

A HOME TOWN NEAR DOWNTOWN SINCE 1907

WHCA NEWSLETTER: A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLAND HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2018

EVENT CALENDAR

- 9/6 : Trash Pickup
- 9/11 : WHCA General meeting
- 9/13 : Trash & Recycling Pickup
- 9/19 : Tree Waste Pickup
- 9/20 : Trash Pickup
- 9/29 : Lighter In The Heights Community Yard Sale
- 9/27 : Trash & Recycling Pickup
- 10/2 : National Night Out
- 10/4 : Trash Pickup
- 10/11 : Trash & Recycling Pickup
- 10/17 : Heavy Trash Pickup
- 10/18 : Trash Pickup
- 11/3 : Light Up The Night Holiday Bash
- 12/7 : Friday Night Lights
- 12/8 : Lights In The Heights 2018

MEMBERSHIP

WHCA memberships run April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. Residents are encouraged to join or renew online at www.woodland-heights.org.

CONSTABLE PATROL



The WHCA Constable Patrol Program provides enhanced local patrols using two Precinct One Deputies. Residents are encouraged to join the program at www.woodland-heights.org/constable.

WHCA September General Meeting & LITH Neighborhood Forum

The Woodland Heights Civic Association has bi-monthly General Meetings. The upcoming meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Hogg Middle School cafeteria.

This meeting will have the added dimension of offering a Neighborhood Forum to discuss the plans for the 31st annual Lights in the Heights festival. The upcoming Meeting and Forum, like most of our General Meetings, is open to all who wish to attend, whether or not they are Members of the Association.

The Association's Board of Directors and related committee members will be on hand to entertain all discussion points as they pertain to the LITH festival. The goal is to provide a platform for all those wishing to express comments or concerns about the LITH events as outlined in this newsletter.

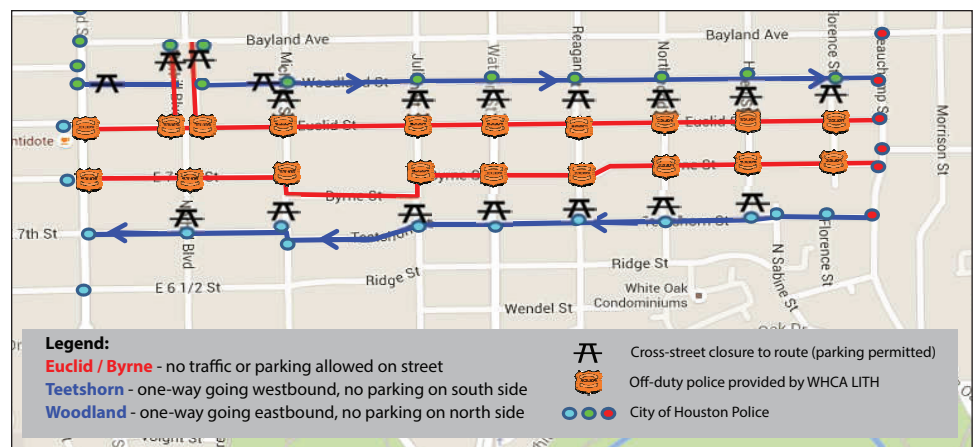
We understand in such a diverse neighborhood as ours, perceptions and expectations can vary, but it is our hope this forum will foster a constructive dialogue amongst neighbors. The Board will listen to those varied opinions, learn from our neighbors and, if appropriate, act on comments or criticisms from the stakeholders in the neighborhood.

Of course, the LITH Neighborhood Forum will be part of our regularly scheduled General Meeting and subject to the Association Bylaws. If you are curious about those Bylaws, they are all on the Association website at <https://www.woodland-heights.org/bylaws/>.

To be heard you must attend. Please plan to attend.

Harry McMahon, President
Woodland Heights Civic Association

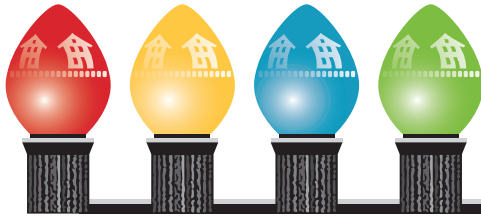
Lights in the Heights 2018 Proposed Route



This year the LITH committee, with feedback from residents of Woodland Heights, have selected Byrne and Euclid streets as the official route for the event, with the "anchor" being the Norhill Esplanade. It's been close to 10 years since these streets have participated and we know that everyone will be excited to see the displays, hear the performers and enjoy the holiday cheer.

As plans are finalized with the city, further details about the route will be published in coming issues of the WHCA newsletter.

Questions, concerns or suggestions can be sent by email to lightsintheheights@gmail.com, or by mail to Lights in the Heights, P.O. Box 7754, Houston TX 77270. Please include your name and contact information.



HMS STUDENT DESIGNS 2018 LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS® LOGO

The Lights in the Heights Committee has been working for more than three months planning for Lights in the Heights events to be held starting in September. Having been on the LITH Committee for that long, I am finding myself humming Christmas Carols and trying to remember all the words to my favorite holiday poem, *A Visit from St. Nicholas* by Clement Clark Moore. So, I have loosely patterned this on that beloved holiday poem that Moore wrote for his children almost two hundred years ago, in 1822.

*'Twas the week before summer vacation, and all through Hogg Middle School,
Students were anxious about final exams and trying to stay calm and cool.
Principal Angela Sugarek was watching over students with care,
As their excitement for summer vacation could be heard in the air.
Some students were busy in their Intro Graphic Design class, using the Web
And Adobe InDesign to create digital images of what danced in their heads.
Art Teacher Connie Sulewski, who directs the Graphics Design Program at Hogg,
Called for her class's attention, "A new assignment," she said with a nod.
Then in the classroom there arose such moaning and clatter,
Seventh-grader, Jacob Gonzales looked around to see what was the matter?
"You are not required to do this assignment, it's just for fun,"
Said Ms. Sulewski, "but you could be famous after you're done."
Jacob felt Ms. Sulewski was talking directly to him
As she listed items that would have the 2018 logo on them:
"On banners! On letters! On signs and posters!
On aprons! On ornaments! On napkins, even wine glasses!"
Away to a computer Jacob flew like a flash,
So he could start the assignment quickly, after his dash.
When what in his wandering mind did appear,
But the Lone Star of Texas, something Jacob holds dear.
With a wink of his eye and a nod of his head,
"That's it! That's the design they will want!" Jacob said.
He spoke no more words, but went straight to his work,
Drawing a digital image of his logo, then sat back with a jerk,
On his screen, holiday lights made the Lone Star's shape,
The words were neon colors, and at the bottom was the date.
With a sense of pride and hope in his heart,
Jacob submitted his design, so Ms. Sulewski could do her part.
At a Lights in the Heights Committee meeting, Ms. Sulewski presented
30 excellent designs culled from about 100 submitted.
The LITH Committee was astounded at all the designs, and so impressed,
How would they ever choose just one as the best?
This year's Co-Chairs, Susan and Sharon, took the lead,
After much discussion and input, the Committee finally agreed:
The Lone Star Holiday Lights design was selected for the 2018 logo!
Jacob Gonzales was the winner – a future graphics design pro!*



Congratulations, Jacob Gonzales!

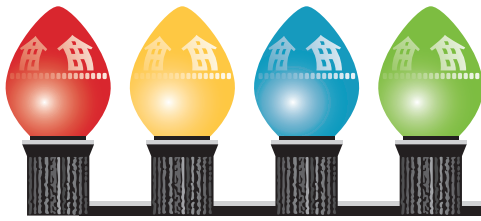
The graphic design program at Hogg Middle School offers students comprehensive problem-solving explorations from the conceptual development phase through production of effective design solutions using digital technologies. Graphic design students address concepts of a variety of design problems leading to the execution and evaluation of their solutions, while gaining confidence and proficiency working with digital media.

- Beth Allen-Brock

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There are still sponsorship opportunities for LITH events, or to contribute silent auction items for the Holiday Bash. Merchants and sponsors will be recognized in our newsletter and on the Woodland Heights website. Email lightsintheheights@gmail.com for information about sponsorship opportunities, or contact susan@pennebaker.com.



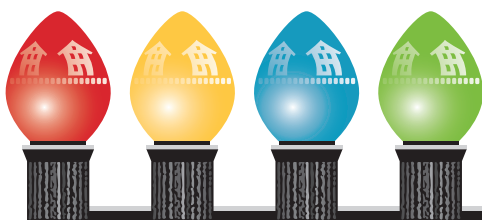
Lighten Your Load

Do you need to clean out your closet, cabinet or storage shed? We want that stuff for "Lighter in the Heights," a community garage sale established to defray expenses of Lights in the Heights.

The sale date is Saturday, September 29th from 7am - 12 noon, with a rain date of October 6th. There are two ways to assist:

- 1) Contribute items in good condition to the Community Sale. 100% of the sale proceeds go to fund LITH. Donations can be dropped off at 2822 Florence, at the corner of Byrne (the flamingo house). For heavier items, please contact me to arrange pick up.
- 2) Your sale, your stuff, your house, our date. Your address will be publicized along with the date and address of the Community Sale. Donate 20% of your sale proceeds to LITH.

Peggy Sparks 713.628.8809 (mobile)
or peggy Sparks@att.net



SNEAK PEEK OF SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Gathering of silent auction items for the Bash is underway! Generous businesses and residents have already committed a range of donations, including;

- Houston Rockets Tickets
- Dinner and theater: great seats to A Christmas Carol
- New LITH branded merchandise
- Home Pressure Wash from Perfect Painters
- Lake Conroe waterfront 3/2 rental for 1 week
- Neighborhood sign-up parties
- Custom Pennebaker-built lighted Dinosaur
- Original artwork
- One of a kind jewelry
- Wares from select Heights boutiques & shops



The list will continue to grow as we confirm with other generous local businesses. Details coming soon to our website!



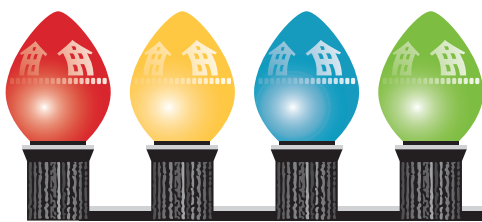
Light up the Night at the 2018 Holiday Bash

We are excited for the 2018 Light Up the Night Holiday Bash! The Bash, this year's version of the LITH Gala, will be a relaxed, casual neighborhood event to help raise money in support of LITH. The event will be held on Saturday, November 3rd at 1111 Studewood – a charming local venue with a stunning downtown view.

Use the venue's valet parking, or consider hiring a rideshare service such as Lyft. This exciting night out with our neighbors will feature unique silent auction items, food from neighborhood restaurants, wine, and beer.

Tickets are limited, so be sure to buy yours in advance. Tickets go on sale soon on our website at <http://woodland-heights.org/lith>.





LITH MERCHANDISE ON SALE

We are excited to offer brand new LITH merchandise this year, as well as some of the favorites you've grown to love. Merchandise will be sold at the following events:

- WHCA General Meeting at Hogg MS on Tuesday, Sept 11
- National Night Out on the Norhill Esplanade on Tuesday, Oct 2
- Friday Night Lights on the Norhill Esplanade on Friday, Dec 7

Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. Select merchandise will also be available for sale on WHCA's website soon!



Volunteer Opportunities

Lights in the Heights 2018 is seeking porches (driveways, and front yards) to host bands and entertainers for this year's event. There is no cost to host and musicians will be thoughtfully assigned to volunteer properties along the route based on band size and music type. If you live on Byrne or Euclid and would like to volunteer your porch to host a performer please contact entertainmentlith@gmail.com.

Additionally, if you live on the route and are planning to host your own entertainment, please also let the committee know so that we do not place another band next door.

All other LITH committees welcome more volunteers. We still need help with set-up and clean-up, transportation, and luminaries to name a few. If you are interested in helping please contact our Volunteer Chairs, Claire & William Getschow, at lightsintheheights@gmail.com

It's time to get real about sustainable transportation

By now, you've probably seen the Houston BCycle station at Woodland Park. What you might not realize is that the station connects our historic neighborhood to a public transit system with 65 other bike share stations across Houston.

Anyone can pick up a bike from our Woodland Park station and ride to nearby places like Bobcat Teddy's, Sabine Bridge, and Market Square Park. When you arrive at your destination, you simply dock the bike and go about your day until you need to ride again. (Round-trip rides are permitted as well.)

You can take as many hour-long rides as you'd like for just \$9 per month. It's even cheaper if you're a student or staff member at a local university—those pursuing and providing higher education pay just \$25 per semester for full access. Memberships are not available at the stations; you have to visit the BCycle website or download the mobile app to sign up.

Once you've got your membership activated, you'll find that short trips that used to be a hassle in a car are now fun bike adventures. You'll start to become increasingly familiar with the station map as you plan each upcoming bike share expedition. You'll find incredible value in skipping traffic and parking hassles while enjoying a much more intimate view of the city.

Last year, a record 142,257 rides were taken throughout the system, replacing nearly a million pounds of carbon emissions. As a local nonprofit-run organization, Houston BCycle is looking to continue to offer affordable transportation that improves the health of riders and the environment alike.



Fresh off of City Council's approval, Houston BCycle will be growing even further into the Heights in the coming year, along with major expansions at Texas Medical Center, University of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown, and Texas Southern University.

Let's keep Houston rolling and start seeing our city on two wheels.

- Henry Morris, Houston Bike Share

Yard-of-the-Month: 418 Byrne

418 Byrne is the vibrant, yet subtle and pretty yard of Megan Mastal, who has nurtured her greens and flowers here since 2001, and in the neighborhood for 25 years. The white, lime, and yellow hues come through in potato vines and fig ivy, hugging the brick, tracing up little statuettes, and bringing the century home to life.



While I think her delicate yard shows the cool and calm charm we love in our historic neighborhood, Megan says she and her neighbors have big decorating plans for Lights in the Heights! I'm so happy to have Byrne on the LITH route this year!

- Stephanie Riceman, VP-Beautification



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FWP: The Fabulous Fireflies

The Friends of Woodland Park are very proud of the recent installation of Dylan Conner's remarkable Firefly Field sculpture in Woodland Park. In all respects it has exceeded our lofty expectations. And we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the many donors who contributed so this goal could become a reality.

We realize the caution tape around the sculpture bases is less than attractive and hardly ideal, but by the August 18th weekend the base of the landscape garden (along with its moss rock edging) will be installed. So be sure and come by to witness the evolution of this park project.



After that, what remains is the installation of mulch (soon after), and the planting of the native grasses once Autumn arrives. And we could definitely use your assistance with both these tasks. Please visit our website for details or monitor our Facebook page and Nextdoor postings for the dates and times for these projects. Neither will take very long if we have a group of enthusiastic volunteers helping us.

Additionally, be sure and circle Friday November 2nd 6-9 PM on your calendar for the formal dedication of our sculpture. Our celebration event: "Illumination of Firefly Field by Dylan Conner", will be a memorable and fun evening for the whole family. Stay tuned over the next few weeks for details.

If you appreciate the successful completion of this amazing project and you value our community spirit and wish to show your support for local art and artists, one way to do so is through a donation to FWP specifically for the future care of Firefly Field. Your tax deductible donation (FWP is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are deductible within stated IRS rules & guidelines) can be specifically earmarked for the perpetual care of this new community landmark.

Please consider supporting local art and artists with your gift to keep the Fireflies and their landscape garden in a first class condition.

- Pat Rutledge, Friends of Woodland Park

Felix Mexican Restaurant Chile Con Queso

Source: Felix Mexican Restaurant, Houston, Texas – A recipe that I worked on when doing recipe testing for The Tex-Mex Cookbook by Robb Walsh. For many of us growing up in Houston, we remember this queso very fondly. It is still available at El Patio on Westheimer.

My own personal theory is that Felix Tijerina might have known a French chef or had access to a French cookbook, as his particular queso is very reminiscent of the cheese sauces of France.

The Recipe

1/2 cup vegetable oil
 1 onion, chopped
 Salt and ground black pepper to taste
 1/2 cup canned tomatoes
 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 1 1/2 teaspoons granulated sugar
 2 tablespoons paprika
 Garlic powder to taste
 1/4 cup flour
 1/4 cup water
 1/2 pound American cheese, grated (2 cups)

Combine oil, onion, salt, pepper, tomatoes, cayenne, sugar, paprika and garlic powder in heavy pot and simmer 25 to 30 minutes over medium heat.

Mix flour and water in small bowl; add to onion mixture gradually, stirring until smooth and thick. Add cheese, stirring constantly to prevent sticking. Cook until well-blended and smooth. Serve warm with tortilla chips.

Note: A similar recipe attributed to Felix's appears in the Houston Junior Forum cookbook, Buffet on the Bayou. But the sugar is omitted and the paprika is increased to 3 tablespoons.

The City Wants Public Input About Crosswalks on Studewood

On August 14th our Greater Heights Super Neighborhood Council met with the City of Houston's traffic engineer Ian Hlavacek to discuss the crosswalk situations at key hike and bike trail crossings, as well as two Studewood crossings at Merrill and 8th. The Studewood crosswalks are especially important to the Woodland Heights because they keep our neighborhoods connected with each other, enable us to reach businesses across Studewood like Antidote and Sonoma without driving (and contributing to parking congestion), and make it safe for middle school students on the other side of Studewood to walk to school at Hogg.

While Mr. Hlavacek acknowledged the need for these crosswalks to be made safer and more accessible, he would like community input on how we would like for this to happen. Cost is an issue, but when we have a plan in place we could make it happen when the funding becomes available.

Please send your thoughts to:

Ian Hlavacek, P.E. | Supervising Engineer
 Houston Public Works | Transportation & Drainage Operations
Ian.Hlavacek@houston.tx.gov



BRIGETTE LARSON
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Saturday, December 8th for LITH

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About WHCA

WHCA General Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. (January, March, May, July, September, and November). Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at Hogg Middle School, 1100 Merrill St.

WHCA
P.O. Box 7754
Houston, TX 77270-7754

Please visit our website (www.woodland-heights.org) to sign up for our monthly digital newsletter. The website also contains additional news updates, volunteer opportunities, and so much more.

Special Thanks...

...to everyone who helped get this issue written, assembled, printed and distributed, including; Beth Allen-Brock, Dylan Conner, Estella Espinosa, Jay Francis, Andrea Gorney, Sharon Greiff, Melissa McKee, Harry McMahon, Henry Morris, Louise Moss, Susan Pennebaker, Stephanie Riceman, Pat Rutledge and Peggy Sparks.

It's true what they say, "...it takes a village." And some good, red wine. And maybe some tacos. Yeah, tacos make things go a lot better. And some queso. We like Cantina Barba. Nice folks and very handy. Am I rambling? Clearly, I've been at this a bit too long. It's good we only do these printed issues a few times year.

Now for your moment of zen - Cadenza!



WHCA Statement of Financial Activity

Constable Program	April - July 2018 (YTD)
Revenue ^{1,2}	136,094
Expenses	53,554
Net Income CP	82,540

WHCA General Fund	April - July 2018 (YTD)
Revenue	
Membership ³	15,890
Home Tour 2018	9,847
Other	165
Total Revenue	25,902

Expenses	
Admin	1,307
Beautification	354

Events	
Home Tour 2018 ⁴	6,137
LITH 2018	2,807
Friends of Woodland Park	500
Total Expenses	11,115

Net Operating Income	14,787
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^{1,4}10% of Home Tour net was applied

^{2,3}\$10,000 from Elan Heights has not been received



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