

# T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association

40th Anniversary 1973-2013



Volume 39, Number Two, February 2013

## Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Dinner

The 39th annual HHA Volunteer Appreciation and Community Improvement Awards Dinner will start things off this year with a 'BYOB Mix-N-Mingle Hour,' beginning at 5:00 PM on Sunday, February 24, at the Heights Fire Station, 107 W. 12th Street at Yale.

The theme is Greet, Play, Live In The Heights, which represents our cherished volunteers and the community improvements made in recent years.

**greet play live**  
IN THE HEIGHTS  
[www.houstonheights.org](http://www.houstonheights.org)

Dinner will be served by Zelko Bistro at 6:00 PM. The evening will continue with the recognition of volunteers, including the prestigious awards for 2012 Citizen of the Year, Corporate Citizen of the Year, and the Marcella Perry Award, among a few other surprises. Results will also be announced for the 2012 Community Improvement Awards, consisting of Residential Renovation, Commercial Renovation, Residential New Construction, and Commercial New Construction. We expect to be done around 8:00 PM.

Due to TABC rules, the HHA will be unable to provide alcoholic beverages for this event at this location (though plenty of non-alcoholic beverages will be available), but we invite everyone to "BYOB" for yourself and your guests.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.houstonheights.org](http://www.houstonheights.org) at \$25 per person, \$200 for a reserved table of 8. Seating is limited, and reservations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, February 24! If you have further questions, e-mail [info@houstonheights.org](mailto:info@houstonheights.org).

## General Meeting "Show the Love"

The Houston Heights Association loves its members and our neighborhood! We will "Show the Love" at the February 11 General Meeting at the Houston Heights City Hall & Fire Station, 107 W. 12th Street (at Yale). The meeting begins at 7:00 PM; doors open at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. Plus, you might be the winner of a lovely door prize!

Learn more about HHA President Dave Steitz's plans for 2013. Tour the Fire Station and learn about the loving renovations completed in 2012 and the 2013 renovation plans. Visit with Committee Chairs who will share their love and enthusiasm about their projects in our neighborhood and maybe find something that you'd

*...continues on page 2*

*The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of our 2012-2013 Platinum Sponsor:*



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Lots of information about the Spring Home & Garden Tour, the Candlelight Dinner, and the Silent & Live Auctions, pages 4-5.

The Land Use Committee is monitoring two projects in our area; their report is on page 6.

Can you be a Block Buddy for HHA? See page 6.

Reminder: Our postal address has changed. See page 7.

Recent donations and new members, page 7.

Neva Dupuis memorial tree planting & dedication, page 8.

March 11 General Meeting: "Vision Forecast," page 8.

We can now offer our members the option to forgo their paper newsletters. Please see Newsletter Preferences on page 8.

Business Directory – insert

*The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Winter 2012-2013 Sponsors:*

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## General Meeting from page 1

love to get involved in. Plus, we will introduce some new neighborhood programs that you are sure to love. We look forward to seeing you on February 11 and sharing the love of our neighborhood.

## Constable Statistics

	Nov	Dec
Total Arrests	20	14
Citizen Assists	1	0
Citizen Contacts	33	23
Vacation Watches	107	71
Court Citations	32	22
Alarm Responses	8	8
Suspicious Vehicles	63	32
Park Checks	116	86
Disturbances	5	2
Major Accidents	1	4
Criminal Offenses	6	7
Miles patrolled	2,578	2,266

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## HHA Board Goals for 2013

by Dave Steitz, HHA President

In my January letter, I promised to share some of our Board's goals and priorities for the year. So here they are.

**Membership** – While our membership is strong and stable, we recognize that it could be much larger and more inclusive. We are committed to reaching out to those non-member residents and businesses, communicating the value of membership, and learning what we can change or create to give greater value.

**Participation** – Our volunteers are active, energetic, and reliable, yet we realize that by increasing our volunteer base, we not only lessen the load on others, we also build a more inclusive community where diverse ideas and values are honored.

**Fire Station** – Remodeling the first floor and replacing electrical and HVAC systems have done wonders for our treasured neighborhood “clubhouse.” This year we will be renovating the second floor with the same attention to detail and historic significance, all within a pre-approved budget.

**Land Use** – Our parks (Marmion and Donovan) and the Heights Boulevard esplanade are the crown jewels of the Heights. We will continue to maintain and improve them for our families and guests. Additionally, we will keep a close eye on development issues in our neighborhood, reporting their impact, progress and, when appropriate, voicing the opinions of our members.

**Events** – We are committed to continually improving our events (Home Tours, Bike Rally, Fun Run, and Community Improvement/Volunteer Appreciation Dinner) and keeping them as the standard to which other neighborhoods aspire. We are also looking to add several special community and family events during the year.

**Communications and Technology** – In this age of “information overload,” we recognize how essential it is to stay current with technology and new communications channels. We will be updating our Web presence, on-line commerce, member database, and messaging systems to meet the needs of our members.

**Financial** – While we are fortunate to have a robust financial foundation, we are committed to operating within our approved budget and stewarding our resources responsibly. It never hurts to be financially stronger to weather any storms.

It's going to be a busy year!



## 2013 Officers

President, Dave Steitz

President-Elect, Matt

Bedingfield

Secretary, Stacey Courville

Treasurer, Matt Bedingfield

VP Communications & VP

Community Relations,

Lindsey Lee

VP Community Affairs, Bill

Pellerin

VP Finance & Operations,

Bill Baldwin

Co-VPs Fundraising

& Special Events,

Chris Silkwood &

Kelly Simmons

## HHA Spring Home & Garden Tour

Then & Now, April 6 and 7, 2013

“Then & Now” is the theme of the 2013 Houston Heights Association Spring Home & Garden Tour. The tour features six spectacular homes that fall into that Then & Now category:

Deb Parks & Mark Bouzek Home, 1617 Columbia  
Gayle & Mike Klaybor Home, 1615 Cortlandt  
Marylou Erbland & Robert Woods Home, 709 E. 19th  
Karen & Bob Derr Home, 2310 Rutland  
Noelle & Eric Reed Home, 1532 Tulane  
Katrina Stilwell & Jonathan Elton Home, 235 W. 18th

Save the dates on your calendar: Saturday and Sunday, April 6 and 7, 2013, Noon to 6:00 PM. Advance tickets are \$20 and will be available online at [www.houstonheights.org/springhometour.htm](http://www.houstonheights.org/springhometour.htm) and at various Houston Heights locations in March. Days-of-tour tickets are \$25 and will be available at the Houston Heights Fire Station (12th and Yale) and at each home on the tour. Full-tour tickets include the service of luxury shuttle buses that can be boarded at the Houston Heights Fire Station. Individual homes may be toured for \$5 per home.

Accommodations will be made for tour-goers who choose to ride their bicycles from house to house. Bicycle riders can purchase day-of-tour tickets at a \$5.00 discount. Bicycle racks will be available at each home, and a “bicycle valet” will be on hand to assist with parking and securing bikes while the home is being toured.

## Earn A Ticket To The Home Tour

Want a complimentary ticket to the Home Tour? It can be yours for volunteering three hours of your day to docent in one of the homes featured on the 2013 Spring Home & Garden Tour. Give Janet Buchheit a call at 713-207-1894 or email her at [janet.buchheit@CenterPointEnergy.com](mailto:janet.buchheit@CenterPointEnergy.com) for more information.

## Auction Keepsake Program Ads

**A Unique Advertising Opportunity For Heights Business Owners!**

Support the 'hood and promote your business by running an ad in the Candlelight Dinner & Auction Program for the Friday night fundraising event to be held on April 5.

This popular event is attended by approximately 500 mostly Heights-ites who live, shop, and play in this neighborhood – your demographic. Guests to the event are reminded to support the businesses that place ads in the program and donate auction and other items to the event.

It is easy and convenient to buy an ad in the 2013 Candlelight Dinner & Auction Program. Ad prices start at just \$100, and business members receive a 20% discount! Follow this link to the HHA website (<http://www.houstonheights.org/galaprogramads.htm>) for all of the details. You may pay for your ad with a credit card online or by mailing a check to the HHA. The deadline for submissions is March 22, so please don't delay and miss this unique opportunity.

You may contact Addie Spicer at [aaspicer@hotmail.com](mailto:aaspicer@hotmail.com) or Becky Standridge at [becky@oxford-media.com](mailto:becky@oxford-media.com) for more information.

# Candlelight Dinner & Auction

## The Venue

Always on the prowl for a unique locale for this fun event, the team was narrowly able to snag the recently-sold space at 1407 Studewood (formerly Fiesta Mart) before the property is repurposed.

## The Chairs

Candlelight Dinner Chairs Anne Culotta, Chris Silkwood, and Kelly Simmons are working hard to make this evening one to remember. Assisting them are talented venue designers Kristal Kirksey of Jubilee and Ellen Newcaster; you may be assured that there are some delightful surprises in store for you. Silent Auction Chairs Stacey Courville, Joan Kerr, Carol Welter, and Bess Yearly have been working for months along with their amazing team of dedicated committee members to bring you the always-popular silent auction. Executive Chairs Janet Buchheit, and Kit Davis have pulled together some beautiful homes and recruited an incredible home tour team.

## The Event

Your Candlelight Dinner ticket entitles you to an exclusive preview of the tour homes from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday, April 5 (before they are opened to the public that weekend). The Candlelight Dinner & Auction opens its doors at 6:30 PM, when you will be treated to hors d'oeuvres, fine wine, local beer, a specialty cocktail, and more fun surprises.

This year's silent auction will consist of hundreds of items including fine art, folk and outsider art, custom-designed jewelry, home décor, vintage collectibles and antiques, sports tickets and memorabilia, spa packages, getaways, restaurant and bar packages, special neighborhood parties and events – creatively invented just for us – and much more. Our silent auction has always featured a fun specialty section, and this year, Chairs Katy Bomar and Julie Pettit will offer photographic works from some of Houston's most renowned photographers.

A delectable feast will be served at 8:00 PM by Massoud's Catering, and a fast-moving live auction, brought to you by Live Auction Chairs Chris Silkwood and Kelly Simmons, will get underway during dessert, when five pieces of prominent art will be sold to the highest bidders – always lively, competitive, and fun. We want to thank all of the artists, businesses, vendors, and individuals who generously donate to this event, and the dozens of volunteers who make sure it goes off without a hitch.

## The Price

Individual tickets will be \$150 (open seating) and \$1,500 for a reserved table for ten. Tickets will go on sale around March 4 and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, up to 500 guests. This event sells out, so mark your calendar to purchase your tickets early!

## Silent Auction Call For Items And Volunteers

Plans are in high gear for an exciting Candlelight Dinner Silent Auction, and we would love your help!

Please help by donating a special item or a gift certificate. In addition to your kind generosity and helping hand, you will receive acknowledgment in the event's gala program (taken home by approximately 500 distinguished guests), on the bid sheets accompanying your donation, and in the wrap-up newsletter article. We also encourage our volunteers and Dinner guests to support the businesses and artists who contribute to this event.

We also are looking for volunteers to be a part of the Silent Auction Committee, which helps solicit and collect donations and helps organize, set up and design the silent auction on the day of the event. In addition to helping the neighborhood and meeting new friends, each Auction Committee volunteer receives a complimentary ticket to the Spring Home Tour.

If you can help by making a donation or by volunteering, please email [auction@houstonheights.org](mailto:auction@houstonheights.org). Thank you in advance for your help!

## Land Use Committee Report

by Bill Pellerin, Land Use Chair

Houston Heights is becoming even more popular as a home for Houston citizens. The area is also becoming popular with developers.

There are at least two active projects that are being monitored by the Land Use Committee. One of these is the Emes Subdivision project planned for a small parcel of land south of White Oak and east of East 5th Street. The developer is working on plans for that property and will submit those plans to the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department for consideration. When those plans are submitted, the LUC will ask to review those plans.

The second, and newer, development is at the northwest corner of West 6th Street and Yale Street. An application for an unrestricted reserve (under the name Maple Heights Subdivision) has been made and is currently expected to be reviewed by the City of Houston Planning Commission on January 17, 2013. Granting an "unrestricted reserve" allows the builder to construct multi-family dwellings or a commercial building on the property. The LUC has invited the applicant to review their plans with the LUC at the next meeting on February 4 (6:30 PM at the Fire Station).

The LUC continues to receive calls and emails asking questions about deed restrictions, historic districts, and other ordinances. We're happy to help. However, much of this information is available by links at the committee web page at [www.houstonheights.org/landuse.htm](http://www.houstonheights.org/landuse.htm).

If you wish to receive notification of LUC meetings and limited other communications, you can sign up for the Yahoo group Houston\_Heights\_Land\_Use\_Committee at [groups.yahoo.com](http://groups.yahoo.com).

The Land Use Committee supports the adoption of Deed Restrictions. These are applied on a property-by-property basis. You can find out more about deed restrictions on the HHA web site <http://www.houstonheights.org/deedrestrictions.htm>

## Every Block Needs A Buddy

Would you like to be the goodwill ambassador for your block and help your neighbors stay connected to each other and to the Houston Heights Association? If so, sign up to be a Block Buddy.

As part of the HHA mission of promoting and fostering friendship, goodwill, and community spirit within and around Houston Heights, the Membership Committee is looking for smiling, friendly neighbors to be Block Buddies. We envision each block eventually having a Buddy who can help neighbors by providing information about Association membership, programs, and events, as well as helping to foster community spirit on each block. Maybe you want to host a block party or put together a block email distribution list. Or perhaps you would like to develop a list of contractors that neighbors have found to be reliable. We will leave it up to each Block Buddy to come up with ideas that foster community spirit on their block.

To find out more or to volunteer to be a Block Buddy, contact Addie Ann Spicer at [aaspicer@hotmail.com](mailto:aaspicer@hotmail.com) or Stacey Courville at [staceyc60@yahoo.com](mailto:staceyc60@yahoo.com). You can also find out more and sign up to volunteer at the February 11 HHA General Meeting. Thanks for helping make our neighborhood the great place that it is!

## Donations

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

Scott & Melly Alley – Fire Station Restoration  
Lee Bar-Eli & Cliff Nash – Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens  
Arwphwn & Judith Beck – Parks, Boulevard, Fire Station Restoration  
Mary Case – Flower Gardens  
Diane & John Cates – Fire Station Restoration  
Chevron Humankind matching gift of Katherine Pearson – Donovan Playground  
Nancy Darst in honor of artist Virginia Baker – Boulevard New Roots  
Stephen Donato – Parks, Boulevard, Fire Station Restoration  
Andrea L. Farr  
Beth Gallagher – Boulevard  
Cynthia Felde & David McLean – Parks, Boulevard  
Joe & Rebecca Leahy – Donovan Playground, Flower Gardens  
Jordan Marye & Emily Gibson – Flower Gardens, Boulevard  
Dennis & Ashley McQueen – Flower Gardens  
David & Pamela Patch – Boulevard  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Patton – Boulevard  
Monica & Christopher Richart – Donovan Playground  
David & Lynn Rio – Boulevard  
Anne Rodgers – Boulevard  
Al & Karen Selmo – Parks  
Marwa Shammam & Carlos Bechara  
Universal Wiring, Ed Valot – Fire Station Restoration  
Lora Wildenthal & Peter Caldwell – Boulevard

## New Members

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

Daniel & Helen Barron  
Adam & Cari Bielamowicz  
Blue Moon Exploration Co., LLC, Tom McWhorter  
Rita Burke & James Koski  
Mary Coyne  
Anthony Gamez & Jamie Ellsworth  
Shawn Hauptmann & Misako Futamura  
Earl Horne  
William Horwath  
James Hardie Co., Marc O'Brien  
Patricia Covo Johnson  
Craif & Monika Llorens  
Loper Law, Bob Loper  
Nadia & Steve Marzuke  
Priya & Josh McMorro  
Margaret Pace  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Patton  
Signature Smiles,  
Dr. Terry Lee  
Amy Spaziani & Kyle Metz

## Reminder: Our Address Has Changed

After a year of transition, please note that the Houston Heights Association will no longer receive mail at its previous post office box, and all USPS and hand-delivered mail should be addressed to 107 W. 12th Street, Houston, Texas 77008. (If you renew your membership via e-check, please remember to make that address change on your bank records.)

## Neva Dupuis Memorial Tree Planned for Marmion Park

The friends and family of Neva Dupuis are planning to plant a giant magnolia in her memory in Marmion Park. The 30-foot tree will replace one that was lost last year to age and disease. The tree was one of a pair that stood on each side of the entrance to the park.

The tree is being purchased from Glen Flora Farms, in Glen Flora, Texas. The cost of the tree, transport, crane rental, removal of the old stump, and site preparation will be borne entirely by Neva's friends and family.

Placement of the tree was approved by the HHA Board at its January 21 meeting. In keeping with HHA tradition, no plaque will be placed.

The tree will be planted on Saturday, February 2, with a dedication ceremony at noon on Saturday, February 9. Magnolias were Neva's favorite trees.



## Newsletter Preferences and Mini-Survey

As most of our readers are aware, we distribute this newsletter in several ways, including mailing paper copies to our members, announcing by email to our members when each issue becomes available on our website, and distributing paper copies in other venues. Each issue is available on the website as a printable image of the paper edition (PDF) and as an actual web page (HTML).

In the past, the paper edition was sent to every member for whom we had a valid postal address. Likewise, the email announcement of the PDF and HTML editions was sent to every member for whom we had a valid email address.

We are now prepared to offer our members the option to save a tree by forgoing their paper copies. If you would prefer to receive future newsletters via email announcement only – no hard copy via USPS – please send that request to us at [info@houstonheights.org](mailto:info@houstonheights.org). (Please note that this service is available only to HHA members.)

We are also interested in knowing more about how you use our various editions. Do you read only the paper edition, only the PDF edition, only the HTML edition, or some combination? Do you save the paper copies for reference, or do you look on the website? Do you print the PDF edition regularly, occasionally, or not at all? What would make our newsletter (in any edition) more useful to you? Please let us know at [editor@houstonheights.org](mailto:editor@houstonheights.org) or HHA Newsletter Editor, 107 W. 12th Street, Houston, Texas 77008. (This mini-survey is open to any of our readers.)

## March General Meeting

The program for the March 11 General Meetings will be "Houston Heights: A Vision Forecast of Today & Tomorrow."

Ellen Cohen, Houston City Council Member for District C, will be on hand to talk about District C. She will speak for 10 minutes, then take questions for 10 minutes.

Martha Murphree, Executive Director of Blueprint Houston, will make a 20-minute presentation on planning in the Houston region, then take questions for 10 minutes. Blueprint Houston is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose stated mission is to assure the creation of a general plan for the City of Houston based on citizens' vision, values, and goals.

## Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 3	4 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	5 - <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i> PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	6	7 - <i>garbage</i>	8	9
10 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	11 HHA General "Vision Forecast" 7:00 PM Fire Station	12	13	14 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	15	16 <i>electronics recycling, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Center at Harvard</i>
17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	19 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	20	21 - <i>garbage</i>	22	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	25 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	26	27	28 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	29	30
31 <i>Easter</i>						

## Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations.

Every Saturday, 7:00 AM, Heights Running Club meets on the Heights Blvd jogging trail at 7th Street.

Third Tuesdays, 7:00–9:00 PM, Houston Storytellers Guild meets at St. Andrew's House, 1811 Heights Blvd, for a monthly story swap. Anyone is welcome to come listen to or share stories. For more information, [www.houstonstorytellers.org](http://www.houstonstorytellers.org) or 713-643-8478.

February 1–10, Opera in the Heights presents Verdi's *Macbeth* at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information, visit [www.operaintheheights.org](http://www.operaintheheights.org).

April 11, 8:00 PM, Mercury presents Mozart's *A Little Night Music* at Gallery M Squared. For more information, please call the Mercury office at 713-533-0080 or visit [www.MercuryHouston.org](http://www.MercuryHouston.org).

April 25–27 and May 2–5, Opera in the Heights presents Verdi's *Falstaff* at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information, visit [www.operaintheheights.org](http://www.operaintheheights.org).

## Future History

April 5–7, Spring Home Tour

June 1, Heights Fun Run

October 6, Bicycle Rally

December 6–7, Holiday Home Tour

December 9–11, Holiday Food Baskets [tentative dates]

**2014:**

February 23, Awards Dinner

## At The Properties

Events at the Houston Heights City Hall and Fire Station, Donovan Park, and Marmion Park

Heights Tai Chi Association meets Saturdays 9:00 AM and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in Marmion Park, Heights at 18th.

## Heavy Trash Notes

February is a "Junk Waste" month; March is a "Tree Waste Only" month. Remember that the heavy trash pickup date changed to the third Wednesday for most of the Houston Heights area. For dates in your immediate area, visit the City Solid Waste site [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/treewaste.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/treewaste.html).

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## Calendar of Events for February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>
3	4 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	5 - <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i> PIP meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	6	7 - <i>garbage</i>	8	9 Tree dedication for Neva Dupuis 12:00 Noon Marmion Park
10	11 HHA General "Show the Love" 7:00 PM Fire Station	12	13	14 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 <i>electronics recycling, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Center at Harvard</i>
17	18 <i>Presidents Day</i> HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	19 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	20	21 - <i>garbage</i>	22	23
24 HHA Awards Dinner 5:00-8:00 PM Fire Station	25	26	27	28 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	March 1	2  <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>>