



September 2009



2009 National Night Out

-Glen Sementelli-

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.

HOME TOUR AND LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS®

-Terri Guerra-

In the July newsletter, we requested your constructive comments about potential changes to the Home Tour and Lights in the Heights® including possible discontinuation of one or both. As comments continue to come in, we are holding our announcement of the results until next newsletter. If you have not already done so, please direct your comments either in email format to president@woodland-heights.org or by mail addressed to WHCA, PO Box 7754, Houston TX 77270-7754

DISTRICT H COUNCILMEMBER EDWARD GONZALEZ TO OPEN HEIGHTS OFFICE

-Vicky Bettis-

Councilmember Ed Gonzalez will open a satellite office on the first level in the Houston Heights Fire Station on Yale. Gonzalez intends to open the office from 9 am to 11 am on the fourth Monday of every month, and again from 5 pm to 7 pm the same day prior to the general meetings of the Houston Heights Association. Gonzalez is encouraging residents to drop by to meet and share ideas and concerns. Depending on the reaction of the community, hours at the satellite office could be extended.

Woodland Park Update

-Beth Fischer & Becky Houston-

The Friends of Woodland Park group is seeking volunteers to help reveal a view of the Little White Oak Bayou Bend that has not been seen for many years. Come help us with a **Trash Bash and Plant Slash** day at the park. We will be led by our local jungle reclamation expert, Eric Ruckstuhl, who will guide us through the process of removing the vigorous non-natives which will allow us to enjoy the native plants, shrubs and trees around the bayou.

- When: Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m.
- Where: Woodland Park (Houston Ave. and Park view) near the tennis court
- Why: Beautiful views, snacks, water and Victory Picnic Lunch
- How: Please bring work gloves and loppers if you have them, if not we'll have extras

Questions? Contact Becky Houston (713-862-1520, bghouston@aol.com) or Beth Fischer (713-861-4502, fischspot@hotmail.com)



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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 peatymarsh@hotmail.com.



HPD Announces First Phase of Crime Monitoring Website

In an effort to increase public safety and crime prevention awareness in Houston, the Houston Police Department (HPD) has launched the first phase of a new interactive crime tool for citizens <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/crime/>. The goal of this new crime statistics website is to keep citizens informed of crime occurring in areas where they live and work and to help HPD in solving crimes. </o:p>

Users can track and map crime trends in neighborhoods throughout the city. Search for crime incidents, occurring as far back as 30 days or as recent as within the last 24 hours, by address, city council district, police beat, super neighborhood or zip code. Additionally, monthly Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Part 1 crimes by police beat and police district are available in tabular data form dating back to January 2006.

To view the new website, go to <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/crime/>. For additional information about the site, please contact HPD Public Affairs at public.affairs@cityofhouston.net or 713-308-3200.

**Woodland Heights Civic Assoc
Operating Budget**

<u>Apr '09 - Mar 10</u>	
Income	
4-1125 · Membership Dues	15,675.00
4-1150 · Donation with Membership	7,161.00
4-1330 · Interest Income	399.96
Total Income	<u>23,235.96</u>
Expense	
6-1100 · Administration	
6-1110 · Answering Service	150.00
6-1112 · Mailbox, Storage and Meeting	3,100.00
6-1117 · Treasurer Expenses	250.00
Total 6-1100 · Administration	<u>3,500.00</u>
6-2000 · Beautification	2,500.00
6-3100 · Deed Restrictions	750.00
6-3600 · Land Use	120.00
6-6100 · Membership Expenses	2,500.00
6-7100 · Newsletter	5,600.00
6-7800 · Web Page	1,150.00
6-8000 · Insurance	4,200.00
Total Expense	<u>20,320.00</u>
Net Income	<u>2,915.96</u>

**The Woodland Heights Dinner Club is
Back!!!!**

-Sharon Greiff-

Now that we've taken time off to enjoy the summer, the Woodland Heights Dinner Club is back and ready to risk life and digestive tract to try the latest and greatest that the neighborhood has to offer. Our next foray is to Raia's Italian Market 4500 Washington Ave (just a few blocks east of Shepherd). It's gotten a lot of good reviews and is easy on the budget. So if you can join us on Thursday, September 3rd at 6:30pm, please give me a call, 713-868-1579 or drop me an email, sharon@glassattraction.net



Lights in the Heights® 2009

-Sharon Greiff, Co-Chair-



We are so excited about this years event – we have some plans but they need to be approved so we can only tease you about the route; it's something we've NEVER done before. Lights in the Heights® will be held on December 12th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. We want to make this a great LITH and you can't start too early to get great entertainers and porches. Please contact Dana Loudon at 713-922-3640 or e-mail at LithEntertainment@msn.com if you have entertainment. Do you have a porch or yard – well we need you too! Please contact Michelle Gardner at 713-868-5840 or e-mail michelle.gardner@earthlink.net if you want a bit of the event at your place.

Calling all artists; we need you to create a really great t-shirt design however we are under a tight deadline. We need the pictures by September 30th! Contact me if you are interested!

CAPTAINS NEEDED:

- Cashier Captain—Recruit and schedule volunteers to serve as cashiers on day of event. Supervise volunteers on day of event, obtain cash box and information on advance sales.
- Goodwill Captain: Create and send special invitations to government officials/other VIP's, invitations should be mailed 2-3 weeks prior to event.
- Garage Sale Captain: Responsible for organizing October Garage Sale
- Parade Captain: Organize and recruit groups for opening parade
- Parking Captain: Responsible for contacting all parking lots within/close to neighborhoods and asking if people can park there and how much.

We haven't set up our meeting schedule yet. However if you would like to volunteer or if you just want to find out more about Lights in the Heights® call or email Sharon Greiff at 713-868-1579 or sharon@glassattraction.net or Terri Guerra at 713-598-3043 (terri@terriguerra.com) or visit our web page at www.woodland-heights.org.

Vernacular Victorian – Part 2
-Richard Hall-

Since this style was a direct descendent of the Victorian era these structures are the only ones in the Woodland Heights area that can take the gingerbread and other embellishments of the Victorian era. With the recent popularity in Victoriana, we are seeing homeowners and builders applying gingerbread to inappropriate architectural styles, which is something akin to putting catsup on a chocolate cake. With this in mind, there are about half a dozen “Princess Anne” cottages in the Woodland Heights area that have undergone a “redo”: to capture the “Queen Anne” exteriors from earlier decades. There are three well-done Victorian “redos” in the 700 block of Highland, one at the corner of Bayland and Julian, and one at 519 Bayland, which was thoroughly researched to capture the local flavor of the “Queen Anne” Cottages found in Houston’s old wards.

Landscaping in Victorian homes matched the excessive and elaborate design of the structure. There was a liberal use of a variety of irregular shaped beds, sporting a variety of trees, shrubs, and bedding plants. Day lilies, azaleas, Aspidistra, box-wood, roses were some of the favorite plantings. Gazebos were popular, as were intimate alcoves for sitting and garden sculptures cast from concrete. Lawns were small and irregular shaped. Interior plants include Aspidistra (cast-iron plant), Philodendron, Spathiphyllum and other low light plants often placed on pedestals.

For a good look at the unaltered “Princess Anne style you might visit the 400 block of Woodland, where there are several examples. Others are scattered around the original Woodland Heights Addition on streets like Omar, Highland, Bayland, Woodland, Euclid, Houston Avenue, and a most exquisite example at 3102 Morrison.



For those of you who would like to see some authentic “Queen Anne” Victorian homes, the two finest examples in all of Houston are nearby in the Houston Heights – the Milroy House at Heights Blvd. and 11th Street, and the Truxillo

House at Harvard and 18th Street. A trip up and down Heights Blvd. will reveal a number of other fine examples of late Victorian “Queen Anne” and “Princess Anne” two-story homes in contrast to the one-story cottages that predominate in the Woodland Heights area and the rest of Houston Heights. Interestingly, old photographs of the immediate area around Houston’s downtown district reveal blocks and blocks of great one and two-story Victorian homes – almost all are gone. What a shame! Take a leisurely trip though almost any older small town in Texas you will always see a number of these structures still standing – part of the heritage of an older generation.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
IN WOODLAND HEIGHTS**

- Treasurer - to complete the current term through March 31, 2010. Contact Terri Guerra, president@woodland-heights.org, for qualification information.
- VP of Beautification - term to run through March 31, 2010. Contact Terri Guerra, president@woodland-heights.org for details.
- Block party hosts for National Night Out on Tuesday, October 6. Contact Glen Sementelli, security@woodland-heights.org.
- Maintenance of benches at bus stops - contact Sharon Greiff at 713-868-1579 or sharon@glassattraction.net
- Website design - the Friends of Woodland Park are organized and ready to begin the restoration of Woodland Park. Contact Becky Houston at bghouston@aol.com or Beth Fischer at fischspot@hotmail.com.
- Trash Bash/Tree Slash - work day on September 26, 9 AM, at Woodland Park. Contact Becky Houston at bghouston@aol.com or Beth Fischer at fischspot@hotmail.com to volunteer.
- Marketing - ideas are being solicited for expanding the sales of the recently published porch book. Contact Megan Mastal at mmastal@insightspr.com.
- Newsletter Block Captain – 400-500 blocks of Merrill. Contact Emily Guyre at emily.guyre@sbcglobal.com.



CALENDAR

September 8	Tree Waste, E. of Watson
September 8	Civic Assoc. General Meeting
September 14	Tree Waste, W. of Watson
September 14	Recycling
September 28	Recycling
October 5	Junk Waste, E. of Watson
October 6	National Night Out
October 12	Junk Waste, W. of Watson
October 12	Recycling

WHCA MEMBERSHIP

By Vicky Bettis, Vice President, Membership

In July, a second solicitation was mailed to previous members who had not yet joined. To date, an additional 35 households joined giving us a new total of 445 households with dues and contributions totaling \$20,358!

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 August. Thanks to each and every one of you!

SUPER NEIGHBORS:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ANN & MARK GRANDICH | ANNE & KINDER BAUMGARDNER | ARNOLD & SANDRA CARDENAS |
| BILL & DIANE WARDELL | CAROLINA ALANIZ | DAN SMITH III & DOUGLAS DREHER |
| DANIEL RUEDA | DONNA GRAY | HAROLD D & SUSAN K HEARD |
| JB CIRINCIONE | JAMES & JUANITA FINCH | JARRET & VALERIE WEBB |
| KEVIN & CHERIE COLLINS | KEVIN DUBOSE & GLENDA OWEN | LARRY & BETTY RENNELL |
| LUIS SALAZAR | YVONNE MEYER | |
| PATRICIA SHEPHERD & RONNIE CROCKER | | |
| ROB PROCTOR & JILL WHITTEN | | |
| ROBERT & DAWN SHUMWAY | | |
| STEFAN SERCU | | |



WHCA General Meeting
Tuesday, September 8

7:30—Zion Lutheran Church—3606 Beauchamp

I think of you every day.
Love always, God

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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

P.O. Box 7754
Houston, TX 77270-7754
Tel: 713-200-3610
Website: woodland-heights.org

WHCA Board Members

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Email: president@woodland-heights.org
Tel: (713) 598-3403

Louise Moss, Secretary
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Tel: (713) 880-0060

Treasurer
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Sharon Greiff, Webmaster
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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 \$ _____

September 2009