

2009 National Night Out

-Glen Sementelli-

August 2009

The time has come to start planning for our neighborhoods National Night Out parties. This years date is October 6, 2009, this date is in Texas only. For those unaware National Night Out is designed to:



1. Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
2. Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
3. Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
4. Send a message to criminals letting them know that the neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and to speak with representatives from the Houston Police Department. If anyone is interested in hosting a gathering for their neighbors please contact Glen Sementelli by email at gsementelli@yahoo.com or by phone at 713-864-1069.



Woodland Heights Civic Association Board Vacancies

Interested in volunteering your time to a worthy cause and becoming involved with our amazing neighborhood? The Woodland Heights Civic Association currently has vacancies in the offices of Vice President, Treasury and Vice President, Beautification. If you are interested and have experience in either area or a desire to gain experience in either area, please contact Terri Guerra at president@woodland-heights.org or (713) 598-3403.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training is coming to the Heights on September 29, 2009. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00, for 8 successive weeks, ending November 17, in the West End Multi Service Center, 170 Heights Boulevard. CERT is free and open to the community – Sign up Today!



Although disasters are relatively unexpected and unpredictable, their effects are not. We have seen, all too often, how quickly disasters (e.g., Hurricane IKE) can impact our “normal” lives. Roads become impassable, critical services are impacted or cut off, professional emergency response agencies quickly become overwhelmed, and people are left on their own for an extended period of time. Awareness and preparedness is the answer to how to keep yourself, your family, and your neighbors safe in emergencies of all kinds. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training will help you become more aware and better prepared to face the inevitable storm.

CERT offers free 24-hour training (taught in 3-hour modules – 8 sessions) taught by professional first responders, i.e., Fire, EMS, and Emergency Management Personnel as well as the FBI. Weekly topics include general disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, basic medical operations, light search and rescue, disaster psychology, and terrorism awareness. CERT Team members learn how to organize as a team to do the most good for the greatest number of people. The training concludes with a mock search and rescue drill where CERT team members can practice skills introduced throughout the training.

Don't wait until the NEXT STORM is approaching to think about your safety and that of your family. Sign up for CERT training today! To sign up for training, call Peggy Lindow (Heights CERT Team Coordinator) at 832-752-5285 or e-mail peaty-marsh@hotmail.com.

Vernacular Victorian – Part 1

-Richard Hall-

The Woodland Heights sports about two dozen or so Vernacular Victorian houses. Actually, they are a post Victorian style that the *Old House Journal* refers to as the “Princess Anne” style – a Victorian “Queen Anne” structure without much of the Victorian embellishments (i.e., gingerbread appurtenances) that had fallen into disfavor with the buying public as a response to the “Modern Styles” being pushed by architects and builders at the turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries. These structures began to sport more conservative trim (i.e., classical columns, porticos, etc. that were characteristic of the Colonial Revival and Classical Revival styles. Consequently, this architectural style was caught in the tug-of-war between the Victorian Era, and the developing Arts and Crafts Movement that was sweeping the country. Typically, the hybrid Victorian homes in the Woodland Heights exhibit the floor plan and elevation of the true Victorian cottages, but without the gingerbread. They were a hybrid between Victorian and the Colonial Revival homes and were classified as Free Colonial Style homes by *The Old-House Journal*. The double-hung windows generally changed from two-over-two to larger one-over-one glazing. True Victorian structures can be found in the 6th Ward and in the Houston Heights. These structures were built before 1900, which appears to coincide with the changes in styles influenced by the 1893 World’s Great Columbian Exhibition in Chicago. There are other subtle changes as well:

Things like interior door and window trim changed from using corner pieces to a capitolled trim board at the top, or pedimented classical columns on the galleries (porches). and

Vernacular Victorian
(423 Bayland circa 1986)



wood plank floors using beautiful heart wood southern long-leaf pine, often with no sub-floor. Walls were wood planks covered with cheesecloth and richly colored wallpaper. Crown moulding was very common, particularly in the larger homes. Elaborate newels for the stairs were another common feature.

Typically, these structures maintained the Victorian asymmetrical floor plan that grew out of the function of the inner function and room arrangement to give shape to the outer shell. No longer was there a simple rectangular box for a structure that earlier styles exhibited. The exterior shape utilized gables, bays, steep pitched (12/12) hip roof, and wrap around porches that were characteristic of the Victorian “Queen Anne” style. Doors, windows, and transoms were important features in the Victorian home, with a lot of glass – beveled, stained, and etched – particularly entrance doors. Shutters were not a standard feature of the Victorian home, except in coastal areas where tropical storms were a threat. Gone, though, were the multiple bands of shingle siding and replacing that was beveled clapboard siding with just a few shingles to highlight gables, spindless columns on the porches, and multi-colored exteriors. They do lend themselves to more elaborate color schemes, using natural, earthy, autumnal colors like maroon, red, orange and green, all subdued with browns, umbers and ochres. Often there were as many as five different and contrasting colors in the body and trim of the house. Construction was generally wood balloon-framing on brick piers. Frequently they were raised on piers four to eight feet above ground level. The other style influencing the Princess Anne home was the Colonial Revival. True Colonial Revival homes were symmetrical in floor plan and elevation, used pedimented dormers, classical columns or pilasters, and a color scheme that was typical of Southern coastal homes – white on white. Colonial Revival homes frequently used entrance sidelights and a fanlight, and you see some of these features in a few homes in the neighborhood, but there are no true Colonial Revival homes in the area.

Heights Student Wins Internship at ACLU of Texas



AUSTIN – Heights native Ryan Dubose, a graduate of Carnegie Vanguard High School in South Houston, is spending this summer working as an intern for the Texas affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Dubose, who will begin his senior year at Reed College in Portland, Oregon in the fall, is working for the public education branch of the ACLU, focusing on religious liberty.

Dubose is the son of Kevin Dubose and Glenda Owen. “Having a long-time interest in civil rights issues, I decided to work for the ACLU so that I could get directly involved in the effort for ensuring Americans’ civil liberties, specifically religious liberty,” said Dubose.

After he graduates from Reed in 2010, Dubose plans to get a graduate degree in either law or psychology and then pursue a career in the non-profit sector.

The ACLU is a national nonprofit organization that works to protect civil liberties through litigation, policy, and public education.

Take a Trip Back in Time: A Park of Many Names

-Ann Liggio-

Today we know it as Woodland Park, a City of Houston park bounded by I-45, Houston Avenue, Parkview Street, and White Oak Drive. But it was first named Highland Park, and then San Jacinto Park. When the City of Houston purchased the fully developed private park in 1911, the residents of Woodland Heights petitioned to have it renamed Woodland Park, which it has been called ever since. It is the second oldest city park in Houston, after Sam Houston Park downtown.

When the park opened in 1903 under the ownership of Houston Electric Company, its central feature was a lake made by the damming of Little White Oak Bayou, which was also called Hollywood Bayou. In the center of the lake was an island with a bandstand where the 20-member Highland Park Band played for partygoers on the popular dance pavilion.



In 1904, a “Shoot the Chute” slide was added, as was a Natural History and Fish Museum.

The Boat House was one of many attractions at the park, which also had a café surrounded by wide galleries, a gun range, a streetcar stop, an artesian well, and a roller coaster (then called a “scenic railway” or a “Figure 8”).



When the park was called San Jacinto Park (and perhaps before) it had a large swing that appears to be made of passenger pods spinning in the air around a huge central derrick.

Reminders of the Old Park Today

Highland Park Care Center on Morrison Avenue

Highland Street in the Woodland Heights

Hollywood Cemetery, 3506 Main (I-45 between the park and the cemetery was originally part of the park.)

For More Information

For a much more detailed history of the park and its importance to the community at the beginning of the 20th century, see:

<http://houstorian.wordpress.com/2009/02/08/highland-park/>

Editor's Note: The postcards used to illustrate this article are from the collection of Ann Liggio.

WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THAT RAINWATER

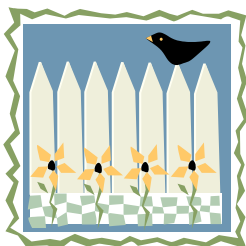
-Kay Harnden-

If you enjoy gardening, I would encourage you to join the Heights Area Gardening Club. It's easy. There are no membership fees, no formality (i.e., officers, rules, requirements) – just a lot of sharing and learning about different topics of interest. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month at noon. We have been meeting at different locations including members' gardens, and in July at The Backyard Gardener. The August meeting will be on the 15th – location to be announced (check the WH website, or send me an email to be added to our email list – klock56@sbcglobal.net).

I would like to thank April & Jim of The Backyard Gardener for hosting our meeting, and their staff for offering their expertise and help. Paula led us through a talk on bog gardening, which inspired me to write this article. Cheryl helped us tour the nursery, offering descriptions of various plants and their care.

A bog garden can be as simple as a small container, which is what Paula guided us through, or it can encompass a portion of your yard. When people discovered low spots in their yard, it used to be that they would haul in a bunch of topsoil or sand to level it off, then slap down more St. Augustine. A better solution would be to go with the flow of the land - literally. As long as it doesn't grade towards your foundation, take advantage of this area to create a bog or rain garden. (We will have rain again one day, I promise! If not, next month's article will be on Xeriscaping.) Besides adding an attractive feature to your garden, there is a very environmentally beneficial side effect that will result. This is especially true in urban areas, where development has covered much of the land with concrete and buildings. These impervious structures can create nine times more run-off than a wooded area of the same size. Along with the water, goes all of the pollutants that it comes into contact with – motor oil, pesticides, fertilizers – straight into our fresh water supply and Galveston Bay. I don't have to tell you what this does to our wildlife and natural vegetation.

Bog gardens slow down the pace and amount of run-off by providing an area where the water can percolate into the soil. In addition, certain plants actually filter contaminants, preventing them from entering our water supply. Some of the best plants to use are natives. Bear in mind that the plants used need to be able to handle standing water, but there will also be times when the area becomes dry. Natives are adapted to our climate and can handle a wide range of conditions. Some that would thrive in a rain garden are Louisiana Iris, Sweet Flag, Crinum, Native Hibiscus, Giant Coneflower, Gulf Muhly Grass, Sedges, Ferns, and even wildflowers.

**Yard of the Month**

-Janet Tallichet-

Sponsored by Buchanan's Native Plants

The August WHCA Yard of the Month honor goes to Debra Andrews

at 944 Redan. She has built a landscape that displays an eye-pleasing balance of shapes and color using stone, raised pots and plant material. The walkways invite you into the garden to enjoy all of the plants from evergreen, anchoring plants to the colorful, butterfly attractors.

Thank you Debra for taking the time to make our neighborhood more beautiful and enjoyable. You will be receiving a \$25 gift card from Buchanans.

**WHCA General Meeting
Tuesday, September 8**

7:30—Zion Lutheran Church—3606 Beauchamp

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starcopier@swbell.net

WHCA MEMBERSHIP

By Vicky Bettis, Vice President, Membership

The new membership term began April 1st. As of July 19, 399 households submitted dues and contributions totaling \$18,358!

Dues 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. For more details about our operating costs, go to our website www.woodland-heights.org and click on "Membership".

Our goal is to break last year's record of \$25,468 contributed by 557 residents. To reach that goal, it is imperative that you forward your dues as soon as possible. You can use the form provided in this newsletter or go to our aforementioned web site and click on our Pay Pal link under "Membership".

Regarding the generous residents who have joined to date, below are our Super Neighbors who made contributions above and beyond their regular dues for June. Thanks to each and every one of you!

SUPER NEIGHBORS:

Brigette & Chris Larson
David & Karen Danburg
Glenn & Suzanne Hieshima
Julie Clark
Laura Turner
Matt & Allison Hartzell
Ruth Fletcher

Cindy Freeman
Douglas & Alice Laguarda
Jason & Shannon Westin
Kris & Melissa Koziol
Mary Feeley
Patrice Chauvin
Thomas & Constance Elliott

Daniel Hackett & Haiyan Fu
Fred Bartels
Josh & Priya McMorrow
Laura Oren & Bruce Palmer
Matt Hawkins
Paul Schenck & Nancy Lusty



*I think of you every day.
Love always, God*

OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

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CALENDAR

August 3	Junk Waste, E. of Watson
August 10	Junk Waste, W. of Watson
August 10	Recycling
August 24	Recycling
September 7	Tree Waste, E. of Watson
September 7	Recycling
September 8	<i>Civic Assoc. General Meeting</i>

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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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Tel: 713-200-3610

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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)

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

August 2009