

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

WHCA NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 2011

CALENDAR

**REMINDER! NO
GENERAL MEETINGS
UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

**SATURDAY, JULY 16
CONSTABLE PATROL
BEGINS!**

**THURSDAY, JULY 21
RECYCLING**

**SATURDAY, JULY 23
HOUSTON HEIGHTS
WOMAN'S CLUB
"GO TEXANS" SOCIAL**
For information, contact
docranford@yahoo.com

**MONDAY, AUGUST 1
JUNK WASTE
East of Watson**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4
RECYCLING**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 8
JUNK WASTE
West of Watson**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18
RECYCLING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22
HISD BACK-TO-SCHOOL**



**THURSDAY, SEPT. 1
RECYCLING**

**MONDAY, SEPT. 5
TREE WASTE
East of Watson**

**MONDAY, SEPT. 12
TREE WASTE
West of Watson**

County Finally Approves Constable Patrol!

We have good news on the Constable Patrol Program. After months of wrangling with Harris County, the Commissioners' Court approved the Woodland Heights Civic Association contract on July 12, 2011. The patrol services are scheduled to begin on July 26. We will post more information about the patrol times and start date on the website, the info-line and the message board.

Due to the County's demands, the cost of the contract increased by approximately 20%. Accordingly, the WHCA will need to secure additional funding for the contract, and will be reaching out to residents and subscribers soon on this issue. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this program a reality.

We are also still seeking support for **Citizen Patrol**, a HPD-sponsored neighbor-

hood watch program. We have had a handful of residents volunteer, but would encourage additional support.

The "CP" program requires initial training for volunteers, and a minimum of 30 hours of patrol per month by the entire neighborhood patrol group. If we have fifteen volunteers, that is only a few hours a month. HPD also provides CP neighborhoods with neighborhood watch signage and magnetic signs for patrolling vehicles. If you have any interest in participating in Citizen Patrol, please contact David Jordan at security@woodland-heights.org.

[Editor's note: **BIG THANKS** to both **David Jordan** and **Steve Irvin** who have worked tirelessly for months to cut through the County's red tape and accomplish the near-impossible.]

City Council Approves WH Historic District

Vicky Bettis, Preserve Woodland Heights

On June 29, 2011, Houston City Council voted to approve the Woodland Heights Historic District application. Many thanks to all supporters for your service and efforts on behalf of our neighborhood.

Voting for the Woodland Heights Historic District were: Mayor Parker, CM Stardig District A, CM Hoang District F, CM Adams District D, CM Gonzales District H, CM Rodriguez District I, CM Costello At Large Position 1, CM Noriega At Large Position 3, and CM Lovell At Large Position 2.

Opposed were: CM Pennington District G, CM Jones At Large Position 5, CM Bradford At Large Position 4, CM Clutterbuck District C, and CM Sullivan District E.

CM Johnson District B was absent for the vote.

A map of the approved boundaries for our new historic district is on page 2, and at www.preservewoodlandheights.org

City Council's approval of the Woodland Heights Historic District will preserve our historic houses, our quality of life, and our traditions for generations to come. We owe a debt of gratitude to our visionary civic leaders who have afforded us this protection.

We are communicating with the City regarding the installation of our historic street signs and the process for our design guidelines. Information will be communicated as it becomes available.

Interested in historic designation for your block? Contact us at our web site above.

**Lights in the Heights is
Just a Few Months Away!**
**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS!**

Got an opinion about the future of Lights in the Heights? Then join us and help make Houston's most-loved holiday event safe and organized.

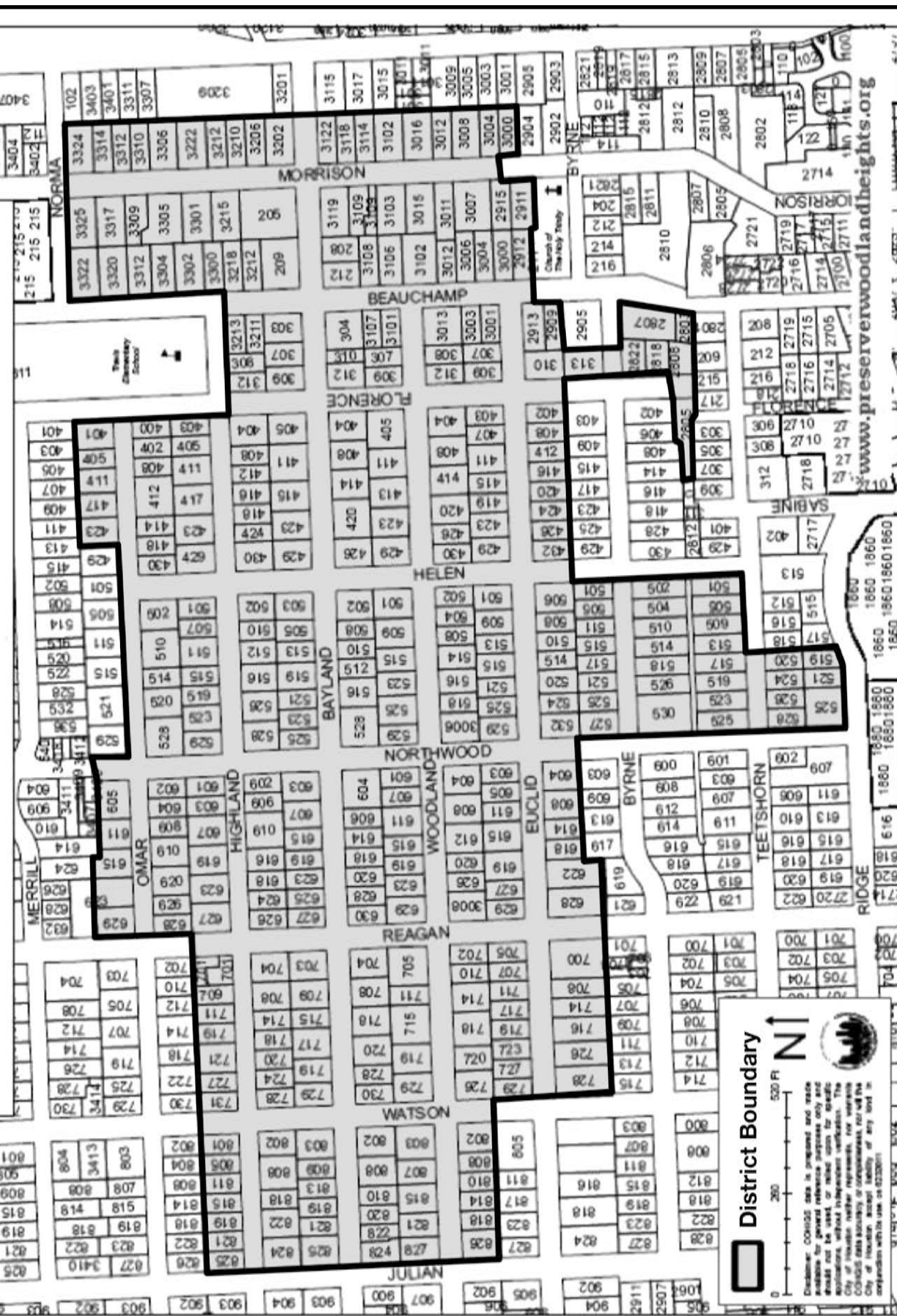
Contact
president@woodland-heights.org

Community Grants

WHCA is investigating the possibility of issuing grants for community service projects. If you have a great idea to improve the neighborhood, and would like to have the community consider funding it, contact us at president@woodland-heights.org.

More information is coming soon.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT



Nearighborhood Security Update

As a reminder, please report **all crime** to the Houston Police Department. For property theft (non-vehicle related) of under \$5,000 you can report the crime on line at www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm. For all other non-emergency crime, including auto break-ins, contact HPD's non-emergency line is (713) 884-3131.

If you do not report the crime you are doing a disservice to the community, undermining staffing of police in our neighborhood, and eliminating important evidence necessary for convicting criminals that are eventually apprehended.

	Num.	Change from 2010
Aggravated Assault	2	Down 66%
Auto Theft	3	Unchanged
Burglary	3	Up 300%
Theft	18	Down 36%

Newsletter Update – Part 2

As you can see, we're once again mailing the newsletter. It is expensive, but so is printing hundreds of newsletters each month that don't get delivered. The number of complaints we receive about late or undelivered newsletters continues to grow.

To offset the cost of mailing, we will be looking at the frequency and manner of publishing future newsletters. One of the benefits of mailing the newsletter to the physical addresses of Woodland Heights residents is that we can control whether individual addresses get the paper newsletter or not. That means that **if you prefer to download the digital version of the newsletter** from the Woodland Heights website - several days before a physical copy can get to your mailbox - and thereby save on printing, mailing and ultimately recycling or landfill costs, **you can tell us to stop mailing you one.**

We intend to use the email addresses we have on file to send out an email "blast" every time a new newsletter is ready to download. If you would like to be included in that distribution, please email us at newsletter@woodland-heights.org.

Save A Tree!

Due to drought conditions in Houston, your trees need extra attention. If you are able to water trees in public areas, you would be performing a great service. For additional information, go to this website: <http://tinyurl.com/3gg4wvb>



Friends of Woodland Park

Check out the new web page for the Friends of Woodland Park at www.friendsofwoodlandpark.org. Our last movie night on May 7th, when we viewed "Secretariat" was another success. Thanks to all those who came out to enjoy it.

Some possible activities for the fall include a cleanup day, family fun day, another movie night, and a birding class. Feel free to send your comments and suggestions to info@friendsofwoodlandpark.org. Have a great summer at the park!

White Oak Construction Notice

Councilman Ed Gonzalez sent the following notice about imminent construction on White Oak Drive:

Dear Neighbor,

This letter is to notify you that there will be construction work to repair the White Oak Drive slope failure starting this week; it is slated to be complete by December. Our office has been working hard to ensure that this project take place and are happy that the repair work is commencing.

The work will take place between Houston Avenue and the I-45 service road along Little White Oak Bayou. Traffic controls and a barrier wall have been implemented already to prepare the site for construction. The scope of the work on the project will include repairing the slope failure, rebuilding the roadway, installing a metal beam guard fence, installing curbs and gutters and installing a sidewalk. Once complete, this project will make White Oak Drive safer for all of us.

If you have any concerns while the work is underway, you can contact the contractor directly, their information is listed below:

Rozco Contracting, Inc.
 Leon Brashier, Project Coordinator
 Phone: 281-540-0382
 Email: lbrashier@rozco.net

As always, you may also reach your District H team by contacting our office at 832-393-3003 or via email at districth@houstontx.gov.

Sincerely,
 Ed Gonzalez
 Council Member, District H

MAKE A LASTING IMPRESSION!



Don't forget you can order engraved bricks in the Norhill Plaza Esplanade for as little as \$100.

For more information, visit the Woodland Heights website: www.woodland-heights.org or Contact Pat Rutledge (beautification@woodland-heights.org)

WHCA Membership Report

For some residents, membership dues were paid in early March. With continued newsletter reminders, some have submitted multiple payments.

If you are not sure whether you paid or not, please email membership@woodland-heights.org for verification.

Note to Paypal users - a few payments have unclear as to what address to give credit to. If you are new to the neighborhood, paying for a rental property, or if the payment is for an address that is not your current resident, please contact membership@woodland-heights.org to specify.

Below is a summary of membership dues received. WHCA membership is from April 1 through March 31.

Report Date	# Neighbors Paid	% of Neighbors	Dues Collected	Additional \$ Given	Total Collected
April 11, 2011	279	12%	\$7,983.00	\$2,886.00	\$10,869.00
May 2, 2011	329	15%	\$9,558.00	\$3,426.00	\$12,984.00
July 8, 2011	384	17%	\$10,905.00	\$4,436.00	\$15,341.00

WE STILL NEED YOU!

If you haven't renewed your WHCA membership yet, we encourage you to do so TODAY. It's a great way to make your voice heard.



\$35 Resident
\$10 Senior
\$10 Renter

Please contact membership board member Cindy Pena Sarrat (membership@woodland-heights.org)

Thank You, Super Neighbors!

Thank you Super Neighbors who contributed additional amounts to WHCA!

- **Patrice Chauvin**
- **Katrina Stilwell**
- **Maryellen Quarles**
- **Timothy & Ginnie McConn**
- **David Hall**
- **Karen Henderson**
- **Douglas & Alice LaGuarta**
- **Jay Jackson**



Yard of the Month - Part 2

Gremlins invaded the printer's equipment last month and scrambled the Yard of the Month article. Here it is again, in English.

Yard of the Month
815 Merrill

The homeowner has done a great job utilizing drought-tolerant plants to create a beautiful and colorful landscape. Pavonia, iris, daylilies and salvia comingle to add color and contrast to this beautiful garden.

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The Classical Rebel

By Arnold van Ek and Riverhorse

Woodland Heights has always coveted its treasure trove of eclectic artists, musicians, and all-around creative denizens, and keyboard savant Loretta Kovacic is no exception. Originally hailing from Zagreb, Croatia, she and her husband reside on the corner of Byrne and Reagan. She's one of the true characters around, easily spotted wearing raucously wild colorful outfits, her patented ear-to-ear grin that makes us wonder what she's been up to, as well as some funky sunglasses to frame the whole shebang.

"I was a classical pianist trained from early childhood by a graceful Bohemian woman. I was really good in piano, although my parents were not musical at all. At the age of 7, I gave my first professional concert playing the 'Flute Sonata' by Bach. In high school, I also played the keyboards and wrote music for a rock and roll band.



At the age of 17, I went to a famous international classical music festival in Weimar (formerly East-Germany). You had to audition and when you made it to the top five, you were given awards including a television performance. I then applied to the famous Russian pianist and teacher Rudolph Khehrer, and had to perform for him and compete with hundreds of other ambitious kids from all over the world. However, I also noticed the famous Beethoven specialist, the American pianist Jacob Lateiner, who taught at the Julliard School in New York. Because I had no fear of anyone, I also asked if I could perform for him. He let me play the whole sonata and said, "You're in". Later, when I found out I also made it on Khehrer's list, I made the organizing committee very unhappy when I declined the honor and gave my preference to an American teacher.

Once in the U.S., I decided I preferred the musical training at Rice University, where I obtained a Ph.D. in music and gave several concerts there. The biggest concert I have given was my solo concert at Carnegie Hall, playing Prokofiev's 'Fugitives Visions', Papandopulo and Beethoven.

Now I am composing and writing children's music and theater. It is going well, I suppose, because this year my album "Brother Tadpole" was nominated for a Grammy for best children's album! I have a children's theater where 30-40 kids from this neighborhood practice in my backyard for performances at Discovery Green and other venues. There will be another show this fall so keep an eye open! It is always an original children's musical with contemporary subjects like peace or ocean preservation.

Currently, I also have a few art drawings on display in the Art Car Museum. I was lacking time to make an art car, but I found the street artist, Coolidge, who paints pigs or penguins on bridges, to assist me. Mysteriously, I was instructed to leave my car with the keys on a parking lot, with the promise I could pick up the decorated car a few days later. I still don't know who Coolidge is, but my car is awesome and was a success in the parade!

My dream is to have my own space where we can practice and perform. TALA (Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts) is trying to help me with this non-profit work. Along with this, I still continue to teach piano to children and adults, many of whom live in the Woodland Heights."

So, if you want your son or daughter to be the next "American Idol", or just enjoy being able to play the piano, consider training with one of the best piano teachers in Texas! Her email is alchemistpiano@sbcglobal.net

Woodland Heights Civic Association

P.O. Box 7754

Houston, TX 77270-7754

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**Advertising Information**

Monthly advertisement fees are \$50/month for a 1.75 x 3 inch (approximately business card size) advertisement/promotions block. The WHCA Board will review all applications for advertisement. Individuals interested in becoming WH Newsletter advertisers should contact the Newsletter Co-Chairs, Maryellen Quarles and Brian Hendrix, at newsletter@woodland-heights.org for further details and pricing for larger blocks. Checks are payable to the Woodland Heights Civic Association at the above address.

**Woodland Heights Civic Association
Board Members****President: Allison Hartzell**president@woodland-heights.org**Treasurer: Annette Williamson**treasurer@woodland-heights.org**Secretary: Merrily Brannigan**secretary@woodland-heights.org**VP Deed Restrictions: Gabe Vick**deed_restrictions@woodland-heights.org**VP Beautification: Pat Rutledge**beautification@woodland-heights.org**VP Security: David Jordan**security@woodland-heights.org**VP Membership: Cindy Pena Sarrat**membership@woodland-heights.org**VP Infrastructure: Florence Clark**infrastructure@woodland-heights.org**Newsletter Co-Chairs:****Maryellen Quarles and Brian Hendrix**newsletter@woodland-heights.org