

March 2008

Ongoing Neighborhood Projects

—By Pat Rutledge & Louise Moss

Several community projects begun in the Centennial year are still moving forward. If you would like more information on any of the following projects, please contact **president@woodland-heights.org**.

State Historic Marker The application for a state historic marker for the original Woodland Heights was formally approved by the Texas Historic Commission. Details on the marker text will be provided in upcoming months. Thank you to Travis Elementary School for helping obtain final approval from HISD for the placement of the marker at the south east corner of their Spark Park (Beauchamp at Highland). Look for an announcement on the dedication ceremony in the fall of 2008. Thanks again to Omar Holguin, Rose Gallardo and Florence Clark for their hard work in making this project a reality!

Commemorative Brick Promenade The design of the brick promenade for the Norhill Esplanade has been approved (see pg. 2) and the final construction bids will be presented to our Board for consideration. Construction will last about one week and should be completed by late March. Once construction on the promenade begins, the price for engraved bricks will increase. If you are interested in paying tribute to an important event or person in your life, contact us now for the “pre-construction” prices on engraved bricks.

Neighborhood Landscaping Projects Various park and esplanade beautification projects planned for last Fall were delayed due to the major storm drainage project in our neighborhood. Now that the construction is moving safely away from Ley Plaza Park (White Oak at Thelma) and the Clock Tower Esplanade (White Oak at Houston Avenue) the planned work can begin. A butterfly garden with a seating area will be constructed in Ley Plaza and native species of heat tolerant shrubs and flowers will be planted around the Clock Tower.

Woodland Park A new neighborhood group, Friends of Woodland Park, has been established to organize and prioritize the ideas for the park improvements that were submitted last year. We are contacting architectural firms seeking a partner in the initial design work for the remodeling of the community building. Are you an architect and interested in being involved? Do you have ideas for improvements to the park? Would you like to be involved with the renaissance of this historic park? Unlike other projects, this one does not involve heavy labor, just vision and a willingness to work as part of a team to create something greater than the sum of its parts. Contact us at **president@woodland-heights.org**.



Travis Elementary Auction

The 2008 Travis Elementary Centennial Celebration and Auction is **Saturday, April 5, 2008**. Travis Elementary is celebrating its Centennial! Won't you consider supporting your neighborhood school at this year's celebration and auction? Every year, the Travis PTA raises over \$60,000 to help make Travis the vibrant hive of fun, learning and community that it is. This year's event will be on April 5, 2008, at 6:00 pm at Sokol Hall, 1314 W. Patton. Individual tickets are \$20 and sponsorships/tables start at \$300. Go to **www.traviselementary.org/auction2008/auction.htm** for further information, to sponsor/purchase tickets.

2008/2009 Membership Drive Kick-Off

—By Vicky Bettis, VP Membership

The annual Woodland Heights Civic Association membership drive begins March 1, 2008 for membership term April 1, 2008 thru March 31, 2009. Last year a record 614 households contributed more than \$26,000; a 17% increase in revenue and a 12% increase in households over the 2006-07 year! Our membership roster grows each year with no end in sight!

Look for a membership flyer in your mailbox soon. Can't wait? Go to our website www.woodland-heights.org and read the membership article. It contains links to the membership form or you can now join online using our new Pay Pal link. Look for information on how to become a “Super Neighbor” and be recognized in our monthly newsletter.

Thanks for your contributions!

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

2008-2009 WHCA Board Elections

Please plan to attend and vote for your new board members. Meetings are held at Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month.





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**.

Safety Reminder

A neighbor was recently mugged during a walk on the 700 block of Highland Street by two young men. While we live in a lovely neighborhood with a small-town feel, it is important be aware of your surroundings when out walking, running and biking and alert to activity around your own house. Our quick-thinking neighbor was relieved of a small amount of cash, but fortunately did not lose her ID or keys thanks to her level-head and caution in dealing with her muggers.

Help keep our neighborhood a safe place to enjoy outdoor activities by getting to know your neighbors and paying attention to what is happening on your block.

Calling Our Norhill Esplanade Neighbors

—By Pat Rutledge

Would you be willing to provide some volunteer maintenance minutes during the year to help keep this neighborhood jewel clean and tidy beyond the regular grass-mowing? We have found that in other parts of the neighborhood, specifically the Watson Esplanade and Ley Plaza, families living close to the area are willing, if asked, to take responsibility for minor trash pick up and weeding one month each out of the year. Are there any neighbors in the general vicinity of the Norhill Esplanade who would be willing to volunteer for grounds-keeping duty on a monthly basis? Is there anyone willing to prepare and circulate a schedule? If you are interested in learning how this is organized in other parts of the WHCA, Louise Moss, Pat German and/or Pat Rutledge would be happy to act as a coach.

Buy a Brick for a Tribute

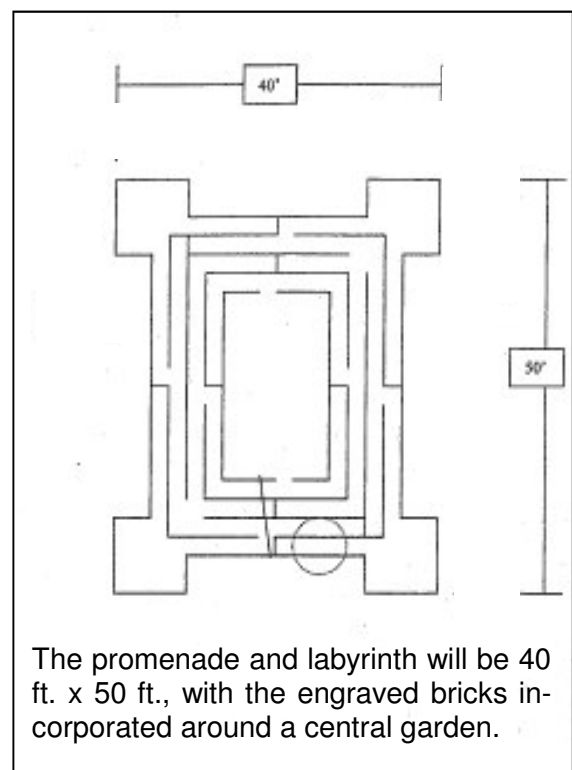
(last chance at the introductory price)

—By Pat Rutledge

What better way to support the neighborhood and honor a loved one than with a lasting tribute. Engraved bricks that will be incorporated into our newly designed promenade and labyrinth (to be located at the south end of the Norhill Esplanade) can be purchased by home owners and friends of the Woodland Heights and engraved with your or your loved ones name(s), a message, and/or a key date. (Maximum 15 characters [letters, numerals, & spaces] per line and four lines per brick for a total of 60 characters.)

Price: \$100 for one, \$190 for two, and \$275 for three brick. Please note that after construction begins the prices will be increased. Use the order form below or e-mail us at president@woodland-heights.org.

Rules and requirements: Payment is required at the time of application with checks made payable to the Woodland Heights Civic Association. Mail order forms and checks to P.O. Box 7754, Houston, TX 77270-7754. Final approval of the appropriateness of proposed inscriptions rests with the WHCA Board and the Promenade Committee Members. If a compromise cannot be reached on questionable inscriptions, the payment will be refunded less a \$25 handling charge. Orders can also be placed by e-mail to president@woodland-heights.org.



The promenade and labyrinth will be 40 ft. x 50 ft., with the engraved bricks incorporated around a central garden.

BUY-A-BRICK ORDER FORM
(prices will increase once construction begins)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact me at: (phone) _____ (E-mail) _____

I want 1. ____ (\$100) 2. ____ (\$190) 3. ____ (\$275) Bricks (If more please note ____)

Requested Inscription (please print) BRICK #1

Line 1. _____
Line 2. _____
Line 3. _____
Line 4. _____

BRICK #2

Line 1. _____
Line 2. _____
Line 3. _____
Line 4. _____

BRICK #3

Line 1. _____
Line 2. _____
Line 3. _____
Line 4. _____

Beautiful Bayou

—By Chuck Britton, WHCA VP Security

The city has begun a program to clean-up the parks along White Oak Bayou. The plan is to remove brush to make more of the park accessible to residents and to increase visibility in the park. The City Parks Department will help select foliage to be removed and identify trees that will remain. The Neighborhood Protection Corps will perform much of the labor while TXDOT will deal with areas around bridges, roads, and viaducts.

The increased visibility will also aid in the removal of the homeless who routinely establish camps in the brush near the bayous and parks. This is being done in an effort to reduce neighborhood crime, as many of the homeless campers have been linked to this area's rising property crime rate. Homeless persons will be provided assistance relocating to more suitable locations, such as local shelters. Impact Houston (located south of I-10 between Houston Avenue and Sawyer), a group associated with the Church of Christ, will assist in the relocation. In addition, HPD will increase both patrol cars and bike patrols in the Woodland Heights to counteract the homeless moving into adjacent areas. HPD recently identified an area north of Quitman which had been a large homeless encampment at one time. Two weeks ago, an initial HPD survey of this area led to the discovery of a deceased homeless person. The area east of Houston Avenue and south of Quitman has already been cleared.

Green Art @ Freed Park

—By Elaine Bradford

Jeff Shell's Heights Beautification Project and Buffalo Bayou Art Park are pleased to present a year-long art installation by local artist Kathy Kelley at Freed Art and Nature Park, located at the corner of Houston Ave and White Oak Boulevard. The Green Art project is a celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Green Valentine Tree Planting held on February 9, 2008.

Kathy Kelley's piece was chosen from several proposals submitted for the Green Valentine project. Kelly was commissioned to create a piece of site-specific art that embodied the ideas of sustainability and recycling. Her sculpture is titled "Suckling is Continuous". Kelley created three large spheres shrouded in found tire elements. She explains that the sphere was chosen for its reference to the ongoing nature of our consumptive behavior and the tire scraps are drawn from elements used in transporting us to and from the objects of our desires.

Newsletter Block Captains Needed

Your newsletter needs you. If you are interested in delivering the newsletter, please contact your newsletter editor at newsletter@whca.org.

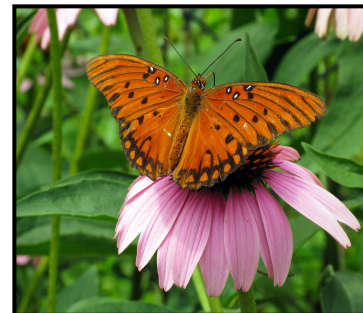
Habitat Highways™: #1 The Basics Creating a Neighbor-Friendly Wildlife Habitat Landscape

—By Chris LaChance,
WaterSmart Program Coordinator

Any yard can become a landscape for wildlife. The area can be small or large, formal or informal, and anything in between. With approximately forty million acres of land in American yards (Tallamy 2007) and close to two hundred thousand acres being developed each year, our yards can help to replenish some of what has been lost. An easy first step is to eliminate the use of chemical pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides. Indiscriminate use of these substances harms beneficial insects as well as pests—so say good-bye to bees, butterflies, and ladybugs. Remember, insects are a major food source for birds, lizards and frogs, as well as being important pollinators for flowers, fruits and vegetables.

In general, a variety of vegetation is the key to attracting a diversity of wildlife. Consider planting more trees, shrubs and perennials—choosing native plants is best. Next, plan to provide the habitat basics of food, water, shelter and places to raise young. Food can come in the form of berries, seeds, nectar and nuts. Feeders can bring birds in for closer viewing. A shallow birdbath, small pond with gently sloping sides or even a puddle provides water. Wildlife can find shelter in understory trees and shrubs, native grasses, fallen logs or small brush piles. A dead tree (snag) can be especially valuable for shelter or a place to raise young provided it doesn't pose a hazard to the neighborhood. A bird house of the proper dimensions can substitute for the snag. Finally, control cats that may be prowling around your new wildlife habitat. Roaming cats kill hundreds of millions of birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibian each year in the United States, according to the American Bird Conservancy.

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. Contact www.watersmart.cc or 281-218-0721 for more information.



Next month: # 2 Designing Your Wildlife Habitat

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

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WHCA Board Members

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Pat Hallmark, Secretary

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R.C. Hayden, Treasurer

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Tony Maluski, VP, Deed Restrictions

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Vicky Bettis, VP, Membership

Tel: 713-397-9336

Beth Martin, VP, Newsletter

Email: newsletter@woodland-heights.org
Tel: 713-862-8769

Chuck Britton, VP, Security

Email: security@woodland-heights.org

***** New Board Member Elections are March 11th at 7:30 pm, Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp. Please vote!**

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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CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 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
2008-09 BOARD ELECTIONS!
7:30 pm; 3606 Beauchamp |
| March 17 | Recycling |
| March 17 | HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! |
| March 26 | PIP Meeting; 7:00 pm
1602 State St.; Police Union Bldg. |
| March 31 | Recycling |
| April 5 | Travis Elementary Auction
6:00 pm; 1314 W. Patton |
| April 7 | Heavy Trash, East of Watson |
| April 14 | Recycling |
| April 14 | Heavy Trash, West of Watson |
| April 28 | Recycling |
| May 16 | ACS—Relay for Life |



WHCA Membership Form

Membership Year April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

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

I want to make an additional contribution to the Civic Association of \$ _____

March 2008