Run The Boulevard — June 4

Our neighborhood is host to one of Houston’s oldest and most popular 5K races. For the last 30 years, runners, walkers, and spectators young and old have gathered on Heights Boulevard for the Houston Heights Association’s annual Heights Fun Run. Come out and join the fun this year. It’s a great way to kick off Summer while celebrating and supporting your health and your community!

The 31st Annual Heights Fun Run will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2016. Popular for its fast out-and-back, the 5K course runs along the beautifully scenic, tree-covered, historic Heights Boulevard.

“It’s a great race for the elite athlete as well as the casual runner or walker” according to Fun Run Chair Damian Ogier. “We understand that a local runner, former Olympian and Houston Marathon winner, Sean Wade, will be attempting to break a World Record time for the 5K at this year’s race!”

The Fun Run starts and ends at Marmion Park and includes a certified, chip-timed 5K Fun Run, a 5K Walk, and a Kids 1K.

The 5K Fun Run starts at 7:30 AM, the 5K Walk starts at 7:35 AM, and the Kids 1K starts at 8:30 AM. Damian notes, “The kids race is not timed, but watching kids (of various ages) complete the course is a great experience for spectators as well as for the kids. We celebrate every child at the finish line for their achievement with a ribbon and a medal.”

...continues on page 4

MONTHLY MEETING & HAPPY HOUR

Attendees at the May 9 general meeting met some of the Heights Teachers of the Year and asked questions about parking and other land use issues. See page 3 for some of the answers.

June 13: Summer Camps & Adventures reaching new heights for everyone!

Summer starts at the Monday June 13 Mix, Mingle, and Meeting at the Houston Heights Fire Station. Discover great experiences in Houston to make Summer fun for everyone.

Learn about amazing programs at the 1940 Air Terminal. Get in your best shape this Summer with C4 Fitness and Houston Adventure Boot Camp. Be surprised with more exciting opportunities for your best Summer ever!

Learn about your Heights Association activities and parks at the welcome table. The meeting is open to all - everyone is invited!

...continues on page 4
Heights Garden Club
Tirey Garden – Saturday, June 11, 10:00 AM, 2434 White Oak Dr.

This unique terraced garden was the result of a drainage project that “got out of control” according to the owner. The site slopes unexpectedly to a picturesque, untouched creek that drains into the canalized White Oak Bayou. Tiered beds of native and unusual plants guide you to the lowest terrace overlooking the creek. Planted with flood-friendly plants, this space acts as a retention pond for the neighborhood. This garden was thoughtfully designed by expert plantsman Will Fleming.

May Yard of the Month – 1243 Cortlandt

Steve Connolly and Yamileth Nicolau, recent transplants to the Houston area, have become stewards to a yard and garden full of blooming perennials, annuals, trees, and shrubs here in the Heights. The garden is well taken care of with the help of Mark Anderson of Sienna Landscape, which you can tell with bees buzzing around many of the plants and lizards of all kinds scurrying across your path. On the side of the driveway there are pink hydrangeas and a pretty yesterday today and tomorrow. The front of the house has plantings that include a bright pink hibiscus, camellias, lantana, firecracker plant, vinca, a red bud, a Duranta, and many other blooming plants. There is a unique fountain designed by the late Rex Bass, a well-known artist in the Heights area. Steve and Yamileth, welcome to the Heights and thank you for sharing your beautiful garden.

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

The Houston Heights Association gratefully acknowledges the support of our Summer 2016 Sponsors:

Platinum

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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.

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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.

Editor .................. Mark R. Williamson
Assistant Editor ...... Kathleen S. Williamson
June contributors:
Stacey Courville, Angela DeWree, Lauriel Hindman, Damian Ogier, Bill Pellerin, Kathryn Tarazoff, Marianne Terrell.
Land Use — Answers
The topic of the May 9 General Meeting was “Frequently Asked Questions for the Houston Heights Association Land Use Committee”. We were very fortunate to have in attendance representatives from the Harris County Constable Office and a representative from HoustonPark, which deals parking issues for the City of Houston.

Information and links to land use information can be found on the Association web site, at www.houstonheights.org/html/com_land.html.

Questions were answered by Sergeant Crow of Harris County Constable Precint 1 and Ms. Melonie Curry of HoustonPark. Constable deputies Terrell, McCollough, and Robinson also attended.

What can residents do about parking on residential streets near White Oak and Studewood?

The roads, including the piece of the road in front of your house (between the sidewalk and the street) is public property, owned by the taxpayers of the City of Houston. With the exception of ‘Residential Parking Permits’ (see below), any citizen can park on any street that allows parking.

Can I put stones or traffic cones at the edge of the street to limit parking?

No. You cannot limit parking in this way. Streets are available to all.

However, nobody can block access to your driveway. If this happens, call the Constable Patrol or the Houston Police Department non-emergency phone number, 713-884-3131.

Please explain residents-only parking.

An option available to residents is to apply for a ‘Residential Parking Only’ Designation for your block. The residents must petition the city for this designation and pay a fee for signs and stickers. More information on this is available at www.houstontx.gov/parking/resparkingpermits.html

Can I build a parking space over the drainage ditch in front of my house? Can I limit who can park in that space?

Yes, you can build a parking space or driveway entrance over the drainage ditch, but you must get a permit from the city to do so, and you must conform to the city requirements for providing drainage under the parking pad or driveway.

Since this pad is in the city right-of-way, you cannot limit parking in any way.

Cars are parked too close to the corner at bus stop and I can’t see traffic around the corner.

Bus stop areas are identified by diagonal lines in the road near the bus stop. You may not park in this area and are subject to getting a ticket if you do. In addition, you may not park within 15 feet of any corner. (Doing so makes it difficult for drivers approaching the corner from the cross street to see oncoming traffic.) Violations can be reported to the Constable or to the Houston Police Department non-emergency number.

What if someone is driving in the bike lane on Heights Boulevard?

This lane is reserved for bicycle riders only. If a Constable or a Police Officer witnesses a driver in the bicycle lane, the driver can be issued a citation.

Is my property deed restricted?

See the list of known-to-the-HHA deed restricted properties at the HHA web site. In the Committees pulldown, select Land Use Committee, then click on Deed Restrictions. Be aware that this list is not comprehensive; your property may be deed restricted even if the address is not on this list. A title company or the County Clerk can help you determine the status of your property. Information is on the web site.

Is my property in a historic district?

Maps of the Heights area historic districts are online. Search for ‘Houston Historic Districts’ on the web.

What are historic district ‘guidelines’ that are being developed and what do they mean to me?

The City of Houston ordinance on Historic Districts mandates the creation of guidelines for all historic districts, including Heights East, Heights West, and Heights South. The guidelines will do what the name implies, provide guidance for owners, architects, and remodelers making changes to their properties. More information is available at the Houston Planning and Development web site.

...continues on page 6
First, second, and third place runners will be recognized and awarded in each age category. All participants will receive a specially designed commemorative T-shirt designed by local Heights artist Christina Kuehler. Many of Christina’s designs celebrate our hometown and home state; this particular painting, designed just for the Fun Run, celebrates running, the Heights area, and its unique culture and place in Houston.

The Post-Race Party will begin at 8:00 AM at Marmion Park, with the awards ceremony scheduled for 9:00 AM. In addition to entertainment and door prizes, refreshments will be available thanks to some great local restaurants.

The after party is hosted by Peter Manry, known as “Other Brother.” Peter is well known on the race circuit for his engaging style which he’s brought to the Heights for many years. He’ll be giving away a few door prizes and announcing winners in each age category. There’s usually some dancing in the Gazebo before the morning is over!

The fee for the Fun Run and Walk is $25 through May 31 and $30 thereafter. The Kids 1K fee is $15 through May 31 and then $20 June 1–4.

Online registration is open now until race day! Prices will increase as the race draws near, so don’t delay. Sign-up today to reserve your T-shirt size at https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/houston/HoustonHeights5KRun. Registration will also be available during packet pick-up at Luke’s Locker and at Marmion Park on race day.

Runners’ packets will be available at Luke’s Locker at 1953 West Gray on June 2 and 3 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and on Race Day, June 4, from 6:15 to 7:15 AM at Marmion Park, located at 18th Street and Heights Boulevard.

For more information on the race or to become a Fun Run sponsor, please call the Houston Heights Association at 713-861-4002, ext. 7, follow “Heights Fun Run” on Facebook, or email funrun@houstonheights.org.

Calling all pie bakers! Bring your best baked pie to this meeting. Celebrity judges will crown the best pies.

Categories: Mile High Pie • Old Fashioned Pie • Most Creative Pie • All-around Most Delicious Pie • Best Professional Baker • Best Amateur Baker

Open to all Bakers! It’s fun and free to enter your baked goods!

Celebrity judges to date: Cleverly Stone, media personality on Fox 26’s “Cooking with Cleverly”; Jill Brown, scratch baker, hostess, and home design guru; Greg Buchold, pie blogger at pie-biting-frog.blogspot.com and member of the Houston Food Bloggers Collective.

Be sure to come to the June meeting to learn how you can participate in the contest in July.
Group Seeks Local Option Election For Heights “Dry Area”

On Tuesday, May 17, a petitioning effort began in the “dry area” of Houston Heights. The Houston Heights Beverage Coalition, a special purpose political action committee, is seeking to gain support to have the issue of legalizing the sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only placed on the November election ballot. The group has hired Texas Petition Strategies of Austin to conduct the petition and election effort.

While the dry area of Houston Heights, originally part of the City of Houston Heights, has been dry by local election since 1912 and has remained dry since being annexed into the City of Houston in 1918, there are legal provisions allowing voters living in the area to change this status. The process is governed by Texas Election Code, Title 17, available online at www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/?link=EL.

The process requires petitioning registered voters in the former City of Houston Heights in order to have a local option election called. A certain number of signatures (based on a percentage of residents of that area who voted in the last governor’s election) must be submitted to the City of Houston within 60 days from the beginning of the petitioning process. The City then verifies the signatures. If the required number of voter signatures in the former City of Houston Heights are verified, the item can be placed on the election ballot to be decided by voters in that area.

The wording on the petition that is currently being circulated is:

“We, the undersigned qualified voters of the area formerly known as the City of Houston Heights as it existed on February 19, 1918, Harris County, Texas hereby respectfully request that a local option election be called in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Texas Election Code, Title 17 in the above mentioned area for the purpose of submitting to the legally qualified voters of said area the determination of the following issue, to wit:

“To Legalize: ‘The legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only.’

“IT IS THE HOPE, PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THE PETITIONERS WHOSE SIGNATURES APPEAR HEREON TO SEE LEGALIZED THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES REFERRED TO IN THE ISSUE SET OUT ABOVE.”

The HHA has not taken an official position on the petitioning effort. An approximate map of the “dry area” appears at right above, reprinted from the June 2009 issue of The Heights.
**Donations**

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

- Rod Anderson & Stephanie Horeis — Boulevard
- Donna Aversano & Debra Tabor — Parks, Boulevard, Fire Station Restoration
- Krista & Jeffrey Barnes — Parks & Boulevard
- Richard & Laura Brown — Donovan Playground
- Osvaldo & Guadalupe Fernandez — Parks & Flower Gardens
- Camille Fitzsimmons — Donovan Playground & Flower Gardens
- GDF Suez Energy North America matching gift of Keith Crane
- Judy Hauser — Boulevard
- Charles Krenzler — Boulevard
- Jenifer & Mike Moore — Flower Gardens
- Kathy Mott
- Brian & Rose Mulroney — Boulevard/Gardens, Fire Station Restoration
- Craig Shumaker — Parks, Boulevard, Flower Gardens, Fire Station Restoration
- Carlton Smith — Boulevard
- Mary Tran — Donovan Playground & Flower Gardens
- Rachael & Charles Zimmerman — Flower Gardens

**New Members**

Please welcome these new members to the Houston Heights Association.

- Geraldine Richards
- Andrea Holberg & Rod Shampine
- Nicola Hubbard & Brett Mudford
- Jeanie & Mark Lundquist
- Brian & Rose Mulroney
- Karen Noecker
- The Law Offices of Ned Barnett
- Maren & Jeff Trader
- Egon van der Hoeven

**Yale Green Corridor Application Update**

The Urban Forestry Committee’s petition drive to establish a City of Houston Green Corridor on Yale, first described in our December 2015 issue, reaches its culmination this month. The application, with signatures of the owners of 76% of the commercial frontage from just south of 6th Street to just north of 19th Street, was filed with the City on March 23, starting a 90-day clock to schedule a hearing in front of City Council. Planning & Development staff presented the corridor application to the Quality of Life Committee on April 27.

Just before press time, City Council set the hearing for the morning of Wednesday, June 8. A decision on approval of the corridor could follow the hearing immediately.

**Upcoming Urbanites Events**

The next Houston Heights Urbanites event will be a June 30 Happy Hour, 5:30-8:00 PM at Lei Low, 6412 N Main. Coming up in August, we’ll have a White Linen Night Pre-Party at John Palmer’s Studio.

Check [www.facebook.com/HoustonHeightsUrbanites](http://www.facebook.com/HoustonHeightsUrbanites) for updates and more information.
Calendar (continued from back cover)

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<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>PIP Meeting 7:00 PM 1602 State Street</td>
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<td>Heights Garden Club 10:00 AM (varies)</td>
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Community Calendar

Events planned by other community organizations

Every Saturday, 8:00 AM, Heights Running Club will meet on the Heights Boulevard jogging trail at 7th Street. 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. For more information, email jnjblom@gmail.com or visit http://www.hatds.org/index.php?page=ecd

August 31, 6:00–8:00 PM, Opera in the Heights kicks off its 2016–2017 season with Overture! at Tommy Vaughn Ford, 1201 N. Shepherd Drive. For more information or tickets, call 713-861-5303 or visit www.operaintheheights.org.

September 16–24, Opera in the Heights presents Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II “the Waltz King” at 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information or tickets, call 713-861-5303 or visit www.operaintheheights.org.

November 11–19, Opera in the Heights presents Puccini’s La Bohème at 1703 Heights Blvd. For more information or tickets, call 713-861-5303 or visit www.operaintheheights.org.

Future History

Beyond the calendar grid...

October 2, Bicycle Rally
December 2–3, Holiday Home Tour
December 13-14, Holiday Food Baskets
February 26, 2017, Awards Dinner
April 7–9, 2017, Spring Home & Garden Tour weekend
June 3, Fun Run (tentative date)

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 page can be viewed at http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html

Recycling Reminder — No Glass In The Bin!

Under the City’s new curbside recycling rules, glass is no longer allowed in the green recycling bins. Glass is still accepted at neighborhood depositories and recycling centers, such as the one at 9003 N. Main.
## Calendar of Events for June 2016

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<td><strong>PIP meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>HHA General “Summer Camp”</strong></td>
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HHA headquarters: The Fire Station is on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets.  
HHA web site: <http://www.houstonheights.org>