

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

A HOME TOWN NEAR DOWNTOWN SINCE 1907

WHCA NEWSLETTER: A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLAND HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2017

CALENDAR

- 3/15: Heavy trash pickup
- 3/16: Recycling pickup
- 3/17: St Patrick's Day
- 3/21: WHCA General Meeting - Annual Board Elections
- 3/24: FWP Firefly Field Kickoff Event
- 3/30: Recycling pickup
- 4/8: 30th Annual Art Car Parade
- 4/13: Recycling pickup
- 4/19: Heavy trash pickup
- 4/30: Historic District Workshop
- 5/6: HISD Funding Election
- 5/9: WHCA General Meeting

MEMBERSHIP

WHCA memberships run April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. Residents are encouraged to join or renew online at www.woodland-heights.org or by mailing the form included in this issue.

CONSTABLE PATROL

The new year of the WHCA Constable Patrol Program starts April 1st. The program goal is to provide enhanced local patrols using two Precinct One Deputies.

Friends Of Woodland Park Firefly Field Day

Pat Rutledge, Friends of Woodland Park



On Saturday Feb. 25th the Friends of Woodland Park ("FWP") held Firefly Field Day at Woodland Park. The event was generously underwritten by the WHCA. The weather was perfect and the turnout was tremendous as residents from all over the greater Heights area attended.

As has become a custom for our family friendly events, Bayou City Play brought their crafts, materials, and creativity for the children to build whatever they wished.

Our FWP Master Naturalist and Travis Elementary Garden Instructor, Steve Brennan, was there with his plant, animal and critter materials which is always a huge hit with children of all ages.

The primary purpose of our event was to introduce the neighborhood to the now fully approved Firefly Field sculpture designed by fourth generation Woodland Heights resident, Dylan Conner. Our sculptor was there and engaged many of the attendees with his concept and design for this incredible addition for the park. We had renderings prepared by our landscape architectural advisors and advocates, SWA, to show everyone just exactly what the sculpture will look like when installed. We also had fun giveaways, door prizes and snacks for all in attendance.

We were very proud to introduce our City Council District H Representative and Woodland Heights resident, Karla Cisneros, who provided some very kind words and presented a check for \$10,000 as the first donation for the Firefly Field!

But the fun and donations did not end there. Representatives from Elan Heights/Greystar were also there to present the FWP with a check for \$15,000 to fully underwrite the matching fund required to have a B-cycle station installed in the park. Word from the executive director of the B-cycle program is that our application is being fast tracked and the station will be powered via solar energy so that it can be installed and fully functioning before summer arrives.

Woodland Park was once the destination for entertainment and outdoor fun for Houstonians. With Firefly Field, we hope to return this historic park to some of its former glory. We know the surrounding community will benefit from a rejuvenated park culture full of activity and exploration. Please visit the project's website and consider supporting Firefly Field (www.fwp.fund).

The WHCA invites you to join or renew your subscription to the 2017-18 Constable Patrol Program



Overview

The WHCA has a contract with the Constable Patrol Program, serviced by Harris County Precinct One. We have two full-time deputies that patrol our neighborhood for a total of 80 hours each week, in two staggered shifts—one during the day and one at night.

Benefits

The presence of the constable patrols in the neighborhood is a benefit to all residents as the constables patrol the entire neighborhood.

Program benefits include:

- **Police presence** – dedicated deputies are visible, learn the neighborhood, and prevent crime;
- **Prompt response** – deputies usually respond more quickly than HPD;
- **Vacation Watch*** – a deputy will do a physical, daily inspection of your home while you are on vacation;
- **Home Security Check*** – a deputy will physically come to your home to provide a security assessment;
- **Text/Email Crime Alerts** – you may sign up for crime alerts from Precinct 1;
- **Crime stats** – the VP of Security will provide periodic crime updates and statistics;
- **Coordination with alarm companies*** – you may give the Precinct One dispatch number to your alarm monitoring companies;
- **Coordination with the Constable's office** – the VP of Security will act as a liaison with the department to coordinate any special requests or concerns;
- **Coordination with surrounding neighborhoods** – an unheralded benefit, allowing constables in surrounding areas to respond to calls when our deputies are off duty.

While any resident can contact Precinct One Dispatch to report suspicious activity, *some aspects of the program are only available to residents subscribed to the program.

Program Costs

The cost to WHCA is \$6,395 per deputy, per month (totaling \$12,790 per month and \$153,480 per year). This is NOT paid for by property taxes or any other source. To maintain this service, we need approximately 460 households to donate \$330 per year. Last year we only had 409 subscribers.

Because of a generous donation from Greystar Apartments, and a little surplus from the prior year, we were able to maintain two deputy shifts throughout the 2016-17 year. But as it stands, we only have a little more than one month of that surplus remaining.

If we stay at the current level of subscribers, we may not be able to sustain two shifts throughout the year. If we fall short, we will go down to one day shift for the remaining months of the fiscal year. With your help, we hope to avoid that.

We hope you join or renew to help us sustain the program at the current level of service. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join!

How To Enroll

Enrolling in the Constable Patrol Program is easy!

By mail/check - If you prefer to pay by check simply return the form included in this newsletter, along with your check for \$330 made out to The Woodland Heights Civic Association.

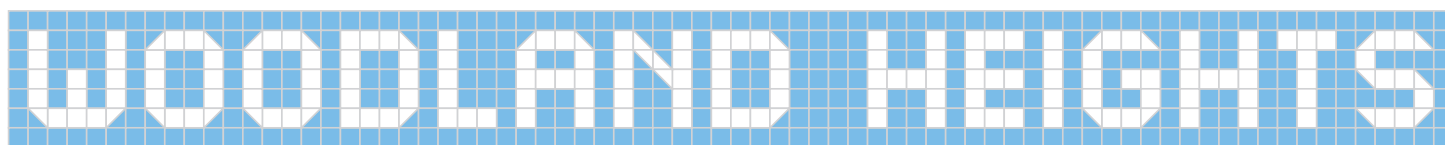
Online, by credit card - If you prefer to pay by credit card visit the Constable Patrol page on our web site. where you'll find a link to enroll using PayPal.

Those who enroll using Paypal also have the option to subscribe, so their enrollment will automatically be renewed each year.

Please feel free to contact the VP of Security, Brad Snead, if you have any questions or comments about the Constable Patrol Program.

****NEW** Request for Additional Donations**

We are sensitive to the fact that we live in a diverse neighborhood, with a wide range of household incomes and family sizes. However, given the financial status of the program and the administrative difficulties, we cannot institute a progressive rate. Instead, we are asking those who can afford to do so to consider an extra donation, perhaps as little as \$25. This little extra will ensure that the program remains fully funded, securing the continued presence of deputies patrolling our streets.



A HOME TOWN NEAR DOWNTOWN SINCE 1907

DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
Annual Membership Dues April 2017 – March 2018	General \$50	\$ _____
	Senior (65+) \$20	\$ _____
Constable Patrol Program April 2017 – March 2018	Membership \$330	\$ _____
	Additional Donation	\$ _____
Super Neighbor <i>(an additional donation that helps support the functions of the WHCA, including beautification efforts and community events like the 4th of July parade)</i>		\$ _____
Our Front Porch <i>(beautiful coffee table book featuring Woodland Heights porches, photographed by locals)</i>	Softcover \$20 Sale! \$18	\$ _____
	Hardcover \$45 Sale! \$40	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Pay by Check & Mail:	Pay Online by Credit Card:
Please forward this completed form and your dues payable to: Woodland Heights Civic Association P.O. Box 7754, Houston, TX 77270-7754	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit http://www.woodland-heights.com • See Neighbors link on top right of screen • Choose Constable Patrol and/or WHCA Membership. • Click Subscribe link for auto-renewal. • Or click Buy Now link for no auto-renewal. • Go to WHCA Store for Porch Books.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check One: ☐ **Homeowner** ☐ **Non-Homeowner Resident**

**THANK YOU! THE WOODLAND HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION RELIES ON
YOUR CONTINUED VOLUNTARY SUPPORT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!**



WHCA 2017-18 Constable Patrol Program: Introducing The Deputies Who Patrol Our Streets

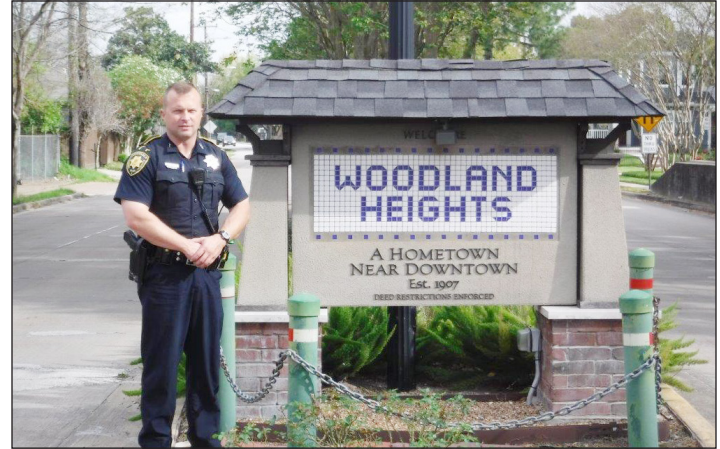


Deputy Hathhorn

As a native Houstonian, Deputy Hathhorn is the night time patrol Deputy for Woodland Heights. While Deputy Hathhorn is new to the Woodland Heights contract, he has been with Harris County Constable Precinct 1 for six years.

Deputy Hathhorn served for three of those years as a Reserve Deputy. He enjoys serving others. He served the City of Friendswood, Texas as a Fire Fighter and Emergency Medical Technician for six years. In 2016 he was awarded a Bravery Medal by Constable Alan Rosen. Without regard to his own personal safety, Deputy Hathhorn placed himself in harm's way in an effort to save a citizen.

He has been married for sixteen years and has two children. He loves dogs, raises cattle, and enjoys outdoor life. Deputy Hathhorn believes that community policing has a huge impact in Woodland Heights. He serves this community as if it were his own community.



Deputy Vest

Originally from Alvin, Texas and now residing in Houston, Deputy Vest graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in criminal science.

He's been patrolling the neighborhood for three years and has been employed with Harris County Constables Office since 2005. Has a brother that is also a Deputy Sheriff in another county. He enjoys hunting, fishing, outdoor recreational activities and attends as many Texas A&M football games as his time allows.

He enjoys patrolling the Woodland Heights because of the small community relations and its citizens.

Some Woodland Terrace property owners get warning from FEMA: Their flood insurance will cost more!

A new flood-risk map shows some Woodland Terrace properties at higher risk for flooding than on an earlier map. They have received a notification letter from FEMA, which is required by law to notify National Flood Insurance Program policyholders of their revised status. The letter from FEMA to property owners affected by being rated at higher risk reads:

"Federal law requires FEMA to provide discounted rates to property owners like you who have been newly mapped into high-risk areas, but also requires your flood insurance costs to eventually reflect the higher flood risk shown on the current map."

Property owners in the newly designated high-risk areas should expect flood insurance increases of about 15 percent per year, but no more than 18 percent in a given year.

FEMA advises policyholders not to let their current insurance policy lapse. Allowing a policy to lapse for 90 days, or to lapse twice for any number of days, will result in losing a discounted rate that the affected property had been enjoying under the earlier map (i.e., before the property acquired a high-risk rating). Because policies are not all rated the same and information varies, the letter encourages policyholders to contact their insurance agent or company to discuss the letter and to explore their insurance rating options.

For more information, visit www.FEMA.gov/cost-of-flood. One can locate a home's current flood risk rating by FEMA by visiting this site: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/>.

Statement of Financial Activity

Apr 2016 - Feb 2017

Revenues

Memberships	25,090
Newsletter Sponsors	1,550
Constable Patrol	114,225
Home Tour	22,952
Lights In The Heights	24,375
Porch Book Sales	487
Total Revenue	188,679

Expenditures

Administration	13,845
Beautification	3,166
Deed Restrictions	5,017
Home Tour	4,807
Lights In The Heights	19,492
Other Events	2,581
Newsletters	4,145
Constable Patrol	128,870
Total Expenditures	181,923

Net Revenue

6,756



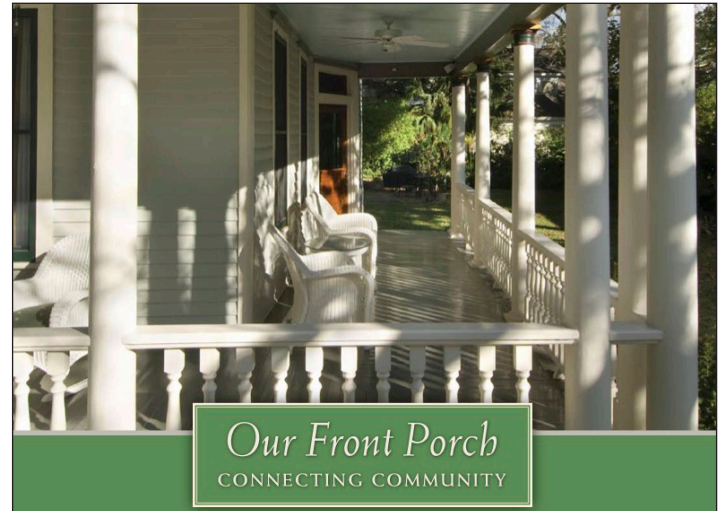
Four
Square
Design
Studio

**DESIGN | RENOVATIONS
ADDITIONS | INTERIORS**

1810 Summer Street
Houston, Texas 77007
TEL 713.802.1699

FOURSQUAREDDESIGNSTUDIO.COM

Our Front Porch: Connecting Community



An idea sparked by the Woodland Heights centennial celebrations in 2007, in 2009 neighborhood volunteers put together a wonderful pictorial documentation of what makes our neighborhood special.

Our Front Porch: Connecting Community captures the porches and the community spirit that together make Woodland Heights so welcoming. The 96-page book includes a brief history of the neighborhood, an evocative forward by resident and well-known writer Mimi Swartz, and beautiful photos shot by local photographers showing the neighborhood's charm, its unique style and how our porches serve to connect us.

The book will grace anyone's coffee table – inside or out. It also makes the perfect gift. The book is on sale at a discounted price through May 1. Available in both hard cover (\$45 – sale price \$40) and soft cover (\$20 – sale price \$18), books may be purchased online (www.woodland-heights.org/whcastore.)

Proceeds benefit preservation efforts. If purchasing online, we provide free delivery in the neighborhood or you may choose to have the book shipped to you for a small fee to cover costs. Questions? Email porchbooks@woodland-heights.org.

GREENWOOD KING

Woodland Heights Residents

Brigette Larson
blarson@greenwoodking.com

Felicia Zbranek-Zeitman
fzeitman@tmc.edu

Karen Keplinger Stowers
karenk@greenwoodking.com

Caroline Schlemmer
carolines@greenwoodking.com



How Does the WHCA Serve You & Your Family?

- Enforce Deed Restrictions
- Police Land Use
- Support Park Upkeep
- Manage Constable Patrol
- Liaison with City & County
- Produce Monthly Newsletter
- Communicate through Website, Facebook, & Twitter
- Beautify Common Spaces
- Fund and Manage Lights in the Heights
- Oversee Community Socials and Gatherings
- Support Community Needs
- Provide Public Forums
- Bi-Monthly Meetings
- Watch Traffic Issues
- Coordinate Sewer & Utility Work
- Fund Community Grants
- Maintain Historical Records
- Partner with Preservation and Historical Organizations
- Oversee Urban Development Issues
- Monitor Crime Patterns
- Fund and Manage Historical Home Tour

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.

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 a monthly digital newsletter. The website also contains additional news updates, volunteer opportunities, and much more.

Special Thanks

A big thank you to Melissa McKee, Pat Rutledge, Brad Snead and Rosie Walker for their contributions to this newsletter.

May 6 One-Issue Election: Should HISD pay \$77 million or surrender taxable properties?

An election scheduled to take place May 6, 2017 will cover only one proposition: whether or not Houston Independent School District (HISD) will send \$77 million to the state. If the proposition is approved, HISD could send money to the state to be redistributed to "poorer" school districts (those with less property on their tax rolls).

If the proposition goes down in defeat May 6 and HISD does not turn over the money, valuable properties located within HISD will be removed from HISD's tax base and assigned to poorer districts. The same proposition was on the November 2016 ballot.

In a column published in The Leader newspaper March 11 edition, publisher Jonathan McElvy compares the choices to "cutting off your left middle finger or your right middle finger—both are going to hurt."

McElvy's explanation (in understandable language) can be read in either the print edition (delivered to most homes in WH) or the online edition of The Leader. A more complicated presentation by HISD can be found at <http://HoustonISD.org/Recapture>.

WHCA 2017-18 Board Of Directors

President: Tyson Greer
president@woodland-heights.org
President-Elect: Matthew Reynolds
president-elect@woodland-heights.org
Treasurer: Melissa McKee
treasurer@woodland-heights.org
Secretary: Beth Allen-Brock
secretary@woodland-heights.org
VP Deed Restrictions: Craig L. Jackson
deedrestrictions@woodland-heights.org
VP Beautification: Carla Reed
beautification@woodland-heights.org
VP Security: Brad Snead
security@woodland-heights.org
VP Infrastructure: Matt Johnson
infrastructure@woodland-heights.org
VP Membership: Melissa Nicholson Sternfels
membership@woodland-heights.org
VP Communications: Michael Graves
communications@woodland-heights.org