from inside the house, but...nothing. I began checking the pecan tree next door. Again, nothing. I knew I would have to go outside, joining what I knew was already there.

I must have taken fully a minute to unlock the back door and turn the knob. I made no noise; I could not hear myself. No one standing near me would have heard anything. I carefully and very slowly pushed the door open a few inches when I heard it again. Though the sound had a smooth quality to it, it sounded much louder and deeper now. The depth of the sound surprised me. Still standing under the overhang, I again looked up, trying to see...anything. Through the fog, the branches stood in stark relief to the gray of the clouded sky. I noiselessly eased a foot down onto the patio when I heard it once more. This time, it sounded formidable. And near.

When I again checked the pecan trees and failed to see anything, I eased my other foot down. It was on the roof of the house, or in the oak tree in the front yard. Before I could step out from under the overhang, a dark, noiseless shadowy shape glided right over the patio and the cottage in the back, its large, dark wings scarcely beating. And then, all too quickly, the great horned owl was gone.

I stepped out on the patio and looked up and toward the front of the house. It must have been in the very top of the oak tree. I went back inside, feeling strangely flattered and exhilarated. I now looked at the clock. It was 2:49 AM.

How strange to think that when we turn out the lights to sleep, there is another world awakening just outside the door. Another world, waiting in the dark for us to go outside and join it.

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 Advertisements

-An Armstrong, VP—Newsletter-

Monthly advertisement fees are \$50/month for a 1.75 x 3 inch (approximately business card size) sponsorships/promotions block. The WHCA Board will review all applications for sponsorship. Individuals interested in becoming WH Newsletter advertisers should contact the WH Newsletter Advertisement 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 \$ _____

January 2010