

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association



Volume 35, Number Nine, September 2009

Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt Fun With or Without Bicycles

This year's Bicycle Rally and Scavenger Hunt, scheduled for October 4, will start and end at Marmion Park. Even non-riders can enjoy the picnic and live music party that will celebrate the end of the rally.

Rally participants will bicycle a 20-mile course through the Heights, Northside, Eastend, Harrisburg, Downtown, 6th Ward, and Norhill. The route is on City of Houston bike trails. Each entrant will be issued a rally card, a rally map, and a scavenger hunt clue list. Participants may start anytime after 7:30 AM. This is not a race! Riders under 12 years of age must wear helmets.

To be eligible for prizes, riders must return their validated rally cards to the registration table before 4:00 PM. Rally cards are validated when riders pass the midway checkpoint/water station.

The scavenger hunt clue list will describe mystery sights and objects that can be seen from the rally route. Prizes will be awarded to the person that finds the most mystery items.

Awards and prizes will be made at the end-of-rally party starting at about 4:30 PM. There will be free popcorn, water, and soft drinks with the live music.

Registration for the event is \$15.00 for adults, \$7.50 for children (under 12 years old) that register before October 1. After that date, the fee is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

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General Meeting: Bicycling Weekend

The program for the September 14 General Meeting will be about the bicycling activities of "Heights Bicycling Weekend" on October 3 and 4.

Cheryl Hensley, City Social Planner, will discuss festivities planned to celebrate the opening of the Heights Bicycle Trail on Saturday, Oct. 3. Fred Zapalac, of Blue Line Bike Lab on White Oak, will discuss the Celebratory Party for bicyclists he is putting on Saturday evening, Oct. 3. Rally Chairman Paul Carr will discuss the Heights Bicycle Rally that will start and end at Marmion Park on Oct. 4. Heights Bicycle Weekend will end with the end-of-rally party in Marmion at 4:00 PM Sunday. The Heights Bicycle Rally will be the first event to utilize the new trail.

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following 2009 Platinum Sponsors:



Announcing Opening of Council Member Ed Gonzalez's District H Satellite Office

Houston City Council Member Ed Gonzalez wants to get to know his constituents better. He is pleased to announce that he has opened a satellite office in the Historic Houston Heights Fire Station on the first level at the southeast corner. The first meeting with Council Member Gonzalez was held from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on August 10, prior to the Houston Heights Association General Meeting.

You will now be able to come by and meet with the Council Member. Bring him your ideas and concerns about your neighborhoods that make up District H. The office will be open the 2nd Monday of the month from 5:00 to 7:00 PM before the HHA general meetings and fourth Mondays from 8:00 AM to Noon.

Knowing your Councilmember is a real plus for all community organizations and residents who experience problems with services within their communities. Laura Thorp, Councilmember Gonzalez's Community Liaison, will staff this office when open, but the Council Member also plans to be available from 9:00 to 11:00 AM on the fourth-Monday openings and 5:00 to 7:00 PM during the evening hours prior to the HHA General Meetings. Depending on the popularity of this project, hours could be extended.

District H Town Hall Meetings

Council Member Ed Gonzalez will host a District H Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10, at Reagan High School from 6:00 to 8:00 PM to which you, your family, and friends are all invited!

The goal of these forums is to discuss various issues that are directly affecting residents of the district and to have an open discussion with the council member. Please feel free to invite other family, friends, and neighbors to this event. Your participation is critical; together we can work towards improving the quality of life for all of District H. For more information please contact Jason Cisneroz at 832-393-3003 or at jason.cisneroz@cityofhouston.net.

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Autumn 2009 Bronze Sponsors:

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"IN THE HEIGHTS"
harolds

Bicycle Rally from page 1

To register on-line, visit www.SignMeUpSports.com. To register by mail, make checks payable to Houston Heights Association and send to Houston Heights Association, PO Box 70735, Houston, Texas 77270-0735. Riders may also register on the day of the event with cash, check, or credit card.

There were 210 riders in last year's rally. All proceeds from the event go to the Heights Boulevard Beautification fund.

For information, go to www.houstonheights.org/bicycle.htm or call rally chairman Paul Carr at 713-869-0505, e-mail torturet@aol.com.

The Heights is published monthly by the Houston Heights Association, Inc. 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: Editor, *The Heights*, P.O. Box 70735, Houston, TX 77270-0735, email editor@houstonheights.org, or leave a message on 713-861-4002.

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Spotlight on Heights Business Member: Cover Your Windows

We continue with the newsletter feature "Spotlight on Heights Business Member," this month spotlighting Cover Your Windows. You may have noticed that recent newsletter issues have been focusing on a local business. These businesses are drawn from business cards collected at the Houston Heights Association Business Mixer. Stay tuned for the next quarterly mixer in October.

Sandra Crook owns Cover Your Windows. Sandra is a native of Houston and grew up in the southwest part of town. She attended Texas A&M University, married, and moved back to Houston. Sandra had her first career in the banking industry, then took advantage of an opportunity to open her own concierge service prior to landing in her current business four years ago. Her favorite part of what she does is getting to see inside some "really cool houses." She loves learning the history of the Heights houses.

Sandra moved to the Heights area ten years ago and loves living here. She serves the Houston area and feels lucky to have more than half of her customers right here in the Heights. 2006 Spring Home Tour Chair and friend Kathy Russell recruited Sandra to volunteer for the Spring Home Tour committee. Sandra joined the Heights Association as a business member in 2003.

Sandra does both residential and commercial projects. You may have toured the most recent spring tour home of Lamar Matthews and David Douglas and seen Sandra's work in the new master addition or the Broman home two years ago featuring woven woods from Sandra in the dining room. The Joy Yoga studio on Washington Avenue features solar roller shades from Cover Your Windows to block out the heat.

Sandra's most popular window coverings are plantation shutters, Hunter Douglas Duettes, and shades that will reduce power bills by 30%. One of the "cooler" products available is a remote-controlled shade operated by programming the customer's existing TV remote. Sandra saves her customers a trip to the big box stores by meeting with the client in their home.

Away from Cover Your Windows, Sandra and her husband Bryan enjoy traveling, entertaining in their home and gardening. She is an 18-year member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and currently has a three-year volunteer commitment as the Chairman of the Trailblazer Committee. This committee markets the rodeo and honors the ladies who volunteer for the rodeo. Sandra will be especially busy in February chairing their Trailblazer Luncheon and Fashion Show, and she also chairs the "Ladies' Night Out" event during the show.

Next time you need window coverings, please support Heights business member Cover Your Windows for your residential and commercial needs. If you are a business member, remember to check the calendar for the next Houston Heights Association Business Mixer and come and meet Sandra and other business members at the meeting.



Holiday Home Tour - A Sneak Preview of This Year's Lucky Seven Homes

by Chair Katrina Price Stilwell and Co-Chair Amy Brooks

Nothing says "home" quite like the wonderful work of iconic artist Norman Rockwell, who brought to life images of families happily celebrating the holidays in a way that was simple, charming, and full of warmth. This year's "Home for the Holidays" theme strives to capture those very same images through the mix of old, new, and restored homes that will be on display for all to enjoy. From the unassuming façade of an 1898 bungalow that stuns from the front door in to the surprisingly serene setting of Fort Robert, a new home built with authentic Spanish hacienda styling, there is something here for everyone.

The Heights promises to showcase the seven (you heard that right, *seven!*) homes in quintessential Heights style. We've been pleased and amazed at the number of volunteers who have continued to support their neighborhood (*hint, hint*) by sending a simple e-mail to holidaytour@houstonheights.org to be added to the volunteer database. As home tour flow plans are arranged, trolley/shuttle routes planned, and decorating needs assessed, we are looking to you to make this year's tour one of the best ever.

Who are you helpful volunteers-to-be?

- You are currently cleaning out the attic or that storage unit you finally realized you have no need for and have extra holiday decorations. Donate them to the Holiday Home Tour!
- You are capable of standing or sitting for three short hours in one entire year to welcome neighbors and wannabe neighbors into someone else's home. You might even recount a short list of facts (though I've seen others make these up) about the house or the room you're in. We call you "docents."
- You know florists or Boy Scout troops who sell or arrange holiday greenery who are feeling very generous to the Heights. [Or maybe *you* are feeling generous and want to *underwrite* those arrangements for these amazing homes. Note: between two and three *thousand* tour-goers visited each home on the tour last year. Think of the advertising possibilities...]

Well, we've got more cheer to spread, so we should be running along now...

Oh! You want the *list!* The envelope, please...

- The Pumpkin House owned by Bill & Amydell Beardshall at 1648 Harvard
- The Longstreth Maloney Home owned by Paul Longstreth & Marilyn Maloney at 537 Cortlandt
- The Booth Home owned by Daniel & Kelly Booth at 1132 Rutland
- The Watkins Home owned by Roger & Catherine Watkins at 816 Arlington
- The Sanchez Bungalow owned by Eddie and Elizabeth Sanchez at 832 Allston
- Fort Robert owned by Robert Coreale at 713 Waverly
- The Otto House owned by Mark & Linda Gonzales at 835 Rutland

Simple, charming and full of warmth, that's the Heights! Help us prove it by telling all of your friends to mark their calendars now for December 4, 6:00 to 9:00 PM and December 5, 3:00 to 9:00 PM. See you there!

Education Committee

Welcome back to school from the Houston Heights Association Education Committee!

All Heights area educators, please don't forget to get your Grant Application Package online (www.houstonheights.org/education.htm). Grants can be for team or individual projects in any school in the Historic Houston Heights area for \$1000 or \$750 respectively.

Upcoming Education Committee meetings and events:

August 31 – Planning Meeting and Welcome New Members 6:30 pm 1545 Heights Blvd.

Sept 1 – HHA Grant Application Package available online at houstonheights.org/education.htm

September 21 – Principal Welcome – 6:30 Venue to be Announced

October 26 – Exchange Student and Teachers reception – 6:30 PM

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Director Election Schedule

Five of the fifteen positions on the HHA Board of Directors will be filled by election over the next few months. These five positions are opening due to normal expiration of terms; members elected to these five positions will have three-year terms. The five nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes will fill the three-year terms.

The schedule for the election of Directors to serve terms starting in 2010 will be as follows, in accordance with the By-Laws and Policies of the Association:

- September 14, Nominations for Board of Directors will be held at the General Meeting. Nominators and nominees must be current members of the Association. Nominators may speak for two minutes, seconders for one. Please be sure before you nominate someone that your nominee is willing to commit to serve. Nominees will not be allowed to speak on their own behalf during the September meeting.
- By September 16, the Election Committee will distribute to nominees election packets containing bylaws, policies, articles of incorporation, committee responsibility list, detailed election schedule, and a statement confirming that the nominee has read the bylaws and policies and agrees to serve in accordance with them if elected.
- By September 19, signed statements from nominees are due, as well as a 50-word statement from each nominee for publication in the October newsletter.
- October 12, nominees or their representatives may speak on their qualifications at the General Meeting for 3 minutes. They will also draw for ballot positions.
- On or before October 15, the Election Committee will mail a ballot with a control number to each member whose dues are current as of October 1.
- By November 7 at the close of the post office, ballots returned by mail must be received with control numbers intact.
- November 9, polls will be open for secret balloting in person from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM before the General Meeting. The Election Committee will tabulate ballots and announce the results during the meeting. The results will also be published in the December newsletter.

Education Committee from page 4

November 20 – Holiday Writing Contest Entries Due – Enter to Win \$100

November 23 – General Committee Meeting

November 30 – Grant Applications Due

December – No Meeting – Happy Holidays

April 9-11 – Heights All Area Youth Spring Art Show

Restoration Meeting

The next Houston Heights Association Restoration/ Historical Committee meeting will be held at 1626 Cortlandt St. on Thursday, October 15 from 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

October is the month for Halloween with all its stories and legends of ghastly things. Here in the Houston Heights there have been a number of stories, some of which have been true, which took place in historic homes. For October, we will visit a home that has been gently renovated with additions and enhancements contributing to the homey, eclectic style we all enjoy. And truly, a “deed was done within.”

Watch for more details in the October newsletter.

Sidewalk Repairs

The City Department of Public Works and Engineering is improving sidewalks in the areas described below. The contractor for this project is Metro City Construction LP. Work is scheduled to end on January 31, 2010. You may not see any activity by the contractor for several weeks, due to the contractor getting prepared to perform work, which includes procurement of materials and equipment, setting up staging areas, or working in other areas in the project.

Streets involved in construction include Heights from 14th to 15th, E. 13th from Cortlandt to Beverly, W. 13th from Dorothy to Herkimer, and N. Shepherd from 12th to 13th.

Bulldogs Ready to Prove Themselves on Gridiron

On Saturday, August 15, the Reagan Bulldogs started their 2009 football season with a scrimmage against Furr HS on the Reagan athletic field. Bulldog supporters and the Heights community were among the spectators cheering on both varsity and junior varsity (JV) teams as they worked out their plays in preparation for their season openers.

Kickoff for the 2009 varsity season will take place at 6:00 PM on Saturday, August 29 when the Bulldogs take on Milby HS at Barnett Stadium. The JV season begins two days earlier on Thursday, August 27 with a 4:30 PM game against Milby on Reagan's field.

"In addition to the scrimmages, we have four JV home games scheduled on our field this season," notes Head Coach Stephen Dixon. "We encourage the community to come watch 'home town' football and join other Bulldog fans in Reagan's Dawg Pound!"

Reagan's athletic field is accessible from both 13th and 14th Streets. There is no entrance fee to attend JV games; additional parking is available in the 13th Street lot. Advance tickets for HISD varsity games may be purchased in the Main Office for a \$2 discount (\$2 students/\$4 adults). For more information about Reagan's football season, please visit www.jhreagan.org.

REAGAN BULLDOGS - 2009 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

Junior Varsity Team

Thursday, 8/27	Milby v. Reagan @ Reagan (C)	4:30 PM
Thursday, 9/3	Scarborough v. Reagan @ Reagan (C)	4:30 PM
Thursday, 9/17	Reagan v. Jones @ Jones	4:30 PM
Thursday, 9/24	Reagan v. Stafford @ Stafford	4:30 PM
Thursday, 10/1	Waltrip v. Reagan @ Reagan (C)	4:30 PM
Thursday, 10/8	Reagan v. Westbury @ Westbury	4:30 PM
Friday, 10/16	Reagan v. Davis @ Davis	4:30 PM
Thursday, 10/22	Reagan v. Austin @ Austin	4:30 PM
Friday, 10/30	Yates v. Reagan @ Reagan (C)	4:30 PM
Thursday, 11/5	Reagan v. Sharpstown @ Sharpstown	4:30 PM

Varsity Team

Saturday, 8/29	Milby v. Reagan @ Barnett	6:00 PM
Friday, 9/4	Scarborough v. Reagan @ Dyer	7:30 PM
Friday, 9/18	Reagan v. Jones @ Dyer	7:30 PM
Saturday, 9/26	Reagan v. Stafford @ Delmar	6:00 PM
Saturday, 10/3	Waltrip v. Reagan @ Delmar	1:00 PM
Friday, 10/9	Reagan v. Westbury @ Dyer (SR)	7:30 PM
Saturday, 10/17	Reagan v. Davis @ Delmar (FS)	1:00 PM
Friday, 10/23	Reagan v. Austin @ Dyer (A/H)	7:30 PM
Thursday, 10/29	Yates v. Reagan @ Barnett	7:00 PM
Friday, 11/6	Reagan v. Sharpstown @ Dyer (P)	7:30 PM

Home team is listed in **boldface**.

C = Heights Community Event P = Parent night

FS = Feeder Schools Game SR = Senior Recognition Game

A/H = Alumni Recognition & Homecoming Game

Donations

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

- Leith Anderson – Boulevard Beautification
- ExxonMobil Foundation on behalf of volunteer Donna Bennett
- Pete Gauthier – Flower Gardens
- Andrew Groves – Flower Gardens, Parks, Boulevard
- Edward & Janet Hess – Boulevard Beautification
- Trudy Nelson – Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens
- Catherine Wiejaczka – Boulevard Beautification

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 HHA Bicycle Rally, see page 1	5 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	6 National Night Out, 6:00-8:00, Milroy Park, Yale at 12th St.	7	8 - <i>garbage</i>	9 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	10
11	12 - <i>recycling</i> HHA General Topic TBA 7:00 PM Fire Station	13	14	15 - <i>garbage</i> Restoration/ Historical 7:30-9:30 PM 1626 Cortlandt	16	17
18	19 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	20	21 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	22 - <i>garbage</i>	23	24
25	26 - <i>recycling</i> HHA Education 6:30 PM 1545 Heights	27 HHA Crime & Security 6:30 PM Fire Station	29 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	30 - <i>garbage</i>	31 <i>Hallowe'en</i>	

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

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

Every Monday, 7:30 to 10:00 PM, Houston International Folk Dancers introductory lessons at Oddfellows Hall, 115 E. 14th.

New Members

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

Leith Anderson
Amy & John Brooks
Neal Brooks
Terri Brown & Nan McTeer
Josh & Jennifer Dearmore
Carter & John Dugan
Dana DuTerroil
Bill Green & Brett Bohnn
Finish Strong Sports,
Raymond Cooper
Gregg & Betsy Goldstein
Elisa & Mike Goodwin
Michael V. Grover,
Attorney at Law
GSV Interests - White Oak,
Geoff Vaughan

Cheryl & Kyle Hensley
Integrity Bank
Jones Road Tree Service,
LLC, David Mauk
Kelly Kindred
Kim & Steven Koepke
Joy Lewallen
Bobby & Sandra Lloyd
Jason & Tanya Miller
Joel & Teresa Montgomery
Patricia O'Brien
Elizabeth Radack
Neil Rahimi
Ranelle Randles
Christopher Rawson
Richard Reaves

Future History

December 4-5, Holiday Home Tour

February 28, 2010, Awards Dinner

April 9-11, Spring Home Tour

June 5, Heights Fun Run

October 3, Bicycle Rally

National Night Out

The Houston Heights Association in conjunction with the Milroy Park Advisory Council and the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department invite you to participate in National Night Out activities on Tuesday, October 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Milroy Park. Milroy Park is located at 1205 Yale, on the northwest corner of 12th and Yale Streets, across Yale from the Fire Station. Turn on your porch lights and come meet your fellow Heightsites in Milroy Park.

National Night Out is designed to: (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Celebrated across the country on the first Tuesday evening in August, the observation of National Night Out in Texas was moved to October last year to avoid our August heat.

We also encourage all area residents to plan and attend local block parties with their neighbors. See <http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/> for information about planning local parties. Then join us in Milroy Park before or after your local party.

The Milroy Park celebration is being planned by members of the HHA Crime & Security Committee and the MPAC. If you want to help in the planning or execution, please contact Acting Chair Mark Williamson at editor@houstonheights.org, and plan to join us at the next C & S meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 PM at the Fire Station.

Calendar of Events for September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 30	31 - <i>recycling</i> HHA Education 7:00 PM 1545 Heights	1	2	3 - <i>garbage</i>	4	5 Heights 1st Sat.
6	7 <i>Labor Day</i> HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	8 HHA Bike Rally Committee 7:00 PM Fire Station	9 <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	10 - <i>garbage</i>	11	12
13	14 - <i>recycling</i> HHA General "Bicycling" 7:00 PM Fire Station	15	16 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	17 - <i>garbage</i>	18	19 <i>HHA Board candidates' signed and 50- word statements are due; see p. 5.</i>
20	21 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station; HHA Education 6:30 PM, TBA	22 HHA Crime & Security 6:30 PM Fire Station	23 PIP meeting 6:30 PM 1602 State Street	24 - <i>garbage</i>	25	26
27	28 - <i>recycling</i>	29	30	October 1 - <i>garbage</i>	2	3 1st Saturday; Urban Forestry Day; Bike Trail Opening <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>>