

April 2009

“Can You Hear Me Now?”

-Sharon Greiff-



One of the ties that bind a community is how well everyone can communicate with each other. Woodland Heights Civic Association has perhaps the most diverse methods of communication in the city; Email, Web based Bulletin Board, Web Site, Newsletter and Phone! You don't have to live in the 'hood or be a member of the Civic Association to use any of these, but dues and donations are always happily accepted.

- o **By Email** – If you'd like to be part of the Woodland Heights “Info Line” (this is our email distribution list) – you can go to our website at www.woodland-heights.org, choose “WH Talk” and then choose “WH Info”. The form is easy to fill out and requests are taken care of in one week. We use this for time sensitive information - meeting announcements, suspicious activity in the neighborhood, lost pets etc. In addition, the WH Board of Directors email addresses are listed on the website under “Contacts”.
- o **By Bulletin Board** – The Woodland Heights BB is easy to join – just go to www.woodland-heights.org/phpbb3 and register. We use this for yard sale announcements, help wanted, how to, entertainment and general conversations. We've had some pretty interesting “threads” in the past – some of which have become neighborhood legends – don't miss any of the fun – sign up soon.
- o **By Newsletter** – The WHCA newsletter is faithfully delivered by a legion of volunteers at the first of every month to over 2000 homes. What people don't know is that if you have something that is newsworthy to the neighborhood we'd love to have you submit that article! Just send your article to newsletter@woodland-heights.org In addition, we now take advertisements!
- o **By Website** – www.woodland-heights.org has been revamped and has a wealth of information on the neighborhood, deed restrictions, land use, special events and much more. It has links to all our other methods of communication and we are always open to additional material or suggestions for improvements.
- o **By Phone** – Last but not least we have an answering service that is checked on a weekly basis, 713-683-5188 .

If you want to keep up with what's happening in Woodland Heights you now know where to go!

2009/2010 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICKOFF

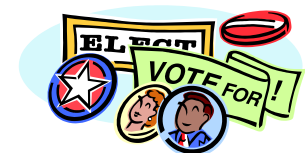
-Vicky Bettis, VP Membership-

The annual Woodland Heights Civic Association membership drive has begun for membership term April 1, 2009 thru March 31, 2010. Look for your annual membership statement in your mail during the next few weeks or use the form on the back of this newsletter.

You can also use our web site Pay Pal link. Just go to www.woodland-heights.org click on “Membership” and look for the Paypal link.

Thanks for your contributions!

District H City Council Candidate Forum



The WHCA will be hosting a District H City Council candidate forum at our regularly scheduled April general meeting: 7:30 PM April 14, 2009 at Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp. Neighbors will be able to meet candidates first hand and hear their answers to questions and concerns that are important to our neighborhood.

Architectural style in the Greater Woodland Heights / Procter Plaza:

an overview
-Richard Hall-



American residential architecture has most of its roots in European styles brought over by the early colonists and later waves of immigrants. Many of

those European features remain, but three centuries of amalgamation have produced a progression of styles that can be clearly classified as "American". Although these styles have been well documented, the impact of regional interpretation (vernacularism) and a constant mixing of styles make accurate and definitive classification of the styles difficult on a local basis.

So what is the architectural character of the Greater Woodland Heights and Procter Plaza? The Wm. Wilson Company, a notable builder of the time, officially opened the beautiful Woodland Heights subdivision in 1907. A number of the homes were "Catalog homes", homes designed and sold through catalogs, and the materials packaged and shipped to the site for the builder to assemble. Nailing the exact style of a given house is often compounded by the fact that local builders gave their own interpretation to the homes that they built. As do builders of today, the early builders often did not fully understand architectural styles and would mix and match features in an attempt to satisfy buyer ideals, so that you might see a 2-story home with Bungalow features, a Four-Square with Edwardian trim, or an oversized "McMansion" that completely fills the small urban lot. Add to that is that many older homes have been "remuddled" (a term coined by the *Old House Journal* to describe bad design) over the years masking or changing the original character.

In the late 19th Century three major events played a key role in the eventual architectural character of the



20th Century. First was the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, in Philadelphia, which renewed Amer-

ica's interest in patriotism and colonial nostalgia. Then in 1893, the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, spurred interest in anything classical and white. At the same time, in Great Britain, the Arts and Crafts Movement was emerging and it cried for a return to nature, simplicity, and the rustic. These events mark the break in styles from the heavily adorned Victorian to the looser, more functional and cleaner styles like those found in the Woodland Heights and Procter Plaza. While there are a few lingering Victorian homes in Houston, most of the homes in the Woodland Heights and Procter Plaza are variations on the Bungalow style, with a spattering of American Four-squares, Colonial Revivals, Greek Revival, English Cottages, Stick and purely Texas Gulf Coast Vernacular.



Many of the older neighborhoods in Houston have changed dramatically since they were developed. For example, the West

End (roughly the area along and south of Washington Avenue from Memorial Park to Waugh Drive) – now mostly post-modern – really interesting, but not the original neighborhood of Bungalows and Victorian cottages; and West University – with the change from small Bungalows and English cottages (largely post WWII structures) to large Georgian McMansions. Procter Plaza is fortunate in that it has been declared a historical neighborhood, so there are measures in place to preserve the architectural character and structures in that subdivision. Without such historical designation, each and every one of these wonderful homes in the Greater Woodland Heights are subject to destruction and replacement, and, sadly, I consider that a shame. I hope that each of you learn about the architectural treasures that we have here and take the effort to help preserve this wonderful old and historic small town right in the middle of progressive Houston. It is the period character that makes this area so attractive to visitors and potential residents.

Let's see if you can interpret the architectural style of your home from this series of articles!

**WHCA General Meeting
Tuesday, April 14**

7:30—Zion Lutheran Church—3606 Beauchamp

GOOD NEWS IN THE GARDEN

- Kay Harnden-



In today's economy, it's encouraging to hear some success stories. One industry that is flourishing now is gardening. A local organic soils supplier reported huge increases in demand over last year. Gardening classes at Urban Harvest are packed with people wanting to learn

how to grow their own vegetables and fruit. A little over a year ago, classes were cancelled due to lack of interest. Sales are up significantly at my favorite feed store/gardening center. Why? People want more control over the food they eat and how it is grown. Some want to grow their own perhaps because it's more economical. Whatever the reasons, lots of people are carving out spots in their gardens for vegetables, herbs, berries & fruit trees. I've worked cabbage, broccoli, chard and herbs into my front flower bed. The results have been stunning. It's fun to look out and see a cabbage head forming next to my Dwarf Bottlebrush. The Swiss Chard has beautiful ornamental qualities, and is worth growing even if you don't plan to eat it. Dill does double duty attracting beneficial insects to the garden so I don't have to use pesticides. I've also planted flowers and herbs that attract bees to pollinate my vegetables.

A lot of people that I talk with want to start a garden, but don't know how. So, I thought I would start a series of articles to help them out. One of the most critical factors in gardening is soil quality. This is true not only for vegetable gardening, but for turf, trees, and shrubs. Healthy plants are happy plants and are rarely troubled by pests. The key to healthy plants is healthy soil. Your soil needs organic matter and micronutrients. If these are out of balance or lacking, problems occur. For example, Dandelions in your lawn indicate a lack of calcium. Clover signals the lack of nitrogen. Good quality organic fertilizers and compost can correct these situations. Make sure that the product you use is organic. Synthetic fertilizers can harm the living organisms in the soil that are essential. They also artificially pump-up plants, akin to being hooked up on life support. Use of organics is a more holistic approach – kind of like the "mind, body, spirit" of the plant world.

How do you know if your soil is healthy? One great "test" is to look for earthworms. You should have 6 to 10 fat earthworms in ½ cubic foot of soil area. Earthworms will be there if the soil contains the microorganisms that they feed on. While earthworms are feeding, they are also aerating the soil. In addition, the castings that they excrete further add nutrients to the soil which enable plant roots to absorb them. They are very beneficial little creatures.

Healthy soil also is well-aerated so oxygen, carbon dioxide and water can move through it. Aerate, apply organic fertilizer, then top off with organic compost and you will be well on your way to healthy soil.

GARDEN CLUB - I've mentioned before the formation of a garden club. Many of you have expressed interest, but unfortunately, due to a computer meltdown, I have lost your contact information. PLEASE send me another email so I can get back in touch with you.

Something fun to look for in the near future – Wabash Antiques & Feed will be having a Farmer's Market every 1st & 3rd Sunday from 11-3. They will have all locally, naturally grown produce, farm fresh eggs, local honey and more.

Questions or Comments? Let me know:

Klock56@sbcglobal.net



Dinner Club – The Big Mamou!!!

- Sharon Greiff-

Os sure, we've been left dangling for months, our taste buds have been yearning for etouffe, crying for a spicy jambalaya, beggin' for some boudain. Rumor has it, The

Big Mamou will be opening in March and that means they will be ready for the Woodland Heights Dinner Club on April 2nd!!! So if you are ready for some great Cajun that Thursday at 7:00pm give me a call and I'll make sure you and yours have a seat at the table when we experience the Heights first Cajun eatery! Call Sharon at 713-868-1579 or email at sharon@glassattraction.net

CALENDAR

April 6	Junk Waste, E. of Watson
April 13	Junk Waste, W. of Watson
April 13	Recycling
April 14	<i>WH General Meeting</i>
April 27	Recycling
May 11	Tree Waste, E. Watson
May 11	Tree Waste, W. of Watson
May 11	Recycling

Yard of the Month

Living with Leafy Champions

- Ann Liggio-

February

-Janet Tallichet-

The Woodland Heights Yard of the Month award for February goes to Amanda Walker & Chris Klawinski at 1102 Highland. Wanting more balance, better function and easier maintenance they recently reworked their garden. They expanded the beds with easy care plants to reduce the grass area. Less grass has reduced their maintenance and is better for the ecology. They were experiencing a fence conflict between dogs and school kids so they created a "no cross" zone along the inner fence with beautiful, easy-care Knock Out roses. These roses have bloomed beautifully through summer and winter and their thorns are maintaining peace at the border. Amanda and Chris, thanks for making Woodland Heights even more beautiful! They will be receiving a \$25 gift card from Buchanan's.

April

-Pat German-

The Woodland Heights celebrates habitat gardening. For anyone who may still doubt that earth friendly habitat gardens can be beautiful, please take time to walk by (driving by cannot do it justice) 802 Woodland, our Woodland Heights Yard of the Month for April. Janet and Harry Tallichet have created a haven for all of us. Not only will you feel better in the presence of this native garden, but others will thrive on it too, including butterflies, birds, and many beneficial insects. What is even better is that these beautiful plants, once established, will require much less water and general maintenance. They have evolved so as to survive in our Houston climate without heroic efforts from busy gardeners. Special thanks to Harry and Janet for showcasing the beauty of habitat gardening in our neighborhood



Celebrate Earth Day this month.....plant a native garden. To learn more about habitat gardening plants, go to NPSOT.org.

No one visiting or living in the Woodland Heights can fail to notice the abundance of mature trees with glorious, shade-providing canopies. Although we lost some of these excellent trees during Hurricane Ike in September 2008, the majority remain standing tall and proud as ever.



The most notable of them are recorded in the Harris County Tree Registry, which is available on the web and in print. Working with the U.S. Forest Service, The Park People of Houston created and now maintains the registry by recording notable trees all over Harris County. Their formula for determining a champion tree of a given species is determined by a tree index that is calculated as follows:

- Circumference: Measure in inches around the trunk 4½ feet off the ground
- Height: Measure in feet the distance between the top of the tree and the ground. (This can be done using a special forestry instrument, a hand made device, or laser or digital photography technology. For more information, Google "tree height measuring device.")
- Canopy: Measure in feet the distance from one edge of the canopy to the other.

Next, use the measurements above to determine the Tree Index (numbers shown here are examples):

Circumference: 50 in.
 Height: 50 ft.
 25% of the 100 ft. spread: 25 ft.
 TREE INDEX 125

Trees are nominated by citizens, measured systematically, and then added to the registry if they qualify as champions. The registry includes the species names, measurements, tree index, and address where each tree grows.

Not surprisingly, scores of champion trees grow in the Woodland Heights and Proctor Plaza. A few are in parks, but most are on private property, so if you decide to take a look at some of the noteworthy trees in our neighborhood, please be aware of that.

For a downloadable PDF file of the Harris County Tree Registry, see: http://www.parkpeople.org/parkpeople/Harris_County_Tree_Registry1.asp?SnID=1990590201

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: 713-683-5188
Website: woodland-heights.org

WHCA Board Members

Adrian Reed, President

Email: president@woodland-heights.org
Tel: (713) 863-8592

Louise Moss, Secretary

Email: recorder@woodland-heights.org
Tel: (713) 880-0060

Lisa Slaney, Treasurer

Email: treasurer@woodland-heights.org
Tel: (713) 384-6115

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_restrictions2@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 Sponsors

-An Armstrong, VP—Newsletter-

Monthly sponsorship 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 sponsors, 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

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