

T H E H E I G H T S

Newsletter of the Houston Heights Association



Volume 42, Number Eight, August 2015

Annual Report from the Education Committee

The Education Committee is committed to providing community awareness and information to increase acceptance of Heights public schools as a safe and competitive option for education.

The committee feels that field trips greatly benefit the students' cultural awareness and historical knowledge, yet HISD provides little, if any, funding for these. Our local public schools have had a great 2014-2015 with the help of donations from you. A large portion of the Education Committee budget was spent sending our students to the Children's Museum, the Museum of Natural Science, The Museum of Fine Arts, the Texas A&M Engineering festival in College Station, Moody Gardens, and the Renaissance Festival.

HHA paid for tickets to the "Nutcracker" at Wortham Hall

for 50 Reagan High School students, in-school performances of "Two Many Frogs" and "Dancing Drums" for Field and Love Elementary.

HHA also contributed money for library books and a customized arrangement for the Reagan High School Band's UIL competition. Unfortunately, Hamilton Middle School's trip to the San Jacinto Monument in LaPorte was cancelled because of flooding just after we had all boarded the buses.

The Education Committee members have chaperoned field trips, Saturday UIL events, and spent several hundred hours volunteering in the schools. What can you do to help? We welcome those of you who have the time to spend chaperoning field trips and volunteering in the schools! You learn a lot about a school when you spend time in the building. All of the local school principals have told us they welcome volunteers. What better way to make choices for your own children's education?

...continues on page 5

Monthly Meeting & Happy Hour

Rolling Forward

The July mixer and meeting on July 13 was themed Summer Chills. Thanks to Kaboom books, as well as Heights Library manager Jennifer Meyers and her team, for providing attendees with mysteries, thrillers and other great summer reading possibilities.

Calling all bicyclists of the road and trail. On August 10, the Houston Heights Association's monthly program will be all about bikes. Trails. Security. Safety. And fun!

Speakers and presentations include:

- Michael Payne, the executive director of BikeHouston, presenting Houston's Bicycle Master Plan
- Captain Larry Satterwhite from the Houston Police Department speaking about road safety and theft deterrents

...continues on page 2

Monthly Meetings from page 1

- Bill White, HHA Bike Rally Chair, will kick-off the event details
- Bill Pellerin, HHA Land Use Chair, will discuss the Heights Bike Path projects

The master of ceremonies for the night will be Dewayne Ross.

Everyone is invited for Happy Hour, which begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Heights Fire Station. You can mingle and meet the program speakers. The program and meeting starts at 7 p.m.

The FREE monthly mixers and meetings are open to everyone. As always, you can learn about the Houston Heights Association projects and parks at the Welcome Table.

Heights Garden Club



August 6 – Annual Plant and Seed Swap

The second annual event will be held Thursday, August 6 at the Heights Fire Station on 12th and Yale from 7-9 p.m. There will be light refreshments with beer and wine, door prizes, and of course, the swapping of plants and seeds.

It doesn't matter if you are a beginning gardener or an expert, the Garden Club members are just fun, friendly folks who love to garden and want to share. If you can, please bring a few plants or collected seeds from your garden. Start your cuttings now

to ensure root growth. Place your seeds in an envelope or plastic bag with a description and if you like, instructions on when to plant. Last year's event was such fun and this is a great way to share what you like in your garden with others.

Sept. 12 – Butler Home Garden Tour at 435 W. 18th St.

Denise Butler's garden scape was designed by Jeff Law of Kabloom Landscaping and was recently featured on KHOU's Debra Duncan show. Jeff's challenge was to convert a small backyard dominated by an unattractive hot tub into an eye-catching and personal outdoor living space. He accomplished the task with his unique artistic flare.

The spa, which could not be removed, was incorporated into a multi-level seating arrangement.

...continues on page 3

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of our Summer 2015 Sponsors:

Platinum



Bronze



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

Copyright © 2015, the Houston Heights Association and/or the authors unless otherwise noted.

Newsletter inquiries, suggestions, or submissions should be directed to: Editor, *The Heights*, 107 W. 12th Street, Houston, TX 77008-6907, email editor@houstonheights.org, or leave a message on 713-861-4002.

VP of Communications..... Julie Pettit
Editor..... Julie Pettit
Design & Layout..... Kate Cairoli
Web Layout..... Caroline Truong

July contributors:

Lauriel Hindman, Damian Ogier,
Bill Pellerin, Julie Pettit,
Kathy Tarazoff, Kenny Terrell

Director Election Schedule

Five of the fifteen positions on the HHA Board of Directors will be filled by election over the next few months. See the right column for a list of current Directors.

The schedule for the election of Directors to serve terms starting in 2016 will be as follows, in accordance with the By-Laws and Policies of the Association.

- September 14 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 Wednesday, 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 5:00 PM on the Friday following the General Meeting (September 18), 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 12 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 16) 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 Saturday, November 7, at the close of the U. S. Post Office, with control numbers intact.

- November 9, before the General Meeting, polls will be open for secret balloting in person from 6-7 p.m. sharp.

The Election Committee, which is chaired by Robert Woods, will tabulate ballots and announce the results during the meeting. The results will also be published in the December newsletter.



Schiller Home Garden

2015 Directors

Bill Baldwin (2015)
Matt Bedingfield (2017)
Donna Bennett* (2015)
Janet Buchheit (2016)
Neal Cannon* (2015)
Stacey Courville (2016)
Laura Menefee (2017)
Damian Ogier* (2015)
Bill Pellerin (2016)
Kenny Terrell (2017)
Cressandra Thibodeaux (2017)
Carol Welter (2017)
Mark Williamson (2016)
Robert Woods (2016)
Mike Yeary (2015)

(Number in parentheses is the last year of each Director's term.)

* indicates one-year appointment

Garden Club from page 2

The outdoor kitchen repurposes unique pieces that Denise's grandmother collected, such as her dining table into a cabinet, an old metal pot into a sink, and wine crates into a small kitchen island. Shelving units display some of her fossil and geode collection.

The narrow area along the side of the garage was utilized by turning it into an outdoor shower and place to bathe the dog. Jeff will be on hand to give a short talk with tips about how to personalize your garden space.

All Garden Club events are free and open to everyone.

10th Annual Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt

Bill White, committee chair for the 10th annual Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt, is in the planning stages for this year's event that will take place on Sunday, Oct. 4.



The rally is open to riders of all ages and designed as a casual, self-paced ride. Entrants can choose between a 20-mile course through the Heights and near-by neighborhoods, or a shorter five-mile ride designed for kids and their adult companions —OR DO BOTH—starting and finishing at Marmion Park, 18th Street and Heights Boulevard.

After completing the ride, participants can celebrate at Marmion Park for the Post Ride Party and Awards Ceremony with entertainment, fabulous door prizes, and great refreshments including picnic fare, beverages and more!



Mark your calendars to attend the August 10 Monthly Mixer and Meeting (see related story on Page 1 of this newsletter). The topic of the meeting is bicycle safety and more. Learn where to have your bicycle checked to make sure it is in good condition. Hear what kind of helmet to purchase. And hear all about the details of the upcoming bicycle rally.

The Mayor's Back 2 School Fest

Parents and students are invited to attend the Mayor's back to school fest on August 15. You must pre-register your child(ren) to receive free:

- backpacks
- immunizations
- hair cut vouchers
- clothes
- school supplies
- dental exams
- health screenings
- plus a day of family fun



Pre-register by visiting houstontx.gov/btsf or calling 713-837-0311.

Reminder: It's Rewarding



Kroger is making it easy for local non-profits, such as HHA, to receive cash through Kroger Community Rewards. Here's how.

HHA has been assigned Kroger Community Rewards identification number 81249. HHA members can enroll their Kroger Plus Cards online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. (If you don't have a Plus Card, get one at a Kroger service desk.) If you are new to the Kroger online programs, you'll need to sign up for an account, otherwise sign in to your Kroger account, click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information, and enter our "NPO number" 81249. [A longer version of these instructions is available in the online editions of our August 2013 issue, available here: <http://www.houstonheights.org/newsletter/2013/08/Kroger.htm>]

Then every time an enrolled participant from HHA shops at Kroger using a Kroger Plus Card, HHA will begin accumulating. Once you have enrolled, your spending begins earning rewards for HHA.

The amount HHA earns will depend on how much our

...continues on page 6

July Garden of the Month – 309 E. 13th St.

The Garden Club announced that Gottfried and Anne Schiller received the Garden of the Month award for July. The couple moved to Houston ten years ago this month from Europe where they were both avid gardeners. Gottfried is from Dresden, Germany and Anne is from the states but spent 21 years in London.

Gardening here in Houston has been an ongoing experience for them, but they have enjoyed the process. The front yard is a shade garden with many varieties of trees and shrubs including hydrangeas, camellias, hostas, a fig tree, and even a blood orange tree where there is sun! There is a raised stone pond built by Gottfried that is loved by the fish, toads, and frogs alike. The birds love to visit as well.

The sunny backyard includes a Queen palm tree, an angel trumpet tree, yews, and a plumeria among several other plant varieties and raised beds for growing vegetables.

Please drive by and see this lovely garden.

We want to thank Zone 9 Tropicals for donating a gift certificate for the Yard of the Month Award.

Urbanites



Conversation. Connection. Community.

The Urbanites had their first gathering on July 9, at the Heights Fire Station. It's easy to see from the photos that everyone had a good time!



A huge thanks to everyone who came out for the Summer Kick Off, plus a shout out to Karbach, Chocolate Wasted Ice Cream, and Rose and the Thorns!



The next gathering is planned for August 1 at 5:30 p.m. at the art studio of John Palmer (1218 Heights Boulevard). This gathering will take place before he opens his studio to the public for White Linen Night. Come enjoy some bubbly and one of Houston premier local artists.

Annual Report from the Education Committee from page 1

The majority of the Education Committee members have no children in school. We are in it for who knows what reasons? Love of working with kids, nostalgia for a time when most of us went to public schools, or just simply wanting to make a difference. Harvard and Travis Elementary schools started as grass roots parent-driven efforts. We welcome all of you.

To reach Anne Sloan, Chair of the HHA Education Committee, email:

education@houstonheights.org

An important PS: Four Hamilton Middle School graduates went on to become Valedictorians and one Salutatorian at their respective high schools this spring. One will be pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania this fall using the Penn Grant worth \$264,000.



Schiller Home Garden



Garden Club Plant Swap

New Members

Please welcome these new members to the Houston Heights Association

Citizen Pilates, Jessica Hughes
 Michael Collins
 Alyssa Franklin
 Maurice Lorenz
 Stephanie & John McGraw
 Alicia & Jon Stephens
 Annika & Scott Tycer

Donations

AIG Matching Grants Program for Lorri White
 Ronald Buras
 Chevron Matching Employee Fund for Katie Pearson
 Howard Cox - Parks
 Teresa Botkin & John Czapski - Fire Station
 Kirk & Irma Girouard - Parks
 Randal & Barbara Jones - Boulevard
 Maurice Lorenz
 Andrew Swinick & Renata Benjamin - Boulevard

Kroger Rewards from page 4

participants spend compared to other organizations.

Organizations that are supported by Kroger Plus Card shoppers will earn a percentage of the \$1.5 million donated annually.

If you're a Kroger shopper, we encourage you to sign up and increase HHA's earning potential.

Labor Day Fun in the Park

Looking for something for the family to do in the neighborhood on Labor Day weekend? Bring your family, friends, blankets, lawn chairs, and ice chests and join your neighbors to celebrate the end of summer with a concert and ice cream social at Marmion Park from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Sunday evening, September 6.

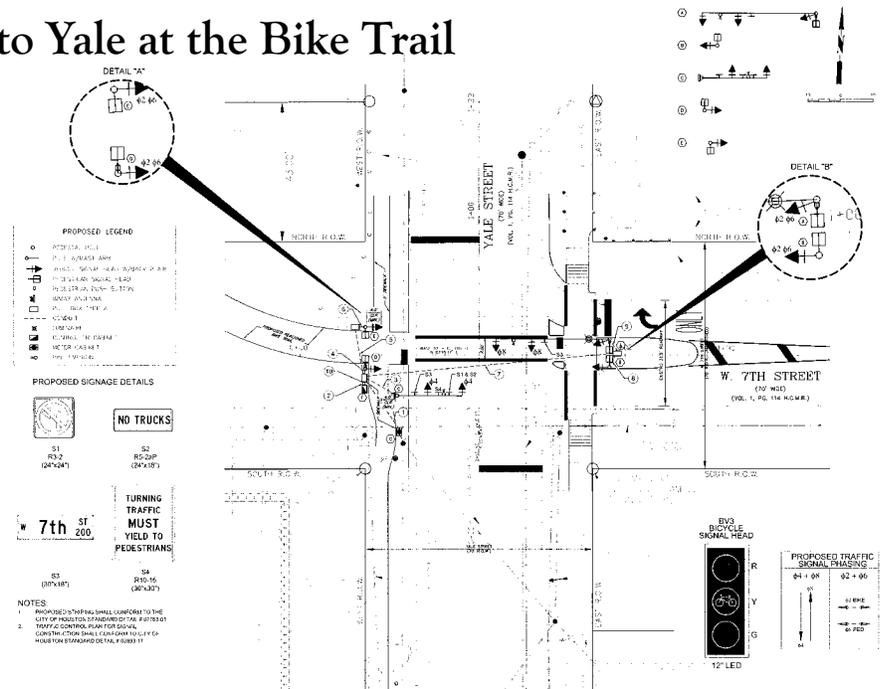
We were still firming up the details at press time. Watch for an update by email or on our Facebook page.

Traffic Signal Coming to Yale at the Bike Trail

The design for the long-awaited traffic control signal for the corner of Yale and the Heights Hike and Bike Trail at 7th Street has been approved by the City of Houston. A copy of the approved design appears below.

Construction is expected to be completed by the first quarter of next year, according to a representative of Trammel Crow Residential. TCR is funding the project in conjunction with the construction of its nearby apartment buildings.

Houston Heights Association volunteers and other community members worked with representatives of TCR, the City



of Houston, the State of Texas, and other stakeholders to arrive at a design that conforms to state and national rules for traffic control devices. HHA volunteers

will continue to work with the City and other organizations to improve safety at other bike trail crossings in the neighborhood.

Calendar of Events for September 2015 (continued from back cover)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September		1 PIP meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	2	3 - garbage	4 Deadline for next newsletter	5
6 Concert & Ice Cream Social 6:00 PM Marmion Park	7 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	8	9	10 - garbage and recycling	11	12 Heights Garden Club 10:00 AM 435 W 18th St
13	14 HHA General 7:00 PM Fire Station <i>Nominations</i>	15	16 - tree waste	17 - garbage	18	19
20	21 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	22	23	24 - garbage and recycling	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations

Every Saturday, 7:00 AM, Heights Running Club will meet on the Heights Boulevard jogging trail at 7th Street. The club will continue its summer hours through August. To be added to the weekly distribution list contact Meghan.olds@gmail.com.

First and third Thursdays, 7:30 PM, English Country Dancing in the Heights, dances taught and called. For more information, email jnjbloom@gmail.com or visit <http://www.hatds.org/index.php?page=ecl>



Heavy Trash Notes

The heavy trash pickup date is the third Wednesday for most of the HHA coverage area. Service schedules, including collection dates and information, tree waste and junk waste collection, and the Neighborhood Service Maps has been moved to

www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/serviceschedulesandneighborhoodservice-maps

Future History

October 4, Bicycle Ride & Scavenger Hunt

December 4-5, Holiday Home Tour

December 15-16, Holiday Food Baskets [tentative dates]

February 28, 2016, Awards Dinner

June 4, 2016, Fun Run [tentative date]

At The Properties

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

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

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE PAID
 HOUSTON, TX
 PERMIT NO 2995

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events for August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August						1 White Linen Night HH Urbanites 5:30 PM 1218 Heights Blvd
2	3 HHA Land Use 6:30 PM Fire Station	4 PIP meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street	5	6 - garbage Heights Garden Plant/Seed Swap 7:00 PM Fire Station	7 Deadline for next newsletter	8
9	10 HHA General 7:00 PM Fire Station <i>Bikes</i>	11	12	13 - garbage and recycling	14	15
16	17 HHA Board 6:30 PM Fire Station	18	19 - heavy trash	20- garbage	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 - garbage and recycling	28	29
30	31					continued within

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

HHA web site: www.houstonheights.org