

HYDE PARK UNITED

A PUBLICATION OF THE HYDE PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2011

Hello Neighbors!!



Welcome to the April issue of the Hyde Park United Newsletter. Before I update you with some of the activities that are in the works, I wanted to quickly recap our March membership meeting. We were thrilled to have Council Member **Wanda Adams** and HPD Officer **Wayne Pate**. Among the important topics of discussion were recycling, redistricting and best practices for keeping your home and property safe. For more details, please read the Secretary's minutes.

During the month of April, we recognize **Earth Day 2011**, and your Hyde Park Board would like to celebrate this by holding a 'Spring Cleaning' day during the course of the month. We want to organize neighbors to get together and recycle any trash and garbage that appears on the side of the streets, etc. It will be a fun event. Further details will be announced at the April membership meeting, along with postings to our website and Facebook Group page.

In this spirit of recycling, I am pleased to announce that our April speaker is **Mike Marino**, store manager of the Montrose Blvd. Kroger. Mr. Marino is coming to the meeting with recycling shopping bags for everyone who attends, and will update everyone on the remodeling of the store.

Spring is in the air, and therefore the Yard of the Month recognition is back! Dur-

ing the last couple of weeks, I have been noticing many of you out there preparing your yards, and getting them ready for Spring. If you would like to nominate your yard, or a neighbor's yard, please email me at president@hydeparkunited.org. I am also pleased to announce that this isn't limited to single family homes. This now extends to all dwelling types (Condos, Town Houses, Businesses, etc). Who is April's Yard of the Month? See inside (this was my nomination).

Resident of the Month for April 2011 is a well-known advocate of our neighborhood, Mr. **David Centanni**. David has done so much for our community, in terms of his volunteerism with the Deed Restrictions committee and his continued support as our Webmaster. You can read more about David inside.

Finally, I want to recognize **Cythnia Greenwood**, and the members of her Citizen's Patrol. We were notified the other week that Hyde Park now has the largest Citizen's Patrol group in the Neartown area, and added eight new patrollers last month. Congratulations everyone . . . keep up the good work!

I hope to see you at the April membership meeting, set for Monday, April 4, 2011.

Trevor Eade, President

BOARD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

Trevor Eade
president@hydeparkunited.org

VICE PRESIDENT

George Sroka
vicepresident@hydeparkunited.org

SECRETARY

Macy Bodenhamer
secretary@hydeparkunited.org

TREASURER

Carol Brownstein
treasurer@hydeparkunited.org

OTHER CONTACTS

DEED RESTRICTIONS

Stephen Marchione
deedrestrictionschair@hydeparkunited.org

MEMBERSHIP

Stephen Hill
membership@hydeparkunited.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Beth Cunningham
newsletter@hydeparkunited.org

NEXT MEETING...

Monday, April 4
Doors open at 7:15PM

The following Special Guest Speaker is ready to take your questions!

"Disco" Kroger Store Manager
Mike Marino
Special Topic: Recycling

Grace Lutheran Church – *See you there!!*

www.hydeparkunited.org

P.O. Box 66422 • Houston, TX 77266-6642

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK CAPTAINS

Bomar

Dan Schnorr 832-455-7135

California / Westheimer

Kathleen Schipper 713-522-2538

Commonwealth

Timothy Perez 713-304-2672

Fairview / Van Buren

Beth Cunningham 713-557-2567

Hyde Park / Hyde Park Apts.

Linda Carter 713-524-2952
& Alex Aranda 713-533-9474

Hyde Park Crescent

Stephen Hill 281-658-6129

Hyde Park Townhomes

Daniel Posada 713-454-7834

Indiana / Yupon

Brigitte Wignall 832-549-7669

Jackson

Doug Prince 713-471-6816

Maryland

Chris Lemus 713-528-1673

Michigan

Tom Whitworth 713-523-8035

Missouri

Jeanne Wallace 713-528-0834

Montrose

Bill Pesota 713-527-8026

Peden

Mike Lutomski 713-443-4380

Vermont

Sharon Lord 713-522-9427

Waugh

Sue Chin 713-522-3231

Welch

Scott and Lina Rigrod 713-528-2791

West Drew

Mike McKann 713-526-6777

West Gray / Hazel

Sherry Waddell 713-524-7655

Willard

Camille Bogel 713-526-7625

Yoakum

Macy Bodenhamer 713-521-4655

Meeting Minutes

HYDE PARK UNITED CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 2011

Submitted by Macy Bodenhamer, Secretary

INTRODUCTION AND

OFFICER REPORTS

The March 2011 meeting of the Hyde Park United (HPU) Civic Association was held at Grace Lutheran Church on Monday, March 7.

Hyde Park United President **Trevor Eade** opened the meeting. Board officers were introduced. He asked for a motion to accept the February minutes that were published in the March 2011 newsletter. A motion was made, followed by a second, and the February minutes were approved as submitted by **Macy Bodenhamer**, secretary.

HPU Treasurer **Carol Brownstein** submitted the Treasurer's report, which was seconded and approved.

Trevor announced that the March newsletter was produced through his efforts, with resident **Beth Cunningham** coming on board as the new newsletter editor, beginning with the April issue.

Membership Committee Chair **Stephen Hill** announced that we have 189 paid memberships with an aggressive membership drive coming soon.

Cynthia Greenwood announced that HPU has the largest Citizens on Patrol volunteer group through the Neartown HPD Storefront, with eight new patrollers. Neighborhood Watch signs for display are on order.

OLD BUSINESS

Deed Restrictions Committee Member **Allyson Wilkinson** provided a brief update on the new construction on Welch, which is a deed-restricted single family home.

NEW BUSINESS

Trevor introduced guest speakers: City Council Representative **Wanda Adams** and HPU Officer **Wayne Pate**.

Ms. Adams began her presentation by thanking residents for their support, complimenting HPU on its neighborhood character and being close knit. She then commented on the city's \$130 million budget shortfall, including how the city is examining ways to fill that gap by eliminating non-essential core services. Also mentioned were the capital improvement initiatives, including Proposition One for city drainage and flooding issues. City redistricting based on the new census results was also discussed, with the issue of redrawing or adding districts on the table. Issues regarding traffic calming and abandoned properties were brought up by residents, with Wanda's commitment for follow-through.

Officer Wayne Pate reminded us that Citizens Complaint forms are available at the Neartown Storefront. He advised that complaints about noise ordinances, such as those stemming from the Hollywood Restaurant on Montrose at Hyde Park should be reported through the HPD non-emergency number at 713 884-3131. He also advised that residents should document serial numbers for all valuables, in case of theft. HPD is now able to track this through pawn shops so this is critical for car and home burglaries.

Trevor asked that all join our Facebook page for better communication and trafficking of local events, safety, etc.

There was a motion to adjourn the March meeting, followed by a second. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Deadline for the May edition of Hyde Park United newsletter is April 17.

Please submit all materials and advertising inquiries to: newsletter@hydeparkunited.org

Yard of the Month 2602 Commonwealth



This 100-year-old property is beautifully maintained by John Ellis Jr. and his wife Danielle. Mr. Ellis has lived in the neighborhood for 25 years. For the past 20 years, he has been serving as the Honorary Consul General of Malta. The Ellises are excited about the revitalization of our neighborhood.

Neighbor of the Month David Centanni



I have called the Hyde Park neighborhood my home for more than 13 years! I have been involved with the Civic Association for many years, and I have volunteered as the Webmaster for hydeparkunited.org for over 12 years.

I work at ExxonMobil as a Security and Controls Supervisor, and in my spare time I enjoy spending time with friends, and finding a good bargain... and when time allows, traveling the world!

I really enjoy our neighborhood, as I can walk to a variety of businesses and restaurants, that's great...and, of course, it is close to my work.

RE/MAX
Metro

Mike Copenhaver
Broker Associate

2626 Richmond Avenue
Houston, TX 77098
Mobile: (713) 528-4963
Office: (713) 528-1800
Toll Free: (800) 519-1800
mikecopenhaver@remax.net



Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



People's Acupuncture Tx

Denise Saad, L.Ac.

Located in Hyde Park
Affordable Sliding Scale Payments
Holistic Health Care

<http://www.peoplesacupuncturetx.com>

info@peoplesacupuncturetx.com

Phone: 832-429-7822

Property Taxes TOO HIGH?

I'm a Neartown resident and can help.
Flat fee. Call for a free review.

Property and Other Tax Consulting

Laura Mullen, CPA
Mullen Consulting, LLC
1922 Lexington Street
(713) 526-5978

lmullen@mullenconsultingllc.com



The Organized Life

Creating the lifestyle you deserve.

the-organized-life.com

Professional Home Organizing, Event Planning & Management,
Home Staging for Sellers, Interior Redesign, Personal Assistant
Services and Building & Remodeling Consulting

Jason E. Trippier, Owner & Creative Director
614-778-5946 Jason@the-organized-life.com
1332 Fairview St— 77006

River Oaks



713.526.2273

Your Printing Solution®

100 Copies

\$4.50

B/W

\$33.50

Color

From same originals, letter size, regular white paper.

**1405 WAUGH DR.
Houston, TX 77019
Fax 713.521.0124
rokk43@sbcglobal.net**

Just north of West Gray across from Luby's

Celebrate Mother Earth: She's the Only One We've Got!

For over 40 years, Earth Day—April 22—has inspired and mobilized individuals and organizations worldwide to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.



Earth Day was founded by United States Senator **Gaylord Nelson** from Wisconsin as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970. Earth Day is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and is celebrated in more than 175 countries every year. April 22 corresponds to spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn

in the Southern Hemisphere. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22 International Mother Earth Day.

The fight for a clean environment continues in a climate of increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more manifest every day. It is our responsibility to build a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.

HOW YOU CAN GET GREENER:

- Recycle. The city of Houston picks up most items curbside twice a month—see the recycling schedule in this newsletter for dates, qualified items, where you can drop off glass, and how to get your own bin.
- Keep our neighborhood clean—pick up trash on your lawn, in the street, and keep gutters clear of debris.
- Scoop your dog's poop—it's just the right thing to do.
- Consider biking, public transportation and carpooling when you can.
- Teach your kids and grandchildren the im-

portance of preserving our natural environment.

- Go organic. You can get locally grown produce, eggs and meat at our very own Grace Lutheran Church every Wed. from 9am-6pm through Central City Co-Op.
- Reuse. Donate your used goods at the Goodwill Store on Westheimer near Shepherd every day 10 am-6 pm. You can also shop there Mon.-Sat. from 9am-9pm and on Sun. from noon-6pm.
- Learn more by attending the Third Annual Earth Day Festival in Houston at Discovery Green on Sat., April 23, 10am-4pm, free. More at www.earthdayhouston.org.
- Visit www.houstonbeautiful.org for more ways to keep our city beautiful and other activities throughout April and May.
- Go global. Help with Japan's tsunami clean-up and rescue by donating \$10—just text "REDCROSS" to 90999 from your cell phone. Your donation will appear on your cell phone bill.

— Submitted by Macy Bodenhamer
(an earth child born on April 22)

Feral Cat Update

As of this writing, 10 of 21 cats have been neutered/spayed.

Due to new IRS rules, **SNAP (Spay Neuter Assistance Program)** can no longer accept donations designated for a specific purpose, i.e., Montrose Bar Cats, because SNAP is charging a fee for service. Therefore, SNAP returned \$1,000 in donations and asked



donors to make their checks payable to **HOPE** with "**Montrose Bar Cats**" in the memo field.

HOPE (Homeless & Orphaned Pets Endeavor) is an all volunteer, in-home foster, **NO KILL** adoption group serving the greater Houston area. Since its inception in 1999, HOPE has adopted out over 5,000 cats and dogs.

HOPE also has a feral cat **TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN** program. TNR is the most effective and humane method for dealing with Houston's feral cat population. If you would like more information on any of HOPE's programs, please visit their website www.homelesspets.net.

HOPE can give you a tax deduction—and me a reimbursement—so please make haste and send HOPE a check. Donations for HOPE should be mailed to:

HOPE
ATTN: Lisa Gilchrist
PO BOX 273331
Houston, TX 77277-3331

Please note: there is a beautiful Siamese male cat with large cajones hanging around the old Mary's Lounge on Westheimer. If this "show quality" kitty sounds familiar, you need to keep him inside and away from the girls. Otherwise, he's in my crosshairs for a snip and tuck! :)

— Kathy Schipper

Lawn Care Info You Can Really Use

Everyone in Houston has St. Augustine grass—it goes dormant in November and it wakes up in April and begins to grow again. And given that we had such a harsh winter, you are well advised to feed the lawn this year and help it get back to being healthy again. A hard winter will cause the grass to use up much of its food stores trying to survive. So feeding it makes plenty of sense.

BUT DON'T USE THIS STUFF!

Read the bag sometime:

Here are some quotes from the Bonus S package instructions:

- “Do not use under trees, shrubs, bedding plants or garden plants.”
- “Do not apply on or under the branch spread (root zone) of trees, shrubs, bedding plants, flowers or garden plants.”
- “Do not apply by hand or hand-held rotary devices.”
- “Do not apply this product in a way that will contact any person either directly or through drift.”
- “Runoff and drift from treated areas may be hazardous to aquatic organisms in neighboring areas.”
- “This product is toxic to aquatic invertebrates.”

IF YOU THINK WEED AND FEED IS SAFE—THINK AGAIN!

Howard Garrett Ph.D., better known as the dirt doctor, wrote in a recent article:

“The most heavily recommended ‘weed and feed’ fertilizers contain atrazine, a toxic chemical herbicide that is quite effective killing your trees and shrubs and you. Interestingly, non-organic and organic gardeners agree that these products should not be used. Atrazine should not be used on residential property period. Some of the specific products that you should avoid are Scotts Bonus S, Vigero, Sam’s, and others called weed and feed.”

The # 1 fertilizer to avoid is Scott’s Bonus S. As you will notice right on the label, it contains an herbicide called **atrazine** and that

toxic chemical herbicide should not be used around your shrubs and trees. Why? It will kill them! Atrazine is the new name given to “Agent Orange” which was used in Viet Nam.

The #2 worse choices in fertilizers are the nitrogen-only products such as 23-0-0. Our “land grant” university recommends this serious mistake be avoided at all costs. Not much can be done to the soil that will do more damage than these single element fertilizers. If you just bought some, take it back!

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE HEALTH RISK?? YOUR CHILD’S BRAIN, THAT’S WHAT!

DANGEROUS FOR HEALTH

One of the main ingredients of weed-and-feed, 2, 4-D is a neurotoxin once found in the product Agent Orange. The chemical 2, 4-D has been documented to cause *neurological disorders in children, reproductive disorders, cancer and hormonal disruptions (which surface later in life as breast cancer)*. This information was confirmed by the Extension Toxicology Network in 1996. These health risks are especially dangerous to children who are still growing and developing.

HARMFUL TO WILDLIFE

Weed-and-feed is harmful to humans--and wildlife, too. According to a study by the National Cancer Institute, the chemical 2, 4-D found in weed-and-feed contributed to an *increase in cancer in dogs*. It has also been shown to increase birth defects and other health problems in birds. The chemical 2, 4-D also is harmful to bees and other insects as well as earthworms and other earth-bound wildlife.

BANNED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Many local governments across the United States have banned the use of weed-and-feed and other products containing 2, 4-D. These communities are concerned about the effects that weed-and-feed has on life forms of all kinds.

POLLUTES WATER

The chemicals in weed-and-feed have also been shown to cause increases in harmful chemicals in local water supplies. The use of weed-and-feed as a fertilizer creates a high level of run-off that collects in sewer drains and pipes, which eventually leads the chemicals to the drinking-water supply. According to a study by the U.S. Geological Survey, 2, 4-D is one of the most common herbicides found in ground water and streams. Because of this, the Canadian Medical Association has banned the use of weed-and-feed products.

Oh yea—Does it matter if the next door neighbor uses weed and feed and you don’t? Damn right, it matters! because when it rains, it will come on to your land—you should print this article out and give it to your neighbor.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

How many people have a pet? Well that would be almost everyone!

How many people have seen a cat or a dog eat the grass to help them digest their food . . . probably almost everyone again. Now that is all the reason you need not to put weed and feed on your lawn—it will clog up their liver and may kill your pets. It is just as bad for your children and you. Use organic fertilizer and be done with poisons on your land. Go green this year—put an end to mysterious tumors and strange cancer in your family. Get some organic fertilizer—and feel good about your choice. It’s the right thing to do.

I recommend doing nothing to weeds. **Do No Harm to the land!** Hey, just treat the weeds like grass—mow the yard for the month of March. By April your regular grass will wake up and choke out the weeds and it will cost you nothing. Save your money and don’t buy any poisons—you don’t need them. To fertilize, simply get some organic fertilizer and use it to feed the grass. **Keep it simple, play it safe.** ■

Submitted by Jeff Law at Kabloom, 713-772-4296 and 713-256-0398; and Matt Raney, All in One Nursery, 4305 Northfield Ln., Houston, Texas 77092 allinoneplants@comcast.net.

Legacy Community Health Services to Open New Clinic in Montrose

The patients, employees, and board of directors of Legacy Community Health Services are all eagerly and excitedly anticipating the completion and grand opening of Legacy's new clinic in the heart of Montrose. Located at 1415 California, the 40,000 square foot, four-story brick and glass building will be Legacy's flagship location and is expected to be completed and ready to provide healthcare services to our community this fall.

"I am so incredibly excited," said **Katy Caldwell**, Executive Director of Legacy Community Health Services. "I find myself grinning from ear to ear every time I drive in Montrose and see the new construction rising over the nearby buildings. It really is a dream come true!"

To meet the growing healthcare needs of the uninsured and underserved, Legacy launched a \$15M capital campaign to combine healthcare services from three locations as well as its administrative services into one building. The new state-of-the-art, LEED gold certified medical facility will house eight specialty clinics, ten support programs, four education-based community programs and a pharmacy. This will not only boost the quantity and quality of healthcare services, but also the efficiency of delivering such care to uninsured and underserved families in Houston.

Services offered in the new building include low-cost primary care, behavioral health, family planning, eye care, wellness services, HIV/STD testing and counseling, HIV specialty care, and an array of support programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. Legacy will also be adding services such as pediatrics, pediatric behavioral health and dental services at the new facility.

"While Montrose area still has one of the highest rates of people living with HIV/AIDS, the neighborhood has many people with healthcare needs," said Caldwell. "We're



Legacy provides comprehensive, primary healthcare services to all Houstonians in a culturally sensitive, judgment-free and confidential environment

seeing more and more children, so we'll have a pediatrician and mental health services for children. Low-cost dental care is very hard to find in the neighborhood, so we'll fill that void as well."

Houston has the highest rate of uninsured citizens at 32%—twice the national average—and one and half million people present a significant strain on our healthcare system. This underscores the importance of Legacy in Houston communities. In 2010, Legacy served 38,695 patients, an increase of 14,952 from 2009 and saw these patients through 122,757 patient visits, an increase of 47,311 visits in 2009. This represents a dramatic increase of 39% in patients served. Over the past seven years, Legacy has seen a 61% increase in the number of patients served.

Houston's largest Federally Qualified Health Center, Legacy provides low-cost or no-cost primary and specialized healthcare services to the uninsured and underinsured in Hous-

ton. Their clinics provide a safe, culturally engaged place for people to receive quality medical care and their programs and services are tailored to meet the needs of the various communities they serve. Legacy's highly skilled and compassionate, interdisciplinary team provides a comprehensive continuum of care to improve the health of individuals and help them develop to their highest potential—physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

Legacy Community Health Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and the largest Federally Qualified Health Center in Houston. From five clinics, Legacy provides comprehensive, primary healthcare services to all Houstonians in a culturally sensitive, judgment-free and confidential environment. Legacy specializes in HIV/AIDS testing and treatment. Generous financial support from individuals, businesses and charitable foundations allows Legacy to provide no-cost or low-cost healthcare services to over 33,000 men, women and children each year. Legacy is a United Way affiliate agency. www.legacycommunityhealth.org. ■

Legacy
Community Health Services

Positive Interaction Program (PIP)

REPORTED BY KATHY SCHIPPER

Officer Paul Lassalle spoke on the topic of DUI/DWI.

In 2009, 5,717 individuals were killed in the Iraq/Afghan wars and 127,030 died in the US due to drunk driving. In Texas alone, there were 12,550 deaths. Harris County leads the nation in DUI-related fatalities—so we’re now not only the fattest but also the most dangerous drivers in the entire country!

Problems are associated with processing those suspected of DUI. There are only two facilities in the county, it takes two hours of processing time and there is a 40-minute drive to a facility. Meanwhile, grossly-positive Breathalyzer results are quickly diminishing due to metabolism. Throw in a refusal rate of 46% and only 350 officers to police 280,000 drivers on a typical Friday night, and Houston, it’s no wonder we’ve got a big problem.

Several measures have been taken to increase the arrest and conviction rates for drunk drivers. A special van was developed called the BAT (Breathalyzer Alcohol Testing): the front part is a testing area, the back end is a jail. “No Refusal Nights” are now every Friday and Saturday. If a suspect refuses the Breathalyzer, he/she gets a blood test. Defense attorneys used to tell their clients “don’t blow”—now they say “blow, don’t bleed.”

HPD will conduct the next “wet lab” for new officer training on July 27th. Members of the public are invited to drink above the Texas legal limit of 0.10 and submit to Breathalyzer, Field Sobriety Tests and performance videos à la “Grand Theft Auto IV” requiring chase scenes and driving through a series of cones and three-point turns. Be sure to have a designated driver or else take a cab home. Sounds like an interesting party—aw shucks, it’s on a Wednesday!

Please report concerns or questions online to the 802 Westheimer Storefront

using this email address: centralpatrol1district@cityofhouston.net. The Storefront will also use this address to send out e-mail messages and alerts regarding recent criminal activity.

HPD again asked that people who want to report suspected criminal activity to contact the HPD Dispatch Line (713/884-3131).

As a reminder, please report or fax to the Storefront, non-emergency complaints or problems utilizing the Central District One PIP “Citizen Complaint Form,” a copy of which is available on our website. Fax the form to HPD Storefront: (713) 284-8616.

The purpose of PIP (Positive Interaction Program) is to facilitate an exchange of information between the Houston Police Department (HPD) and neighborhood residents, using monthly community meetings as a forum. Hyde Park United falls within the boundary of the Central Patrol/District One PIP Group and meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited (and encouraged) to attend the meetings, which are held at the Police Officers Union Bldg, 1602 State St. The next PIP meeting is Tues., April 27. ■

Neighborhood Crime Report – January 2011

Activity	Street/Block	Premises	Date/Time
Robbery	1300-1399 Westheimer	Restaurant	01/10 05pm
	2300-2399 Montrose	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/31 01am
Burglary	1200-1299 Welch	Apartment	01/16 08pm
Auto Theft	1000-1099 California	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/08 12am
BMV/Theft	1000-1099 Missouri	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/03 06pm
	1500-1599 Missouri	Other/Unknown	01/05 05pm
	1200-1299 Peden	Garage/Carport	01/08 08pm
	1400-1499 Michigan	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/14 10pm
	1000-1099 Westheimer	Restaurant Parking Lot	01/15 09am
	1500-1599 Westheimer	Residence/Home	01/17 08am
	1900-1999 Waugh	Driveway	01/17 04pm
	1000-1099 Fairview	Restaurant Parking Lot	01/19 08am
	1100-1199 Fairview	Apartment Parking Lot	01/19 08am
	2400-2499 Montrose	Restaurant Parking Lot	01/19 09am
	1300-1399 Welch	Other/Unknown	01/19 07pm
	1300-1399 Welch	Other Parking Lot	01/19 08pm
	1100-1199 Jackson	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/21 07pm
	1100-1199 Peden	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/29 12am
	1600-1699 Van Buren	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/29 02am
	1600-1699 Van Buren	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/29 02am
	2100-2199 Van Buren	Road/Street/Sidewalk	01/30 07pm
	1100-1199 Westheimer	Restaurant Parking Lot	01/31 08am
	2600-2699 Montrose	Other/Unknown	01/21 08pm

Contact HPD dispatch line 713-884-3131 to report suspected criminal activity

Neighborhood Watch Report

REPORTED BY KATHY SCHIPPER

All residents are encouraged to contribute.

Activity	Address	Description of Problem	Date/Time	311	Police
Stealing or fencing bicycle	Burger King parking lot 1002 Westheimer	Grungy white male (greasy hair, ill-fitting jeans) rode expensive-looking white bicycle into parking lot. Black male wearing baggy jeans and baseball cap turned backwards drove up in 4-door black car, inspected bike, then both attempted to place bike into trunk of car then the back seat, but had trouble making it fit. They couldn't figure out how to disengage the front wheel. Observer with binoculars obtained license plate #GZS 923.	02/15 08:30 PM	No	Yes 911
BMV	Condos on Fairview at Van Buren	Rear window was smashed in our condo community parking lot adjacent to Van Buren, off Fairview. Neighbor reported two youngish males, one black, one white, who ran when the car alarm sounded. Prior to 10:30 pm.	1/29 < 10:30 PM	No	Yes
Unlocked Port-o-potties	Van Buren at Willard	Homeless or impaired man used facilities on Van Buren at Willard construction site after crew left for the day. A woman was walking south from W. Gray & resident waited to be sure she passed safely. The man then emerged and went on his way without incident. Another occasion, cab driver used same toilet. Resident comment: it does seem that the companies who are operating these sites should secure the door with a padlock on days or evenings when no one is there if for no other reason than the safety of neighborhood kids. A child who slipped out unsupervised could easily poison himself or drown. If the site isn't fenced (as the one on Van Buren and Bomar is), it doesn't seem safe to have these stalls around without some form of security. It could also attract repeat visitors to the area that don't need to be here. Note to resident: please contact the construction company with your comments and recommendations and then report it to 3-1-1.	?	No	No
Male checking door-knobs	1300 block Fairview	White male rattled door of Hyde Park resident presumably to see if it was unlocked. Walked away when he found it locked.	2/19 3 PM	No	Yes 911




CASEY GARRETT
REALTOR

10497 Town & Country Way, Ste 120
Houston, TX 77024

713-344-4057
caseygarrett@kw.com

W.K. HILL AWNING CO.
Custom Manufacturers of Canvas Goods - Since 1894

713-526-1347

Awnings • Canopies • Privacy Panels • Cushions

Free Estimates

Tex-Mex: The real deal

BY GREG MORAGO – HOUSTON CHRONICLE, REPRINTED BY PERMISSION

From the patio of what is sure to be the hottest new restaurant on Lower Westheimer you can make out the dead neon sign of the shuttered Felix Mexican Restaurant down the road. That antiquated sign, of a man in a sombrero napping under a cactus, was a beacon for generations of Houstonians seeking the ultimate Tex-Mex comfort food—cheese enchiladas with chili gravy, a mantle of orange processed cheese and your choice of Spanish rice or spaghetti.

That style of old-school enchilada plate may be largely gone from the contemporary Tex-Mex landscape, but it is definitely not forgotten. Certainly not by the partners of El Real Tex-Mex Café, the grand-scale restaurant set to open in the former Tower Theater on Westheimer at Yoakum. Bryan Caswell and Bill Floyd, partners in Reef, Little Bigs and Stella Sola, have collaborated with cookbook author and Tex-Mex authority Robb Walsh to create a throwback restaurant that celebrates historic Tex-Mex flavors and traditions that once ruled Texas Mexican restaurants.

The three amigos have so immersed themselves in the culinary history and iconography of Tex-Mex—like a corn tortilla sopping up chili gravy—that El Real is hugely invested

with rich culinary nostalgia at every turn. In the dining room they plan to display totemic oversized photographs of Houston Tex-Mex legends Leo Reynosa Sr. (the founder of the now-closed Leo's Mexican Restaurant, who in his younger years rode with Pancho Villa), Felix Tijerina (a community leader whose restaurants featured a hybrid style of Tex-Mex that became popular with Texas Anglos), and Mama Ninfa Rodriguez Laurenzo (Houston's first lady of Mexican cooking, who is credited with introducing the world to the taco al carbon, or fajita).

If those late great Tex-Mex superstars could see what the partners have put into their interpretation of classic Tex-Mex they'd no doubt approve. El Real's owners have lovingly embraced a culinary tradition that has given us foods such as San Antonio chili and puffy tacos; Lower Rio Grande Valley botanos and panchos; Houston fajitas and lush green table sauce; Brownsville-style grilled shrimp and seafood. They're calling the style of food at El Real "vintage" Tex-Mex.

"What it really is is Tex-Mex before convenience foods came in that changed Tex-Mex. It's old style. There's nothing new here. That's our goal," said Walsh, who partnered with

Floyd and Caswell after leaving his longtime post as restaurant critic for the Houston Press.

That "vintage" menu will include dishes such as stacked enchiladas, eggs poached in hot sauce, enchilada plates with chili gravy or chili con carne, puffy tacos, and mesquite wood-fired grilled fish, shrimp, steaks and fajitas. And, of course, killer margaritas.

This iconic food will be served against a backdrop drenched in Tex-Mex memorabilia, much from Walsh's personal collection. Tabletops feature old Mexican restaurant menus, Freddy Fender album covers and old advertisements for Gebhardt's and Mexene chili powders and canned products. The partners salvaged 65-year-old chairs from Felix and had them restored and re-covered. There are old doors and fixtures from Felix, a chandelier from an old Ninfa's, and blow-ups of vintage Mexican movies and concert bills of fare.

"It's a Tex-Mex museum," Walsh said. "It's a history—a Tex-Mex history."

But the partners also want the 345-seat venue to rock Westheimer.

"What excites me is it is going to be fun," Caswell said.

To create a lively atmosphere, El Real will feature a fresh tortilla station. A projector will play old Mexican movies on a wall on the same side of the building of the former theater's stage and screen. There will be live conjunto music for brunch, and live bands on



NIDDA
Thai Cuisine
Authentic Thai Food

1226 Westheimer Road
Houston, Texas 77006

Tel: 713-522-8895
Fax: 713-522-8517

Monday—Friday
Lunch Specials: 11 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Saturday
12:00 Noon — 10:00 p.m.

Sunday
12:00 Noon — 9:30 p.m.



**Yesterday's Service
Today's Technology**

\$14.95 Oil & Filter Change with this Ad

1759 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77098
Fax 713-529-8065
713-529-5855

AAA Approved

Total Body Cleanse

Is your body looking for toxic relief and a personal tune up?

Do you want to:

- Sleep better?
- Lose weight?
- Increase lean muscles and athletic performance?
- Look and feel younger?
- Reduce your stress levels?
- Have more energy?



PATTI MOORE
ISAGENIX EXECUTIVE
WELLNESS COACH
713-858-1474
PATTI@PSAMETALS.COM
WWW.MOOREPATTIISAGENIX.COM



ISAGENIX
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

JUST dinner.

ANDREW REBORI - CHEF
1915 DUNLAVY | HOUSTON 77006
713.807.0077
AREBORI@AOL.COM

weekends when the restaurant plans to serve until 3 a.m. The bar where the house margarita will be made with Espolón tequila will be called the Felix Bar, an homage to Felix Tijerina, the Houston restaurateur and civic activist.

"We want to make the place agreeable and fun," Caswell said. "My main focus is for customers to have a good time. We want them to come back."

But the partners also want to keep it real at El Real. Things like using real rendered lard for the refried beans (the once ubiquitous lard gave way to oleo and hydrogenated vegetable oil).

"Tex-Mex went through rough bad periods of declining quality. What we're doing is going back to these temples of Tex-Mex for inspiration," Walsh said. "Everyone else is trying to upscale Tex-Mex and dress it up. I think all of us have a respect for the basics, like refried beans in rendered lard. In that way we're coming full circle in Tex-Mex."

Because definitions of what constitutes classic Tex-Mex are as varied in Texas as salsa recipes, the partners are ready for inevitable foodie backlash about the authenticity of certain dishes. Floyd has been through it before. He said when he and Caswell opened Little Bigs serving sliders, there were foodies who complained that their mini burgers were not authentic sliders. "But that wasn't the point. It was about having a great tasting hamburger," Floyd said. "And it's the same here. This is supposed to be great-tasting Tex-Mex. At the end of the day, you want to come here because it tastes good."

**HYDE PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEEDS A NEW LOGO!**

We need a look that captures the eclectic and charming qualities of one of Houston's oldest inner city neighborhoods. A look that evokes the vibrancy of a neighborhood of old and new homes. A look that says, "Hey, you're living in one of the most exciting neighborhoods in Houston."

We need a logo that expresses all of that and more. So we're launching a logo design contest and invite you to enter. If you have ideas, please submit your design ideas (as .EPS or .JPG files) to president@hydeparkunited.org. Entries must be submitted no later than April 25 to be considered.

This is a members only competition. Membership application form is on the back page of this newsletter. Join now!

er," Floyd said. "And it's the same here. This is supposed to be great-tasting Tex-Mex. At the end of the day, you want to come here because it tastes good."

But it's not lost on El Real's partners that their location is practically the epicenter of a restaurant boom on Lower Westheimer. Catalan chef Chris Shepherd is set to open his own project, called Underbelly, adjacent to the upcoming Hay Merchant craft beer bar from Anvil's Bobby Heugel and Kevin Floyd. Those projects are directly across the street from El Real's towering marquee of neon ("Chris Shepherd joked you'll be able to see it from

the moon," one of the partners said).

And later this year, the former Felix Mexican Restaurant just down Westheimer from El Real will be the new home of Uchi, from Austin superchef Tyson Cole.

Walsh said it's poignant that the restaurant (and its sign) that serves as an inspiration for El Real will eventually vanish. "As we're opening this place, that place is disappearing," he said.

But the spirit of Felix food—and so many other great Tex-Mex classics—lives on in earnest at El Real. ■

GENERAL CRAFTSMAN

**Large and Small Scale
Renovation and Repair**

Call: Richard Paulssen
(713) 520 6311

MIKE SPEAR.COM

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIALIST.
Call me if you are planning to buy or sell property in our neighborhood.



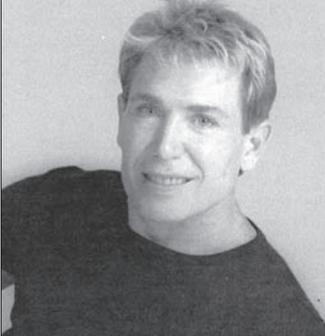
Mike Spear
Realtor Associate
713-204-7653

mspear@marthaturner.com

Martha Turner
PROPERTIES

I WANT TO BE YOUR REALTOR!

JOHNWILMORE.COM



JOHN C. WILMORE
at K.Reneé Salon & Spa

3100 Timmons Lane, Ste. 130
(Inside the Loop)
Houston, Texas 77027

713.622.6444

**LINA'S
CLEANING
SERVICE**



713-528-2791

**REFERENCES REASONABLE RATES SINCE 1989
BLOCK CAPTAIN, HYDE PARK UNITED C.A.
832-282-5462 (LINA)**

Important Dates & Membership

Garbage & Yard Trimming Collection
Every Monday (except Holidays)
Recycling
APRIL 2011
Monday, April 4
Monday, April 18
MAY 2011
Monday, May 2
Monday, May 16
Tuesday, May 31
JUNE 2011
Monday, June 13
Monday, June 27
Heavy Trash
April 12 – Junk Waste
May 10 – Tree Waste
June 14 – Junk Waste
Monthly Membership Meeting
Monday April 4 – 7:15PM Grace Lutheran Church

Please note – Your automated container & recycling bin should be at your curb by 7 a.m. and removed by 10 p.m., on your collection day. If it appears it may rain, do not put out your newspapers for recycling, because the city cannot recycle wet newspapers (they will pick them up but they cannot be recycled). Also, glass is **NOT** accepted curbside. The closest place to drop off glass (and everything else except toxics) is the recycling place on the corner of Center Street and Harvard. The site has been remodelled with well-labelled containers.

If you do not have a recycle bin and would like to participate in the City’s Recycle Program, please call 3-1-1 to arrange for the City to deliver a recycle bin to your home.

If you are interested in looking at the city’s recycle schedule yourself, or are interested in what may and not be recycled, look at the following website (this is a recent revision): www.houstonsolidwaste.org.



Join our Facebook Group TODAY!

As soon as your request to join is approved you’ll be able to stay informed with:

- Community Alerts
- Upcoming Events
- Community Activities



Search for:
Hyde Park Civic Association

Hyde Park Civic Association Membership Form

Membership Fees ONLY \$25 Annually

Please support your local community by becoming a member today! The Hyde Park Civic Association is a 501(c)4 not-for-profit organization, and therefore relies on membership dues, donations and contributions to fund our civic activities.

Date:		New Member:		Renewal:	
Lamar Park Donation	\$	Neighborhood Protection Donation		\$	
Name:					
Street Address:					
Home Telephone:		Cell Phone:		Business Phone:	
Email Address					
Community Interest/Concerns:					

One vote per membership. The bylaws of Hyde Park United define who can be a member. Your annual membership ensures your voice will be heard in all matters concerning the area you have chosen to call home. Through our newsletter and monthly meeting, you can be part of this beautiful, historic and growing area.

Thank you for joining, and helping us build a “sense of community.” Mail with your check with completed form to:

Hyde Park United, PO Box 66422, Houston, TX 77266

Join online at www.hydeparkunited.org or at the next membership meeting!