

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association

Volume 39, Number Nine, September 2013

40th Anniversary 1973–2013



2013 Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt

Is your bicycle ready to ride?

Registration is now open for the 8th Annual Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, October 6. TESTING!

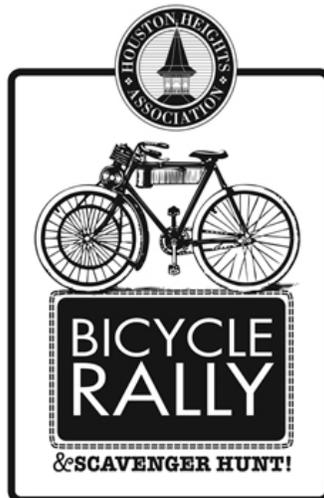
This casual, self-paced ride is open to riders of all ages. (This is not a race!) Ride options include the classic 20-mile route starting at 8:00 AM or the shorter 5-mile family ride designed for kids and their adult companions starting at 2:00 PM – or you can do both. The Rally starts and ends in Marmion Park.

There are fabulous prizes for the riders who correctly identify the most mystery sites along the route. After you finish the ride, stay and enjoy the Post Ride Party in the Park starting at 3:30 PM. There will be entertainment and great refreshments along with awards and door prizes. All riders must finish by 4:00 PM to be eligible for awards and prizes, and must be present to win. All Kids riding the 5-mile course receive an award.

The first 300 to register receive a commemorative logo water bottle. So don't delay – go to www.houstonheights.org/bicyclerally.htm to register online or download the registration form for mailing.

Not a cyclist? Want to help? Volunteers are needed to staff registration, at the rally checkpoint, and scoring the clue sheets at the end of the day. If you are interested, please email bikerally@houstonheights.org or call 713-861-4002 and leave a message on extension 6.

Whether riding or volunteering, we'd love to have you!



HHA Monthly Mixer & Meeting

Heights Health & Wellness

Tune-up for Fall

Houston Heights Association

Monday, September 9

Mix & Mingle with the Heights Health professionals in your neighborhood.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the growing community of caregivers and top-notch facilities close to home.

Happy hour starts at 6:30 PM. The HHA General Meeting with nominations for the 2014 HHA Board and program starts at 7:00 PM. [See page 3 for the complete board election schedule.]

Everyone is invited to meet at the Houston Heights City Hall & Fire Station, 12th and Yale!

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



Coming up in October

HHA Monday Happy Hour Art Mixer & Meeting at the Fire Station

Join HHA at 6:30 PM on Monday, October 14, for refreshments, conversation, and information. Sign up for the 2014 Constable Patrol Program and experience 10 Heights artists' work. Refreshments courtesy of the Heights Pages.

At 7:00 PM, HHA VP Bill Baldwin will introduce Precinct One's Constable Alan Rosen. Mitch Cohen will speak on "Heights Art Scene Today: 10 artists in 10 minutes," and there will be short campaign speeches by HHA Board candidates.

It's all happening at the Houston Heights City Hall & Fire Station at 12th & Yale.

A message from the Heights Pages

The Heights Pages would like to thank the neighborhood and the business community for the opportunity to serve them for the past 15 years. They've grown considerably from the original 12-page magazine (pamphlet) and thank everyone for their continued support.

They will be hosting the Mix-and-Mingle Happy Hour at the October 14 HHA meeting. Come celebrate! Wine, beer, and food will be provided.

Exciting News for Heights Families

Hogg Middle School and Reagan High School have received official authorization to operate as International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools. Harvard Elementary School already offers an IB program, earning its authorization in March 2012. This means that students now can begin the IB program at Harvard Elementary and then progress to Hogg Middle School and Reagan High School for the IB middle years. Educators state that the IB program will ultimately benefit students, parents, and the entire Heights community.

For those who aren't familiar with the 45-year-old program, all instruction on IB campuses is student centered with an international focus. IB offers a rigorous education that builds intellectual, personal, emotional, and social skills that enable students to function at a global level in the world. Having the IB program is an honor that has been awarded to only a dozen schools in HISD, and the Heights is the first continuous IB feeder pattern in the district.

For more about the International Baccalaureate program, visit www.ibo.org.



The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the following Fall 2013 Gold Sponsors:



**Deb Parks
&
Mark Bouzek**



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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Director Election Schedule

Six of the fifteen positions on the HHA Board of Directors will be filled by election over the next few months. Five of the positions are opening due to normal expiration of terms, one by early termination of a term. The five nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms; the nominee receiving the sixth-highest number will fill the remaining two years of a term. See our previous issue for a list of current Directors.

The schedule for the election of Directors to serve terms starting in 2013 will be as follows, in accordance with the By-Laws and Policies of the Association.

September 9 at the General Meeting, the floor will be opened for nominations to the Board of Directors. Nominators and nominees must be current members of the Association. Nominators may speak for two minutes. Please be sure before you nominate someone that your nominee will commit to serve. Individuals may not nominate themselves, nor may nominees speak on their own behalf at this meeting. Seconding speeches are no longer necessary.

- By September 11, 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 5:00 PM on the Friday following the General Meeting (September 13), signed statements from nominees are due, as well as a 50-word (maximum) statement from each nominee for publication in the October newsletter and on the website. Statements longer than 50 words (as counted by Microsoft Word) will be truncated after the fiftieth word when published.

- October 14 at the General Meeting, nominees or their representatives may speak on their qualifications for three minutes. They will also draw for ballot positions at the beginning of the meeting.

- By the Friday following the General Meeting (October 18) the Election Committee will mail a ballot with a control number to each member in good standing whose dues are currently paid as of October 1. (Members invoiced by August 15 and not paid by October 1 are deemed not in good standing.)

- Ballots must be received by November 9, at the close of the U. S. Post Office, with control numbers intact.

- November 11, before the General Meeting, polls will be open for secret balloting in person from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM sharp. The Election Committee will tabulate ballots and announce the results during the meeting. The results will also be published in the December newsletter.

Open the Door Reception

Have you driven along Heights Boulevard and wondered about the five doors on the esplanade at 4th Street? They are part of a public art project called “Open the Door” sponsored by the Texan French Alliance for the Arts. Houston Heights is one of nineteen locations selected to participate in this unique, inclusive, and interactive citywide installation.

Residents of Houston Heights are invited to a reception at the “Open the Door” on the Heights Boulevard esplanade at 4th street on Sunday, September 22, 2013, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM to celebrate the Houston Heights participation in the “Open the Door” project. You will have a chance to meet and greet several of the artists who created the doors as well as representatives of the Texan French Alliance for the Arts. The artists will be available to answer questions and expand upon the ideas of the “Open the Door” project.

You can learn more about the Open the Door project by visiting www.openthedoor-houston.com.

In case of rain, the reception will be held upstairs at the Houston Heights City Hall and Fire Station, located at 12th Street and Yale. As plans for the celebration are evolving, be sure to check the HHA website (www.houstonheights.org) or the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/houstonheightsassociation) for up to date information.

Heights Urban Forestry Day – September 22

The best time to plant a Tree is thirty years ago, the next best time is today.

On Sunday, September 22, the HHA Urban Forestry Committee will distribute 330 trees at the Fire Station. The trees are graciously provided by Apache. To receive your tree, simply email urbanforest@houstonheights.org for details and to sign up.

Plan to come by the Fire Station between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM to learn about our extraordinary Heights urban forest from the City of Houston, Reagan Eco Club, Girl Scouts, Heights Garden Club, Texas Forestry Service, neighborhood partners, and more!

Here are a few photos from last year's Urban Forestry Day.



Calling All Gardeners!

Heights Garden Club, in the greater Heights area!

The Heights Garden Club has been around for some time, but recently they have assembled a core of both enthusiasts and professionals in landscaping to help grow the club and propel it forward to better serve the members as well as for the betterment and welfare of the community.

Recently they took over the entrance garden at I-10 and Heights Boulevard, and this bed is looking a lot better with the help of wonderful volunteers and donations from local businesses.

They want to send a big “Thank You” to everyone who helped jump-start this project: Annette with Yale Stone LLC, Jim Ruzicka with NewRoots Landscaping, Taylor Moore with New Nurseries, Portia Leyendecker with Leyendecker Landscaping, Deb Parks and Mark Bouzek, Pedro with Gilbert’s Tree Services, Mel and Dee Melancon, Laurin Lindsey and Shawn Schlachter with Ravenscourt Landscaping, Kay Harnden, Terry Gordon Smith, Brenda and Gary Eskelson, and Jim Bennett.



The Heights Garden Club holds monthly meetings on the second Saturday of each month, 10:00 AM unless otherwise specified. They will meet at various gardens in and around the Heights as well as other venues. Guest speakers and other professionals will be invited to educate and share their knowledge with the members. Like them on Facebook to receive information. Send an email to gardenclub@houstonheights.org to be added to their contact list to be notified of future events. See www.heightsgardenclub.com for more information.

Thank You and Happy Gardening!

News from the Urbanites

We're ordering up some pizzas and a keg of beer for Third Thursday and inviting ALL members of the HHA for a chill evening as we support two hardworking non-profit organizations that contribute to the eclectic, unique vibe of our community.



Please join us on the flagstone patio at 14 Pews as we enjoy an evening of drumming circles and multi-cultural fusion dancing courtesy of members of Dance from the Heart's resident company. That's 6:00-8:00 PM on Thursday, September 19, at 14 Pews, 800 Aurora. Suggested donation \$10. (Proceeds benefit both Dance From the Heart and 14 Pews.)

Dance from the Heart (dfth.org) uses multi-cultural dance education and performance to reveal the common ground in our communities. This year, they have chosen to establish an ongoing partnership with Baylor College of Medicine's Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center (ADMDC). They offer dance and fitness classes for all levels of experience in their studio in Woodland Heights at 3221 Houston Ave.

14 Pews (14pews.org) is dedicated to serving the cultural needs of our community by providing a forum to experience, discuss, and celebrate the performing and media arts and to foster cross-cultural experiences. Known primarily for showing cutting edge documentaries, 14 Pews is also available for private parties and weddings.

Another Deputy Proposed

The Constable Patrol Program recently reached a milestone with 1,050 subscribers. Because the number of subscribers has exceeded expectations, HHA is proposing a fourth deputy constable be added to the neighborhood program.

Board member Bill Baldwin reports that County Commissioners will review the proposal for an additional Houston Heights deputy on September 24. If the proposal is approved, as he expects, the fourth deputy will become effective on Oct. 5, 2013, and will continue until the current contract expires. At that time, a new contract will be proposed to County Commissioners.

Baldwin also stated that if enough people subscribe to the program during 2014, the number of deputies would remain at four, and possibly increase to five if the growth in subscribers warrants another addition.

For more information about the Constable Patrol Program and how to subscribe online, go to www.houstonheights.org/security.htm.

Clean Up the Trail With the Urbanites

The Urbanites are getting into the community spirit by sponsoring a Hike and Bike Trail Trash Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 28, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

If you use the trail, you know how popular it has become over the last few months and what an asset it is for our neighborhood. Let's spruce it up before the Bike Rally!

Not only will we beautify the trail, we'll have Bike Rally and Scavenger Hunt sign-up info at two convenient locations as well as free bottled water and small trash bags for anyone in the neighborhood who would like to participate. Stop by Donovan Park at Heights Boulevard and East 7th or Joshua's Native Plants at Nicholson and West 18th.

Just fill up a small grocery size bag as you walk or ride along the trail and drop it off at either location and you'll receive a free Menchie's Frozen Yogurt coupon!

Constable Statistics

	June	July
Total Arrests	7	3
Citizen Assists	33	18
Citizen Contacts	33	2
Vacation Watches	231	375
Court Citations	119	154
Alarm Responses	10	10
Suspicious Vehicles	33	20
Park Checks	48	32
Disturbances	2	15
Major Accidents	0	2
Criminal Offenses	9	2
Miles Patrolled	4,109	5,897

Donations

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

Dawn Bobbitt
Teresa Botkin & John Czapski – Fire Station Restoration
Travis & Mindy Bryan
Jane D. Bryant – Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens
Tyler & Mary Chase – Donovan Playground, Boulevard
Jonathan & Meg Curth – Land Use
Carvel Glenn – Boulevard
Angel Gonzalez & Jennifer Salomon
Mitch & Sue McFarland – Boulevard, Fire Station Restoration
Jason & Tanya Miller – Boulevard
Marcia Pampe – Boulevard
Connie Pike – Donovan Playground
Brittany & Gregg Russell – Flower Gardens
Les Shireman & Vickie Longwill
The Brown Foundation – Boulevard, matching gift of Nancy Pittman
David & Joyce Worthington – Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens

New Members

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

David & Amy Aaronson
Hallie & Matthew Ager
Amy Albritton
Alex Ancone & Matt Parmer
Amita & Gerald Anderson
Christina & Azaria Azene
Joseph & Erin Bain
Lloyd Bellow
Dawn Bobbitt
Teresa Botkin & John Czapski
Curt & Ellen Brooks
Travis & Mindy Bryan
Marcos & Jennifer Cabrera
Craig & Maura Cannon
Rebecca & James Carter
Tyler & Mary Chase
John Cliver & Jimmy Roton
Jonathan & Meg Curth
Kyle & Greta Drennan
Desiree & Ward Dudley
Jeff & Ricki Durrant
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Bryan Harvey
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Chad & Michelle Mason
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Marlo Pettigrew
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Dawn Shanahan
Les Shireman & Vickie Longwill
Karan Sra & Nishil Sant
Kathryn & Robert Vidal
Jennifer & Damon Vidrine
Joshua Weiner
Harvey & Susie West
Amber & Jason Woodall
Kelly Wrobel
Chelsea Young

Yale Street Bridge Rehab Project Completed

information from ReBuild Houston

The Yale Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, which included the rehabilitation of structural concrete beams by repairing and reinforcing the beams with concrete epoxy, enhanced roadway travel capacity along the bridge. The approximately \$230,000 project, which runs over White Oak Bayou, began in April 2013 and was completed in June 2013.

For questions, email pwecip@houstontx.gov or call 832-395-2030. To learn more about ReBuild Houston, visit www.rebuildhouston.org.

Calendar (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 6 Bicycle Rally all day Marmion Park and elsewhere	7 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	8 PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	9	10 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	11	12
13	14 HHA General "Art/Constable" 7:00 PM Fire Station	15	16 - <i>heavy trash (junk waste in even months)</i>	17 - <i>garbage</i>	18	19 <i>electronics recy- cling, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Center at Harvard</i>
20	21 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	22 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	23	24 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	25	26 Scary Stories in Marmion Park, around dusk
27	28	29	30	31 - <i>garbage Halloween</i>	November 1	2

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations

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

First and third Thursdays, 7:30 PM, English Country Dancing in the Heights, dances taught and called. For more information, email ijnbloom@gmail.com or visit www.hatds.org/ecd.html.

Third Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM, Houston Storytellers Guild meets at St. Andrew's House, 1811 Heights Boulevard, for a story swap. For more information, www.houstonstorytellers.org or 713-643-8478.

September 12-28, Christopher Hampton's play *Dangerous Liaisons* at Obsidian Art Space, 3522 White Oak Blvd. More information at www.obsidianartspace.org.

September 28, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Care Fair at Heights Christian Church, 1703 Heights Blvd. Adult services from health to volunteer opportunities; playground fun for children; games, food, and music for all. For more information, visit www.hcchouston.org or email hcchouston@att.net.

October 4-13, Opera in the Heights presents Verdi's *La Traviata* at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Boulevard. For more information, visit www.operaintheheights.org.

Heavy Trash Notes

September is a "Tree Waste Only" month: October is a "Junk Waste" month. Remember that the heavy trash pickup date is now 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.

Future History

December 6-7, Holiday Home Tour

December 9-11, Holiday Food Baskets

2014:

February 23, Awards Dinner

April 4-6, Spring Home Tour
[tentative dates]

June 7, Heights Fun Run
[tentative date]

October 6, Bicycle Rally *[tentative date]*

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.

Houston Storyteller's Guild will offer scary stories in Marmion Park on October 26, some time around dark. Details to follow.

HOUSTON HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION
 107 W. 12TH ST.
 HOUSTON, TX 77008-6907

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Calendar of Events for September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 - <i>Labor Day</i> HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	3 PIP meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	4	5 - <i>garbage</i> <i>Deadline for next newsletter</i>	6	7
8	9 HHA General "Health" 7:00 PM Fire Station	10	11	12 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	13	14
15	16 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	17 Greater Heights SNC (SN15) 6:30 PM Fire Station	18 - <i>heavy trash (tree waste in odd months)</i>	19 - <i>garbage</i> Urbanites at 14 Pews 6:00-8:00 PM 800 Aurora	20	21 <i>electronics recy- cling, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Center at Harvard</i>
22 Heights Urban Forestry Day; see page 4. Open the Door reception, page 3	23 HHA Education 6:30 PM Fire Station	24	25	26 - <i>garbage and recycling</i>	27	28 Urbanites Trail Clean-Up 8:00-11:00 AM See page 5.
29	30	October 1 <i>National Night Out (Texas)</i>	2	3 - <i>garbage</i>	4	5 <i>Deadline for next newsletter continued within</i>

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

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

Electronic Edition Extra

“Sliders” – A New Form of Theft

from Captain Hennessy of Constable Rosen’s office

Over the last few weeks, several of our local news stations have covered “slider” thefts. With our busy schedules, many residents may have missed the coverage but it was a topic that bears attention.

In general, theft is a crime of opportunity. Thieves target easy victims where they can remain undetected. They do not want come in direct contact with the victim or attract attention to themselves to be identified. Lately, there is a new trend in purse snatching that targets unsuspecting women. This is not only a local trend but is being seen by law enforcement agencies nationwide. These perpetrators are known as “sliders” due to their method of operation. Sliders frequent areas such as gas stations where they are able to drive side-by-side to another vehicle as if they, too, are getting gas. They “slide” out of their vehicle while remaining low and below the victim’s line of sight, undetected, by the person pumping gas on the other side. They then open the passenger door or reach through an open window to snatch items, usually purses, from the vehicle while the person is busy pumping gas.

The theft happens quickly and quietly. It takes only seconds and many times the victim is totally unaware they have become a victim until they are back in their vehicles driving away. A slider is waiting on opportunity and a single moment of distraction or inattention to take advantage of an unsuspecting victim, but there are ways to protect oneself.

* Number one is always pay attention to your surroundings. Scan the area to see if something does not look right.

* When you get out for fuel, get into the habit of locking the doors so the passenger side doors are locked while you pump.

* Keep your windows rolled up to restrict access inside your vehicle.

* Take your purse with you if you leave your vehicle or conceal it out of sight.

As always, be safe and alert of your surroundings. For more information, see the below news link.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2013/08/sliders-snatching-valuables-from-cars-across-us/>