

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association

Volume 33, Number Six, June 2007



Heights Fun Run

It's time for the 22nd annual Houston Heights 5K Fun Run on Saturday, June 2. Start time for the main race will be 7:30 AM. Walkers start at 7:35 AM, and the kids' 1K follows at 8:30 AM. The main course will start on Heights Blvd. at 18th Street heading south to 5th Street, then back north to Marmion Park, where the post-race party will begin. Plan to celebrate with food, juice, and music while awards are announced and door prizes are given!



The entry fee for the 5K Run and Walk is \$20 until May 31, then \$25 on June 1 and 2. The fee for the kids' 1K is \$10, then \$15.

Overall Open, Master Male, and Master Female winners will each receive a \$50 Luke's Locker gift certificate. Awards go to the top three males and top three females in each age group.

Packet pick-up will be at Luke's Locker (1953 West Gray) on Thursday, May 31 and Friday, June 1 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, then at Marmion Park on Saturday, June 2 (Race Day) from 6:15

...continues on page 5

General Meeting

The presentation at the June General Meeting will be about people restoring their own historic properties. Lynn Edmundson of Historic Houston will have a slide presentation about a workshop they held for those who wanted to learn the hands-on, do-it-yourself method. The class restored a shotgun house.

Lynn will go through the process they followed and talk about the next workshop, scheduled for the fall of this year. She will also discuss Historic Houston's Salvage Warehouse.

Please join us at the Fire Station, 7:00 PM on June 11.

Coming up in July: the history of the Fire Station.

The Houston Heights Association is proud to have the following 2007 Platinum sponsors:



San Jacinto Stone

Preparations Begin For Bicycle/Skate Rally

The Second Annual Heights Bicycle & Skate Rally will be held on Sunday, October 7, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please save the date.

This year, there will be two courses. The shorter course will be 16 miles long, passing through River Oaks, West End, Timbergrove, and the Heights. The extended course will be 25 miles long, continuing through Oak Forest before returning to the Heights. As last year, the rally will start and end at the Fire Station.

There will again be a scavenger hunt in conjunction with the rally; participants can win prizes by using clues to find places and things along the route. All finishers will be eligible for prizes. There will be special awards for best costume and for oldest and youngest unassisted finishers.

This year's entry fee will be \$15.00 (pre-registration on line) and \$20.00 on the day of the event. All proceeds benefit the Heights Boulevard Beautification Fund.

The first bike rally committee meeting will be held June 12 at 6:30 PM at the Fire Station. There are many volunteer opportunities available for the rally, both during the months leading up to the event and on the day of the event. More information will be available in next month's newsletter. If you can be a volunteer for the event, please contact Chairman Paul Carr at 713-869-0505 or TortureT@aol.com, Genie Mims – Publicity at geniemims@yahoo.com, or Martin Pike – Scavenger Hunt at martinpike@sbcglobal.com.

Holiday Tour Homes Sought

The Heights Holiday Home Tour Committee is looking for beautiful homes dressed for the holidays to include in the tour, which is scheduled for November 30 and December 1. If you are interested in volunteering your home for this fundraiser, please contact Marianne at 713-703-7658.

Musicians Wanted

The Heights Holiday Home Tour Committee is seeking musicians of all kinds to add a little Holiday Cheer to the porches of our tour homes. If you are interested in performing, please call Marianne at 713-703-7658.

*The Houston Heights Association
is proud to have the following
Summer 2007 Silver Sponsor:*



New Members

Please welcome the following new or returning members to the Houston Heights Association.

Monique DeLeon & Brent
Mahler
Josh Fernandez

Restoration

The next Houston Heights Restoration /Historical Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 21 from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at 1312 Cortlandt St. This 1920 bungalow property was completely renovated in 1993 with pool and pool house subsequent to a complete facelift. This property has many fine finishing touches added by the owners, making it a very warm and comfortable home.

Everything from landscaping to redesign and addition of the pool and pool house will be discussed with the remodeling builder at this meeting for those attendees considering any or all of these projects. Everyone attending will benefit from discussing how to attack and execute a renovation project and can see "before" pictures as well the finished product.

Houston Heights Restoration/ Historical Committee meetings are open to the public monthly to learn about history and restoration in keeping with the neighborhood. Please let Committee Chairman Dean Swanson know if you have a restoration project, historical structure, or historical information or photos pertaining to the Houston Heights to share at future meeting sites and to better spread the neighborhood historical knowledge. Contact him at restoration@houstonheights.org or telephone him at 713-880-2832.

Heights Trees Count! – Rescheduled

Did you know that our street trees belong to everyone – and that these trees are the foundation of our Heights Urban Forest? The Heights has the most Champion and magnificent 100-year-old trees in Houston. Enjoy an early morning walk to appreciate our rare neighborhood treasure.

Join us for a working walk through our Heights Urban Forest with the City of Houston’s Urban Forester Victor Cordoba and the San Jacinto Council Girl Scouts! Volunteers are invited to help Victor update our Heights Street Tree Inventory.

Our Heights Urban Forest is a remarkable natural resource. Trees provide natural pollution mitigation, are natural sources for flood control, and supply a habitat for wild birds. A Champion Tree can reduce scorching summer heat by 30 degrees – so protecting our urban forest is a natural!

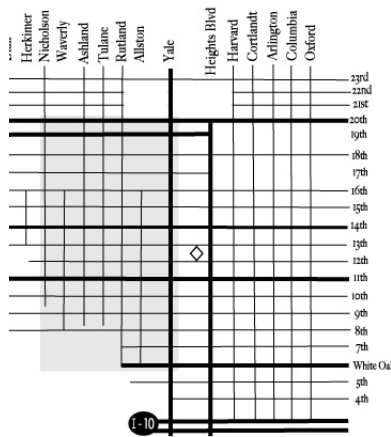


Enjoy refreshments from Starbuck’s at 610 & Nicholson. Participants will receive tree brochures, and information will be available for everyone.

This family fun day in the Heights Urban Forest begins at the Fire Station at 7:30 AM on Sunday, July 29. Pick up your four-block assignment and return the completed form to the Fire Station by 11:00 AM.

This time around, we’ll be counting trees on the west side of the HHA area from White Oak to 20th, from Yale to Nicholson. (See map.) The third phase of the count will be held on October 6, counting trees on the north end. The start and end point will again be the Fire Station.

Sign up now! Contact adewree@earthlink.net.



April 16 Board Summary

by Janet Buchheit, Secretary

President Jim Potter calls the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The minutes from the previous meeting are approved. Treasurer Jim DePitts gives the financial report, and the board votes an increase in the budget for the 2007 Holiday Market and Home Tour. Jim and Donna Bennett attended the Park People Awards Dinner and accepted an award on behalf of the Association.

Suzanne LaBarthe gives a report on decorative traffic poles that could be purchased and erected during the TxDOT project that involves the I-10 expansion at Heights Boulevard and Yale. Revisions to the Sponsorship Policy in the Policy Manual are discussed.

Paul Carr addresses the Board on concerns he has and with ideas he has with regard to the some of the projects of the Houston Heights Association. David Beale would like the Board to consider hosting a reception for the Spring Home Tour Committee. David Beale, Sharie Beale, and Janice Evans-Davis give a report on the Historic District project. Future General Meetings are discussed. The meeting adjourns at 8:30 PM.

The Houston Heights Association is proud to have the following Summer 2007 Bronze Sponsors:



GREENWOOD KING
PROPERTIES



History for Sale

This month's offerings include a house that is a City of Houston Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places (marked CL/NRHP below). All of the properties listed below are considered historic, meaning they are at least 51 years old. HHA began listing properties for sale in its newsletter in hopes of encouraging renovation instead of demolition.

Here is a sampling of the properties currently for sale in the Heights and their approximate construction dates. Most have been updated for the 21st Century. Several are prime candidates for renovation.

801 Allston - 1930
803 Allston - 1930
916 Allston - 1925
1230 Allston - 1913
1433 Allston - 1900
1520 Allston - 1920
1244 Arlington - 1900
1122 Columbia - 1920
2043 Columbia - 1940
2052 Columbia - 1941
1844 Columbia - 1920
941 Cortlandt - 1920
1218 Cortlandt - 1920
1445 Cortlandt - 1920
2036 Cortlandt - 1946
1115 Harvard - 1920
1342 Harvard - 1910
1346 Harvard - 1935
1313 Herkimer - 1940
1011 Heights Blvd. - 1907
1101 Heights Blvd. - 1903
- CL/NRHP
1204 Heights Blvd. - 1920
1214 Heights Blvd. - 1930
1229 Heights Blvd. - 1896

Demo Watch

Demolition activity has picked up again in Houston Heights. According to information supplied by the Code Enforcement Division of the City of Houston Public Works Department, there were 13 demolitions or relocations in Houston Heights between April 16 and May 21. This brings to 249 the number of demolitions in the last 23 months. Several of the properties we lost this time were considered important structures in the proposed Heights Historic Districts.

Establishing historic districts is the only legal way to deter demolition and relocation of our historic housing stock, the reason many of us choose to buy homes here. If you live within the boundaries of the proposed districts and have not yet signed the blue petition page, now is the time to do so. The longer it takes to gather signatures of support from the required 51 percent of the property owners within the proposed districts, the more houses we will lose. The petition and other information about the historic districts are available at <http://www.houstonheights.org/historicdistrictmaps.htm>.

Here is the list of the latest demolitions and approximate construction dates.

533 Arlington - 1905	301 W. 11th St. - The old H.E.B., torn down to make way for a new Regions Bank.
2220 Arlington 1940	
1217 Columbia - 1930	
945 Harvard - 1910	
443 Heights Blvd. - 1905	450 W. 16th St. - 1920
1222 Nicholson - 1925	628 W. 21st St. - 1950
337 Oxford - 1930	714 W. 22nd St. - 1935
1405 Tulane - 1910	219 W. 27th St. - 1930

1421 Heights Blvd. - 1930
1407 Oxford - 1920
1910 Oxford - 1920
1019 Rutland - 1925
1516 Rutland - 1920
1114 Waverly - 1930
3510 White Oak - 1920
1409 Yale - 1930
107 E 9th St. - 1920
108 W 10 1/2th St. - 1920
411 W. 11th St. - 1920
320 W 15th St. - 1920
235 W. 18th St. - 1908
611 E 21st St. - 1920
407 W 23rd St. - 1925
602 W 28th St. - 1920

Donations

Our thanks to the following for their generous support of the programs of the Houston Heights Association.

Julie Adams & Paul Anderson
Mrs. Allen C. Key
Belinca & Mark Munday
- Parks Maintenance
Stuart & Joanne Murray
- Boulevard Maintenance
William & Deborah Schroeter - Boulevard Maintenance

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 1	2 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	2 HHA Urban Forestry Group 6:30 PM Fire Station	4	5	6	7 Heights 1st Sat.
8	9 HHA General Topic TBA 7:00 PM Fire Station	10 Bike & Skate Rally meeting 6:30 PM Fire Station	11	12	13 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	14
15	16 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	24	25 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	26	27	28
29 Heights Tree Count, 7:30 AM Fire Station, see page 3.	30	31				

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

June 1, Opera in the Heights presents their Bravissimo Dinner Concert at The Houston Club, 811 Rusk. Reception at 6:30, dinner at 7:15, concert at 8:30. Tickets available through Opera in the Heights at 713-861-5303.

June 10, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Classy Chassis Vintage Auto Show at Reliant Stadium, benefitting United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston. More information at www.classychassis.org.

June and July, various dates and locations, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston offers Camp Buckeroo, a week-long day camp tailored to children with all types of disabilities.

July 1-6, United Cerebral Palsy offers Camp Smiles, a week-long overnight camp for children with cerebral palsy. For more information on either UCP program, contact Erin Houder, 713-838-9050 x309 or ehauder@ucphouston.org.

Fun Run continued from page 1
to 7:15 AM. Credit cards will be accepted at packet pick-up and registration. No refunds will be made. Each entrant will receive a commemorative T-shirt at packet pick-up.

For more information, check our website www.houstonheights.org/funrun.htm.

Future History

October 7, Bicycle/Skate Rally
November 30 - December 1,
Holiday Home Tour
February 24, 2008, Awards
Dinner

The Heights is published monthly by the Houston Heights Association. Its purpose is to acknowledge achievements and to inform HHA members of events.

Copyright 2007, the Houston Heights Association and/or the authors unless otherwise noted.

Newsletter inquiries, suggestions, or submissions should be directed to:
Editor, *The Heights*, P.O. Box 70735, Houston, TX 77270-0735,
email editor@houstonheights.org,
or leave a message on 713-861-4002.

Editor Mark R. Williamson
Ass't Editor..... Kathleen S. Williamson
June contributors:

Sharie Beale, Janet Buchheit,
Paul Carr, Angela DeWree,
Janice Evans-Davis, Lauriel Hindman,
Jim Potter, Marianne Sulser, Dean Swanson.

HOUSTON HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION
 P.O. BOX 70735
 HOUSTON, TX 77270-0735

Calendar of Events for June 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Heights 1st Sat. Heights Fun Run, see page 1
3	4 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	5 HHA Urban Forestry Group 6:30 PM Fire Station	6	7	8 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	9
10	11 HHA General "Restore It Your- self," 7:00 PM, Fire Station	12 Bike & Skate Rally meeting 6:30 PM Fire Station	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15	16
17 <i>Father's Day</i>	18 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	19	20	21 Restoration meeting 7:30 PM 1312 Cortlandt	22	23
24	25 HHA Education 7:00 PM Fire Station	26	27 PIP meeting 6:30 PM 1602 State Street	28	29	30 <i>continued within</i>

HHA headquarters: The Fire Station is on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets.

HHA web site: <<http://www.houstonheights.org>>