



WHCA WANTS YOU!

—Felicia Zbranek, WHCA President

The Woodland Heights Civic Association will host its annual board elections on Tuesday, **March 11th**, at **7:30 pm** at Zion Lutheran Church. This is your opportunity to get involved in our neighborhood. The Civic Association has a very important responsibility to represent our neighborhood to the city, oversee neighborhood special events (ie. Home Tour and Lights in the Heights) and to help protect/enforce deed restrictions.

While some of day to day operations may not seem glamorous, it is what makes our 100 year-old neighborhood charming and one of the most desirable locations to live in the city. Serving on the Woodland Heights Civic Association is not only a history making opportunity but an honor.

Please consider running for a board position and serve our fine neighborhood. Each board position requires a commitment of one year. The board meets the first Tuesday of every month and hosts General Neighborhood meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month except June, July, August and December.

Please see **page 2** of this newsletter for a list and brief description of the board positions. For more information, please contact Felicia Zbranek at **President@woodland-heights.org**.



Hogg Middle School Spark Park

—By Beth Martin, VP—Newsletter Editor

Hogg Middle School is busy preparing for its much anticipated SPARK PARK. Planning and fund raising continue. Hogg's Park is expected to include a walking path/track, an outdoor theater and classroom, beautiful artwork to brighten the neighborhood, and much more.

Hogg is asking Woodland Heights neighbors for help reaching their goal. There will be a silent auction on Saturday, **March 8th** at Karen Derr Realty on Heights Boulevard from **7:00—9:00 pm**. Look for flyers at local businesses for more information on the items included in the auction and how to purchase tickets. Tickets will go on sale by February 8th. All proceeds will go toward the building of the community park.

For more information, contact Principal Imelda Medrano or Anne Cobb at **acobb1@houstonisd.org** or 713-802-4700.

February 2008

Surfin' the 'Hood

—Beth Martin, Newsletter Editor



There is a lot happening in our little neighborhood and surrounding area. Keep up with it all by signing up for the Woodland Heights Bulletin Board. It is a free and easy way to check out what is going on in your neighborhood, as well as post announcements and questions. To sign up, go to the Woodland Heights web-site at woodland-heights.org. Bulletin board topics range from activities for kids, entertainment, crime, ongoing development, and much more. Check it out today.

While walking my two "well mannered" pooches around the neighborhood, I am often approached by neighbors asking me questions about various properties. I would like to take the opportunity to provide information on a few local websites that contain interesting information about our neighborhood's real estate "goings-on." The Houston Area Realty website (har.com) is a great source of information concerning properties for sale and rent throughout Houston. Click on the property of interest for a nice bird's eye view. A website with a lot of information on Houston architecture is houstonarchitecture.info. There is a forum section with information and discussion on areas of interest. In the forum section, scroll down to Houston neighborhoods to find "The Heights." Swamplot.com is a local website that provides information on Houston real estate and development. The website also regularly posts addresses of properties with demolition permits. Another interesting website for the real estate curious is zillow.com. Type in your address for an aerial picture of your house along with information on real estate values in Houston and nationwide. Last, but certainly not least, is a website/blog of one of our very own neighbors, Charlie Kuff (offthekuff.com). While most of his blog deals with sports and politics, he has some interesting observations on Houston development. Happy Surfing!

FEBRUARY GENERAL BOARD MEETING TOPIC

"Business Development" with Mr. Richard Bruxbaum

MARCH GENERAL BOARD MEETING TOPIC

2008-2009 WHCA Board Elections



Woodland Heights Elections March 11th!

It's almost time to elect new board members for the Woodland Heights Civic Association. WHCA bylaws specifically designate the board positions of President, Treasurer, and Secretary and then specify "at least 4 Vice Presidents" for the remaining positions. The specific areas of focus of these VPs are not defined in the bylaws, enabling the board to focus on the issues that are most relevant at the time. Some of these areas include Deed Restrictions, Infrastructure,

If you are interested in running or know someone who is, please let us know. The nominating committee will interview you and develop a candidate slate for the ballot. The election is scheduled for the March 2008 General Meeting. Floor nominations will not be accepted, so please contact us by February 29th.

Security, Newsletter, Parks & Grounds, and Transportation.

The board positions and their requirements are as follows:

- **President** - Coordinate, preside at General and Board Meetings; act as a liaison with the neighborhood and other civic associations; act as a government liaison to maintain

contact with city and state officials.

- **Recording Secretary—Membership** - Record monthly Board and General Meeting minutes. Responsible for maintaining the roster for membership drive purposes and to support eligibility for various functions such as LITH and Home Tour. Also maintains volunteer list and volunteer hours to support 501c(3) requirements.

- **Treasurer** - Check post office box; maintain bank checking and savings accounts, make deposits and pay bills; maintain financial records of WHCA; report monthly to membership and WHCA Board. Create budget for WHCA and assist projects with budgeting, reporting and treasury needs. Create and submit yearly tax forms. Track donations and send out tax deduction letters. Knowledge of Quickbook, Financial Reports and accounting is a must.

- **Newsletter** – Edit, publish and coordinate delivery of monthly newsletter.

- **Deed Restrictions** – Monitor new permits from city Planning & Development; follow up with communication to sellers/buyers; solicit and view new build or remodel plans; confirm that plans meet deed restrictions; liaise with neighbors/realtors on role of deed restrictions in WH; maintain accurate records of original deed restrictions.

- **Security** – Attend monthly PIP meetings at HPD storefront; liaise with HPD on special security issues (ex: crime waves, 4th of July crowd & traffic control); make arrangements for National Night Out and for 4th of July.

- **Parks & Grounds** - Monitor landscaping service, sprinkler system operations, work with installer; coordinate "Friends of the Esplanade" committee; liaise with WH Greenspace committee; liaise with city forester regarding street and esplanade trees and pruning needs.

- **Infrastructure** – Monitor CIP plans with city and consultants on streets, roads, bayous, sewers, water supply pipes and flood waters; liaise with TX-dot and contractors regarding I-45 expansion, I-10 expansion and Studewood re-construction.

- **Special Events** - Create and coordinate new neighborhood projects (ex. "Quarterly Philanthropic Event") and act as board liaison to established committees including the Home Tour, Lights in the Heights, Houston Marathon/Hoopla, and Centennial Committee.

The existing board members would happy to visit with you about these positions (contact details on p. 3). Contact **Felicia Zbrank** at president@woodland-heights.org if you are interested in learning more.

We need new people from among our 2,000 residents to devote a little bit of time each month to keep the organization active. Remember, brand-new residents have just as much to contribute to the organization as our long-established neighbors. Please consider running for the Woodland Heights Civic Association board.

Habitat Highways™: Connecting Wildlife Communities One Landscape at a Time

—By Chris LaChance, WaterSmart Program Coordinator

We often think of quality of life in terms of a comfortable home, good schools and access to a variety of shopping and entertainment. Now, picture a community without the sounds of birds singing, bees buzzing or frogs croaking. We assume we will always have these. In Silent Spring, Rachel Carson eloquently sounded the warning bell about our ever-increasing reliance on pesticides to cure our landscape and agricultural woes. Could she also have envisioned the rapid loss of wildlife habitat as our communities sprawl unchecked with impervious pavement replacing our valuable wetlands, prairies and forests? Pavement means progress, or so it would appear. Our remaining natural, unpaved spaces are disconnected, widely spaced "islands" of habitat that make it difficult or even impossible for wildlife to migrate to find food, shelter or water. Yet, we do want our communities to be vibrant, not just for the two-legged inhabitants, but also for those who creep, crawl and fly.

The Habitat Highways™ (HH) initiative was conceived to help "connect the dots" of fragmented urban habitats and create contiguous corridors, or "highways", along which wildlife can easily gain access to food, water, shelter and places to raise their young. Participants in the HH training series become project-focused advocates who assist in preserving, restoring and creating healthy spaces for wildlife. More than passive green space, wildlife habitats support a healthy network of biodiversity—from plant material to animal life. When we preserve, restore or create places for native plant and animal species, we maintain our sense of place and protect our ecological heritage as we continue to enhance our quality of life.

The WaterSmart Landscaping™ Program is grant funded by Houston Endowment, Inc and administered by TX Sea Grant and the TX AgriLife Extension Service, all part of the TX A&M University System. Please go to www.watersmart.cc for more information or call 218-218-0721.

Coming next month: Part 1 of how to create neighborhood friendly wildlife habitats, from the ground up. It's easier than you think!

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.

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American Cancer Society Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer. Teams of 8—15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags to participate in the largest fundraising walk in the nation. Teams seek sponsorship prior to the Relay, all with the goal of supporting a cure for cancer. This year, the Relay For Life is coming to the Heights and will take place at White Oak Park on **May 16, 2008**. The Relay starts at 6:00 pm with a cancer survivors' lap. At 9:00 pm there is a Luminaria Ceremony to honor cancer survivors and remember those who lost their battle to cancer. If you are interested in participating, please contact Barbara Dickens at **281-630-5120**.



Green Valentine 2008

—By Jeff Shell

Over 30 native trees will be planted along the White Oak Bayou as part of the Green Valentine Tree Planting on February 9th. We will need help with the maintenance of some of these trees during their first year to ensure survival. It's pretty simple—water a tree once a week during the summer months when there has not been much rain. Voila!

Please contact Jeff Shell to see which tree you can adopt at jeff@greenvalentine.org or 713 256 4875. For more information about the Green Valentine project, go to GreenValentine.org.

CALENDAR

February 4	Recycling
February 4	Heavy Trash, East of Watson
February 7	WHCA Dinner Club
February 9	Green Valentine Tree Planting
	10 am—2 pm; Stude Park
February 11	Heavy Trash, West of Watson
February 12	General Board Meeting
	7:30 pm; Zion Lutheran Church
	3606 Beauchamp
February 18	Recycling
February 27	PIP Meeting; 7:00 pm
	1602 State St.; Police Union Bldg.
March 3	Recycling
March 3	Heavy Trash, East of Watson
March 8	Silent Auction for Hogg M. School
March 10	Heavy Trash, West of Watson
March 11	General Board Meeting
March 17	Recycling
March 26	PIP Meeting; 7:00 pm
March 31	Recycling



Woodland Heights Dinner Club

—By Sharon Greiff

Beavers has “Dam Good” food! Sorry, I couldn’t resist the pun. January’s dinner club excursion was to Beavers at 2310 Decatur. First of all, let me start out by saying that BBQ is a very personal experience. You compare it to the BBQ you like—dry rub, sauce, vinegar, smoked, etc.— and if it’s not the way you like it, then it takes a while to switch gears. Most everyone liked the BBQ (and the very health portions); The sausage was not what some people expected, but all in all, everything was very tasty. The bison meatloaf is TO DIE FOR—very juicy with a tomato based gravy with mushrooms. Dinner comes with a salad, so we only tried the cheese puffs and fried pickles for starters - both very good. An excellent selection of quality beers pleased our party. Unfortunately I didn’t leave any room for desert - so next time I’ll make sure to save room to try the BEAVER BALLS.

If you would like to join the Woodland Heights Dinner Club for their **February 7th** outing at Dharma Café, contact Sharon Greiff at **713-868-1579** or **Sharon@glassattraction.net**.

Yard of the Month

—By Jill Whitten

Sponsored by
Buchanan’s Native Plants



The February YOM winner is

905-907 Omar

Congrats to our resident gardener!

Charmaine Henisey’s yard at 905-907 Omar is wild by some standards. But, if you look closely, it is ordered by a central water feature, a hedge of Loropetalum at the street (just beginning to bloom), Crape Myrtle around the front and rock borders. This garden looks inviting to butterflies, hummingbirds, anole lizards, birds and bees and is about to come alive after a winter’s rest. There is variegated ginger, plumbago, vines with purple leaves, calendula, several types of roses, yellow flowers and more. This type of garden helps control flooding by providing plants and humus that absorb rain water, sustains creatures that eat mosquitoes and pollinate plants, and requires no fertilizer. Good job Charmaine! Thanks for creating this habitat in the Woodland Heights.

AARP Houston Heights Looking For New Members

AARP Houston Heights Chapter 1619 is recruiting new members. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at the Heights Presbyterian Church located at 240 W. 18th St. Anyone interested in joining please call Margaret Cardwell, **713-868-4728**.

WHCA Newsletter Accepts Sponsors

—By Beth Martin, VP—Newsletter Editor

Monthly sponsorship fees are \$50/month for a 2 x 3.5 inch (business card size) sponsorships/promotions block. The WHCA Board will review all applications for sponsorship. Individuals interested in becoming WH Newsletter sponsors, should contact the WH Newsletter Editor, Beth Martin, at **beth.whca@yahoo.com** for further details.

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Lights in the Heights® 2007

Giving back to our schools

—By Sharon Greiff

This year was an absolute success for Lights in the Heights® with great attendance, fantastic entertainment and generous donations from our residents and area businesses. Profits were so good this year that the Lights in the Heights® committee has decided to give each of the Music departments of Travis Elementary, Hogg Middle School and Reagan High School a two thousand dollar grant. “Our” kids and their education are a reflection of our neighborhood and we feel that by gifting the Music departments with LITH proceeds we are truly improving the future of Woodland Heights.