

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association



Volume 33, Number Twelve, December 2007

Holiday Home Tour & Holiday Market

The 2007 Historic Houston Heights Holiday Home Tour & Holiday Market, themed "Christmas Past and Present," is set for Friday, November 30 through Sunday, December 2.

The Home Tour will highlight three beautifully restored turn-of-the-last-century homes and two recently constructed homes reflecting traditional Heights architecture. All five homes will be decked out in their holiday best, and docents will be available to point out the rich history, architecture, and unique holiday decorations of each home.

The Holiday Market at the Heights Fire Station will feature local artists, crafters, and merchants with fine hand-made wares, gift items, Christmas decorations, one-of-a-kind accessories, and house portraits.

Food vendors will offer delicious treats for sale, and street performers will delight and entertain.

Shuttles will be available on Saturday and Sunday to go between the homes and can be boarded from the Fire Station.

The tour homes will be open from 6:00 to 9:00 PM on Friday, from Noon to 6:00 PM on Saturday, and from Noon to 5:00 PM on Sunday. The Holiday Market will be open from 6:00 to 9:00 PM

...continues on page 2



General Meeting

The next General Meeting of the Houston Heights Association will be on Monday, December 10 at 7:00 PM. The theme will be holiday festive. We're expecting to hear preliminary results from the Holiday Home Tour & Holiday Market, thank the homeowners and volunteers who made it possible, and enjoy a little holiday fellowship.

Coming up in January: Diana Foss of the Houston Parks Department is the local expert on the Waugh Bridge Bat Colony, and she will educate us about those misunderstood little mammals. Talk about mythbusters!

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



San Jacinto Stone

Home Tour Market from page 1
Friday, from 10:00 AM to 6:00
PM on Saturday, and from Noon
to 5:00 PM on Sunday.

Advance tickets are \$17.
Tickets purchased on tour
days are \$20 for all five homes
or \$5 for each home. Tickets
can be purchased online at
[www.houstonheights.org/
holidayhometour.htm](http://www.houstonheights.org/holidayhometour.htm) and picked
up at the Fire Station. Advance
tickets are available at these local
businesses: Another Place in
Time, Buchanan's Native Plants,
Eclectic Home, and McCain's
Market. Tickets will be available
for purchase on tour days at the
Fire Station and at the homes.

For more information about
the Historic Houston Heights
Holiday Home Tour and Holiday
Market, go to the web site above
or call the Houston Heights
Association at 713-861-4002 and
select option 7.

Heights Trees Count!

by Angela DeWree, Urban Forestry Chair

This year the Urban Forestry Committee of HHA sponsored three activities to celebrate and educate the Heights about our rare treasure, our Heights Urban Forest.

Most recently, Kelly Simmons, Nicole & John Ridgway, Taylor Moore, and Ellen Newcaster worked with Victor Cordoba and his assistant, Jeremy Burkes, to count Heights trees in the City right-of-way on the north side. It was fun and a worthwhile working walk in our neighborhood with a Target team of employees and countless neighbor volunteers on bike, foot, baby strollers, backpack, and automobile.

On July 29, 30 Boy Scouts from Spring, a family of Girl Scouts from Katy, a Target team of employees, and a wonderful committee of Catherine Burst, Kelly Walker, Nicole Ridgway joined with seven HHA Board Members and neighbor volunteers to successfully count the Trees in the right-of-way west of Yale to Shepherd, 4th to 20th.

In the spring, neighbors gathered at Marmion Park to register champion trees and receive gift plants for a butterfly garden, courtesy of Taylor Moore and Newton Nursery.

Everyone loves trees, for their amazing properties: flood mitigation, reduction of noise and air pollution, habitat for migrating birds and wildlife, and overall health and beauty that makes life in our Houston Heights wonderful.

This year's extraordinary in-kind sponsors include: Yumi Ice Cream, C&D Hardware, Dacapo's, Collina's on 19th, Another Place
...continues on page 6

The Houston Heights Association is proud to have the following Winter
2007-2008 Sponsors:

Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



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PAPER
COMPANY

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

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Newsletter inquiries, suggestions, or submissions should be directed to:
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or leave a message on 713-861-4002.

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Demo Watch

Another ten demolition permits have been issued for properties in Houston Heights. Four of these permits were for properties within the boundaries of the Houston Heights Historic District East. However, these four properties are classified as non-contributing, meaning they are not historic.

Our neighborhood character is the very reason why builders want to build here. It is possible for the old and the new to co-exist as long as the new only replaces non-historic sites and is done in keeping with the historic architectural style. The HHA began tracking demolitions in June of 2005. Since then 288 structures have been bulldozed or relocated out of the neighborhood.

Two Houston Heights historic district applications are moving through the approval process at Houston City Hall. Historic district designation mandates a 90-day waiting period on all demolitions or relocations. It also requires plan review for all new construction. For more information about historic district designation, please visit the Houston Heights Association Web page at www.houstonheights.org. Use the pull down menu under property issues.

Below is the list of the properties for which demolition permits were issued between October 15 and November 14, 2007.

- 931 Alexander
- 407 Arlington
- 1417 Cortlandt
- 333 Heights Blvd.
- 812 Oxford
- 813 Oxford
- 818 Oxford
- 107 W. 13th St.
- 113 W. 13th St.
- 1305 Heights Blvd.

Missing Something?

Members, have you changed your email address recently? If you are no longer receiving electronic announcements from us, you may have forgotten to send us your new address. You can use the form below to do so.

Election Results

The Election Committee announced at the November General Meeting that Paul Carr, Angela DeWree, Mike Easley, Chris Silkwood, and Lanna von Baden were elected to serve three-year terms on the HHA Board of Directors and Bill Baldwin was elected to fill the last two years of a term ended by resignation. Their terms all start on January 1. An organizational meeting of the new Board is being scheduled to elect 2008 officers.

Our thanks to all these returning and new Directors for their willingness to commit to serve the Association and the neighborhood. Our thanks also to Directors David Beale, Angela DeWree, Suzanne LaBarthe, Gerald Melancon, Jonathan Smulian, and Joellen Snow for their service during their terms ending in December.

HHA members: Please pass this membership form along to a friend or neighbor who is not a member. You can also use it to update your email or postal address should either have changed.

Houston Heights Association Membership Application

Please indicate Membership Category on reverse.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

Mail this form with a check made to Houston Heights Association or HHA to:
Houston Heights Association – Membership
P.O. Box 70735
Houston, TX 77270-0735

There are many opportunities for volunteer service. Please indicate your interests on the reverse of this form.

Save The Date: February 24, 2008 HHA Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Dinner

Please mark your calendars now for the upcoming HHA Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Dinner to be held on Sunday, February 24, 2008, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, at the Heights Fire Station. Please stay tuned to the Newsletter and HHA website for more information, or you may reserve your seat or table now by visiting www.houstonheights.org and selecting "Events" and "HHA Awards Dinner" or calling 713-861-4002. Seating is limited.

Future History

February 24, 2008, Awards Dinner
April 4-6, Spring Home Tour
June 7, Fun Run
October 5, Bicycle Rally
December 5-7, Holiday Home Tour

Community Improvement Award Nominations

In appreciation and support of architectural improvements and achievements in our neighborhood, the Houston Heights Association will once again present several of our neighbors with awards for their efforts.

Please help us to select and honor those deserving property owners for their hard work and vision by nominating them for one of these prestigious awards. The nominees and winners will be announced at the Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Dinner on February 24, 2008, and subsequently in the HHA Newsletter.

A copy of the nominations form and instruction sheet is included in the print edition of this issue. It is also available on the HHA web site at <http://www.houstonheights.org/pdf/07CIAform.pdf>.

Donations

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

Paul & Stephanie Babb
– Parks, Boulevard, and Flower Gardens
Mary Case – Graffiti Abatement
Clementina Lopez – Parks, Boulevard, and Flower Gardens
Irene Sasaki & Tim Richey – Boulevard
Catherine Wiejaczka – Boulevard

New Members

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

Curves, Talitha Taylor
Ashley & Jeff Day
Sarah Gabbart
Tom & Lisa Gladney
Kyle Lawrence
Molina's Cantina,
Ricardo Molina
Hilary Schultz
Selby Stevens
Kelly & Cody Wallace

Houston Heights Association Membership Application

Membership Categories

- _ Individual (\$20)
- _ Household (\$25)
- _ Nonprofit/Church (\$50)
- _ Small Business (\$65)
- _ Standard Business (\$150)

- _ New membership
- _ Change of name or address
- _ Change of email address

Volunteer Opportunities

- #### Events
- _ Spring Home Tour
 - _ Heights Fun Run
 - _ Heights Bike Rally
 - _ Holiday Home Tour

Committees

- _ Boulevard Beautification & Flower Gardens
- _ Business Community
- _ Crime & Security
- _ Education
- _ Friends of the Parks
- _ Historical Preservation
- _ Land Use
- _ Membership
- _ Newsletter

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	January 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> HHA Urban Forestry Group 6:30 PM, F.S.	2	3	4	5 Heights 1st Sat
6	7 - <i>recycling</i> HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	8	9	10	11 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	12
13	14 HHA General "Bats" 7:00 PM Fire Station	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <i>ML King Day</i> HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	22 - <i>recycling</i>	23 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	24	25	26
27	28 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	29	30	31		

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

Every Wednesday and Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Historic Houston's salvage warehouse is open. Call 713-522-0542 or visit their web site www.historichouston.org.

December 1, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Heights Presbyterian at 240 West 18th Street presents Cookies and Wassail with Santa.

December 1 - 16, UpStage Theatre Young Audience Series presents Santa's Magic Timepiece, an annual Christmas favorite. Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 2:00 PM, Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. Visit www.upstagetheatre.org or call 713-838-7191.

December 3, 1:00-5:30 PM, Incarnate Word Academy at 609 Crawford hosts a blood drive for the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Please email ebradford@incarnateword.org for more information or to set up an appointment to donate blood.

December 8, Woodland Heights Civic Association presents Lights In The Heights, see www.woodland-heights.org/Events/LITH2007.

December 9, 3:00-5:00 PM, Houston Heights Woman's Club presents their first Victorian Christmas Tea, see right column.

December 15 at 7:00 PM and December 16 at 11:00 AM, St. Mark's United Methodist Church at 600 Pecore presents its traditional Christmas Pageant. To join or for information, call 713-861-3104, email c3_courtney@yahoo.com, or visit www.smumc.org.

Heights Women Invited To Tea

Ladies are cordially invited to the Houston Heights Woman's Club at 1846 Harvard St. for their first annual Victorian Christmas Tea to be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Come and see the newly renovated club house and enjoy the Christmas Tree decorated with hand crafted ornaments made by the members under the supervision of Melvalene Cohen.

Tickets are \$15.00 for Woman's Club members and \$20.00 for guests. Members who are interested in helping with this event, please call Chairperson Amydell Beardshall at 713-869-4065.

Heights Trees Count from page 2

& Time, Buchanan's, Inside Outside, Kelly Simmons, Catherine Burst, Park People, Design & Inspiration, Kroger, and fabulous Target including teams of employee volunteers. A very special thanks goes to Taylor Moore of Newton Nursery for gift plants, glasses, and trees; Huy Nguyen, manager of Starbuck's at Nicholson & 610, for a constant flow of coffee at each and every Urban Forestry event; and Catherine Burst of Treescape for her hard work & Tall Tree books.

In 2008, we look forward to planting trees; three activities are in the planning. Special acknowledgments to Heights neighbors who "Live in Tandem with Trees"; it can be a new construction, historic renovations, or a great garden.

Remember HEIGHTS TREES COUNT! The Urban Forestry Committee meets the first Tuesday at 6:30 PM at the Fire Station.

Scout For The 2008 Holiday Tour

Do you see any spectacular holiday decorations in the neighborhood? If so, suggest they volunteer for next year's Heights Holiday Home Tour! You'll be paying your friend, neighbor, or relative a great compliment and also enabling them to scoop up more wonderful decorations while the sales are still going on! If want to suggest a home for 2008, contact Trudy Nelson, 713-802-0773.

Heights Holiday Caroling Hayride

Several years ago, the Houston Heights Association sponsored a hay wagon for members to ride on. If there is enough interest, the hay wagon is going to be made available again.

The wagon will accommodate 20 to 24 adults and children. It will only be available on the nights of December 7, 8, 14, and 15. The caroling hayrides will only travel through the Heights area. If you have a group that would be interested in riding on the wagon, or you are having a holiday party and would be interested in being caroled, call 713-869-0505 or e-mail TortureT@aol.com.

Calendar of Events for December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					November 30 Holiday Home Tour & Market, see page 1.	1 Heights 1st Sat. Holiday Home Tour & Market, see page 1.
2 Holiday Home Tour & Market, see page 1.	3 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	4 HHA Urban Forestry Group 6:30 PM Fire Station	5 <i>first full day of Hanukkah (starts at sun- down Tuesday)</i>	6	7 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	8 Light in the Heights — Woodland Heights
9	10 - <i>recycling</i> HHA General "Festive" 7:00 PM Fire Station	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	18	19	20 <i>first full day of Eid al-Adha (starts at sun- down Wed.)</i>	21	22
23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> HHA Education 7:00 PM Fire Station	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 - <i>recycling</i> <i>Kwanzaa starts</i> PIP meeting 6:30 PM 1602 State Street	27	28	29 <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>>