

HYDE PARK UNITED

A PUBLICATION OF THE HYDE PARK UNITED CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2011

Dear Friends & Neighbors,



Welcome to the June issue of the Hyde Park United Civic Association newsletter! This special edition of the newsletter celebrates our vibrant community, and recognizes June as LGBT Pride month!

As part of the Pride celebrations we have a very special neighbor to recognize and honor as our June Resident of the Month, Houston Pride's Female Grand Marshal 2011, **Tammi Wallace**. To learn more about Tammi and her outstanding community involvement turn to page 11.

Pride this year is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 25, and I am sure will be a huge success. Last year's pride celebration attracted more than 200,000 individuals to the neighborhood. Safety and security are of the utmost importance to the Pride Board of Directors, and I am delighted to announce that Pride President, **Frankie Quijano** will join us at our June membership meeting to introduce this year's event, and cover topics such as logistics, programming, security and safety.

This month's Yard of the Month is spectacular! I really enjoy walking through the neighborhood and appreciate all the hard work that is done to ensure the

yards are kept so beautiful. Be sure to check out June's Yard of Month inside on page 3.

Unfortunately, I do have some sad news to share. Due to an unforeseen and overwhelming health condition, I recently had to make some difficult decisions. One of those included the necessity to step down as President of the HPU Civic Association.

George Sroka has graciously accepted the role to take on the reins as President with immediate effect. I will remain an active member and participate with the Civic Association to continue to meet its goals and objectives this year, but at a much slower pace. It is a great team of Board Members, and I have 100% confidence in their ability to meet our neighborhood needs through this challenging time of transition.

I would like to thank all of you for your support, prayers and well wishes while I have been going through this challenging life changing experience. I am hopeful that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and every day it is getting larger and larger.

Trevor Eade

NEXT MEETING...

Monday, June 6

Doors open at 7:15PM

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

Frankie Quijano

President, Houston Pride

Grace Lutheran Church
At the corner of Waugh Drive and Missouri St.
See you there!!

BOARD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

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Save the Date! Monday, June 27
Annual Appreciation Dinner for Block Captains and Volunteers
Details to be announced at June 6th meeting.

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

Brigette 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

HPU Civic Association meeting minutes: May 2011

Submitted by Macy Bodenhamer, Secretary

INTRODUCTION AND OFFICER REPORTS

The May 2011 meeting of the Hyde Park United (HPU) Civic Association was held at Grace Lutheran Church on Monday, May 2.

HPU Vice President **George Sroka** opened the meeting. Board officers were introduced and all present asked for introductions. Board Secretary **Macy Bodenhamer** asked for a motion to accept the April minutes that were published in the May 2011 newsletter. One resident inquired about the trimming and removal of trees on Fairview mentioned at the April meeting, but not documented in the minutes. George committed to following up with the Deed Restrictions Committee on the issue.

A motion was made, followed by a second, and the April minutes were approved as submitted plus the addition of comments from the previous meeting on the removal and trimming of trees on Fairview.

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

Membership Committee Chair Stephen Hill provided a Membership Committee update, noting that membership renewal notices will be sent soon to all those with expiring memberships.

OLD BUSINESS

George announced that the HPU Civic Association new logo development contest has been extended. Any association member is eligible to participate – please send submissions to president@hydeparkunited.org.

George provided an update on HPU using Constant Contact's services for email updates. He recognized local realtor **Mike Spear** for sponsoring the annual service.

An updated HPU website is under development and slated for a July launch.

The petition for Willard St. set-back protection is awaiting review and further action by the City of Houston.

HPU plans to hold a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in June or July, stay tuned for details.

NEW BUSINESS

Resident **Bill Galbraith**, Democratic Party Chair for our precinct, presented an update on our city council redistricting based on census results. Bill stated that Friday, May 6 was the last opportunity for citizens to provide input to the city on how redistricting should be addressed.

George introduced guest speaker **Katy Caldwell**, executive director of Legacy Healthcare. Katy reviewed the status and mission for the new Legacy four-story, 40,000 square-foot facility located at 1415 California. Legacy provides preventive and primary healthcare to all, including underserved communities. The new location will have a multitude of services including an eye clinic, dentistry, obstetrics/gynecology care, mental health services, and an on-site Walgreens pharmacy. Katy also mentioned that the organization saved three 90-year-old oak trees for preservation on the property, representing a canopy of shelter aligned with Legacy's wellness mission. There will be plenty of parking available. An Open House event was held on May 17. The facility will be open to the public in September and operate from 8am to 7pm Monday through Thursday and till 5pm on Fridays.

A resident brought up the issue of local graffiti and asked how to best address it. The city 3-1-1 helpline can address graffiti issues on public property. Graffiti on private property is the owner's responsibility.

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

**Deadline for the July edition of the Hyde Park United newsletter is June 19.
Submit all materials and advertising inquiries to: newsletter@hydeparkunited.org**

Yard of the Month: 1312 Willard



“The Palm is a Canary Island Date Palm rescued from the old Teas Nursery before it closed. My wife, Monica, got it for me for my 40th Birthday. I planted the Live Oak tree as a sapling a couple of years ago; it’s very happy and seems to enjoy the company of the Palm. The grass is an “Eco” mix of Zoysia, Buffalo and Bermuda grasses similar to what the City of Houston plants along Buffalo Bayou. It stays short and is considered a low water mix, as the roots are much deeper than St. Augustine. I always compost, and use organic fertilizers and no pesticides.”

Monica and Stephen Marchione, Winners, June Yard of the Month

JUST dinner.

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THE SEVEN DAYS OF PRIDE START JUNE 18.

- ★ Opening Ceremonies
Jones Plaza // June 18 // 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Dine with Pride
Chelsea Grill // June 22 // All Day
- ★ Divas of Diversity Comedy Show
Houston Club // June 19 // 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Pride SuperStar Finale
Meteor // June 23 // 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Cocktail Social
Surprise Venue // June 21 // 8 p.m.
- ★ Rokk the Runway Fashion Show
South Beach // June 24 // 8 p.m.
- ★ **Pride Festival**
June 25
1 to 7 p.m.
- Pride Parade** ★
June 25
8:15 p.m.

Live. Love. Be. in 2011

They've said it for years, and now with seven days to celebrate Pride, we're still the biggest LGBT event in the South. Join us for all seven of our spectacular events starting June 18. Get the most up-to-date event times, addresses and last-minute details at Pride's website: <http://www.pridehouston.org/celebration>.



Don't forget to sign up to become a Friend of Pride to get bleacher seats, an open bar and many other benefits! Learn more at <http://www.pridehouston.org/support/fop>.

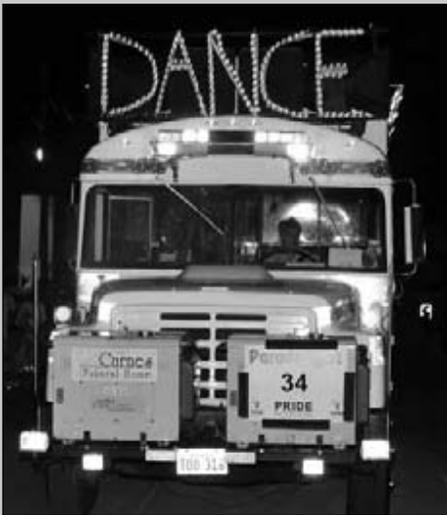
**Bud Light Presents the 33rd
Annual Houston LGBT Pride
Festival and Parade**





Scenes from Pride Parade 2010

Photos courtesy Dalton Dehart



Car-free Living in Houston

'My Houston 2040' happy hour panel discussion

Submitted by Beth Cunningham

Houston Tomorrow, Air Alliance Houston, and the Citizens' Transportation Coalition meet monthly for "My Houston 2040" presentations and discussions about their vision for Houston's future and how to achieve that vision by year 2040. Topics include transportation, environmental quality and sustainability, culture, inner-city living, and urban growth.

The May meeting's focus was "Car-free living in Houston," featuring three Houston residents who get around on foot, two wheels and/or public transportation, moderated by **Jessica Lockrem**, a Rice graduate student who has lived without a car for ten years, the past two of those years here in Houston.

Panelists discussed how they came to their decision to live without a car, why they have continued that lifestyle, how they get around Houston, and their wish list for facilitating transportation around the city. All agreed that they enjoy the cost savings of not owning a motor vehicle.

Generally, the cost of auto ownership was the catalyst for living car-free. Then choices had to be made about where to live in relation to work, public transportation, stores, medical facilities, and entertainment. Panelists became accustomed

to finding the safest cycling routes, using the bike racks on Metro buses, managing their personal schedules according to Metro's bus and light rail schedules, planning for weather surprises, and figuring out how much they can carry at a time.

In addition to saving lots of money, panelists found that they enjoy more physical exercise, support local businesses, and explore more areas of Houston off the main roads.

Their advice to anyone thinking of choosing to live without four wheels:

- Check out Google Maps and its recommendations for public transit, as well as biking and walking directions.
- Shop in more frequent and smaller trips with backpack, paniers.
- Look for other cyclists to learn about best routes.
- Become acquainted with the Houston Bikeways Program, website <http://bikeways.publicworks.houstontx.gov/>.
- Work bus route backward based on your intended arrival time.

- Use the Metro website trip planner function, <http://ridemetro.org/>.
- Stay alert when biking; assume that car drivers don't see you; make eye contact with them.
- Use safety measures when biking: flashing LEDs, reflective straps.

Some recommendations for making it easier to get around town, our panelists' wish list includes:

- More and better data on bus stop signs.
- Real-time displays at bus stops about next bus arrival time.
- More bus shelters, bike lanes and bike racks at bus and light-rail stations.

My Houston 2040 holds Happy Hour discussions the second Thursday of every month, upstairs at Ruddyard's. Social networking begins at 5:00 p.m., discussion takes place from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public, drinks and food can be purchased at the bar and interested parties are invited to stay as long as they like for informal discussion.

For more information, get connected with the host organizations on Facebook or at <http://airalliancehouston.org>, <http://ctchouston.org>, and <http://houstontomorrow.org>. ■



For more information, get connected with the host organizations on Facebook or at:

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Hyde Park Artist of the Month

This month: 'Late Bloomer' Marguerite Belkin

There is good reason why paper artist **Marguerite Belkin** calls her latest sculpture "Late Bloomer." The ten year Hyde Park resident is a late bloomer. Shortly after she retired from a career in business, she began experimenting with origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. While it started as a hobby, as demand grew for her origami jewelry and designer paper hat creations, it blossomed into a full time artistic career.

Soon she was teaching origami classes at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, and her work was carried in a number of local venues including the Museum of Fine Arts Gift Shop.

An artist friend suggested she take some classes at Glassell. Now her artistry has taken a new turn with her latest interest—paper sculpture. Her paper triptych entitled "The Pursuit of Happiness" is on national tour with the Fuller Craft Museum's traveling show "The Perfect Fit," and

this summer she will be busy preparing pieces for a one-woman show mid 2012.



might have. You just need the courage to try, and a willingness to experiment." Her only complaint is that because she started so late, she has to find ways to speed up her artistic development to make up for lost time. She works in her studio every

Marguerite, 66, describes herself as "the world's oldest emerging artist." "It is never too late to reinvent yourself," she says. "You don't know what hidden skills or talents you



day, takes multiple classes, and attends as many gallery events as time allows.

"Hyde Park is wonderful for artists, with proximity to museums, galleries, studios and of course, Texas Art Supply is practically next door."

She and her husband **Bob**, along with art dog **Scruffy**, start every day with a morning mile in the neighborhood. "It's great exercise, a fun way to meet our neighbors, and to keep up with new developments."

Move over Grandma Moses, there is a new kid on the block. ■



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Positive Interaction Program (PIP)

A visit with law enforcement animals

Reported by Kathy Schipper

April's PIP meeting was a field trip to the HPD Canine and Equine Training Facility. Most police dogs come from Europe and are either German Shepherd or Belgian Malinois with an occasional bloodhound. The dogs understand the language of their birth country, thus, "Lobo" receives commands in Dutch but actually understands some Tex-Dutch. The dogs are expensive (\$10–15K) but are paid for using funds from drug dealer property seizures.

They are trained to do different types of police work and utilize a system of "pas-

sive alert," meaning they sit and stare if narcotics, explosives, or tracked persons are detected.

These pooches ride in specially outfitted patrol cars complete with water bowl and temperature control system (86–92 degrees). If a situation requires the dog, an officer can remotely unlock the door and the dog will come to the officer's aid.

The HPD Mounted Patrol horses are unique in that they are barehomed (no shoes) and do not wear bridle bits. The horses are mature (2 years +) and all are

donated by individuals. They must be evaluated and gentleness is a highly desirable trait.

The horses have a large open play area and roomy stables. They need four things: safety, comfort, play and food. They love to play and it was fascinating watching a horse being trained by the "horse whisperer." They are amazing animals.

They must learn to remain immobile in crowds and not to jump around smoke or fire. They receive peppermint treats for good work. The upcoming Sundance Film "Buck" is highly recommended.

* * *

Please report concerns or questions online to the 802 Westheimer Storefront using this email address: centralpatrol1-district@cityofhouston.net. The Storefront will also use this address to send out e-mail messages and alerts regarding recent criminal activity.

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 June 22, 2011. ■

Neighborhood Crime Report – March 2011

Activity	Street/Block	Premises	Date/Time
Robbery	2000-2099 Waugh	Liquor Store Parking Lot	03-14 08pm
Agg. Assault	1300-1399 Westheimer	Restaurant Parking Lot	03-08 08pm
	1000-1099 Westheimer	Road/Street/Sidewalk	03-24 04pm
Burglary	1400-1499 Missouri	Residence/House	03-22 08pm
	1200-1299 Westheimer	Multiplex Home	03-29 08am
Auto Theft	2300-2399 C'Wealth	Apartment Parking Lot	03-21 01am
Theft	1500-1599 Maryland	Residence/House	03-01 12pm
	1400-1499 Westheimer	Restaurant Parking Lot	03-10 08pm
	2400-2499 C'Wealth	Apartment Parking Lot	03-10 08pm
	1400-1499 Westheimer	Restaurant Parking Lot	03-11 09am
	1300-1399 Fairview	Driveway	03-12 10pm
	1200-1299 Fairview	Driveway	03-12 11pm
	1400-1499 Hyde Park	Apartment Parking Lot	03-13 12am
	1100-1199 Welch	Road/Street/Sidewalk	03-14 05pm
	0900-0999 Westheimer	Convenience Store	03-17 09pm
	1400-1499 Westheimer	Bar/Nightclub Parking Lot	03-18 02am
	1700-1799 Van Buren	Driveway	03-20 02am
	1200-1299 Missouri	Business Parking Lot	03-28 07pm
	1700-1799 Montrose	Road/Street/Sidewalk	03-28 08pm
	1400-1499 Westheimer	Apartment Parking Lot	03-28 08pm
	1100-1199 Willard	Driveway	03-28 09pm
	2100-2199 Montrose	Commercial Pkg. Garage	03-29 05am

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

With Gratitude for Your Cattitude

Montrose Bar Cat fundraiser is a success

Submitted by Nanette Griffin

Whenever the call goes out, Montrose residents can be counted on to step up and meet a communal need, especially when that need is a compassionate one. It happened again May 8th when Hyde Park neighbors and supporters gathered for a feral-centric back yard party at the home of Nanette Griffin.

Guests enjoyed freshly grilled sliders, Camille Bogel's homemade potato salad, and an array of trimmings, including chipotle mayo, pickled vegetables, and guacamole. "Calico" cupcakes and "tuxedo" brownies topped off the meal, washed down with jelly jars of wine. (Bendy straws, optional but encouraged.)

Theo Ostler and Sandra Bubbert took home the 2nd and 3rd place door prizes; Jim Hurst of 1111 Bomar was the lucky winner of the Grand Prize luxury condo weekend and hospitality basket. Congratulations to all!

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, sent contributions, donated prizes, and helped host, MBC met its inaugural benefit goal of \$1,000.

Although the party is over, unfortunately, the work isn't. But it's never too late to help. To make a monetary donation or offer other assistance, contact Camille Bogel (cell 832-794-2577/home 713-526-7625/cacking@sbcglobal.net) or Nanette Griffin (ngriffin40@att.net).

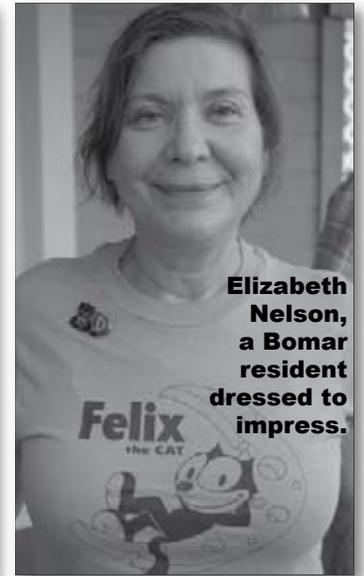
A receipt for your tax records will be provided upon request and we still have some "Raise Your Glass (For The Kitties!)" CDs and Moo Kitty magnets. You need only ask. ■



Charlie Garza & Barbara Harris share a jelly jar of white wine.



The Feral Queen, Rachell Dove, in tiara with her "Miss Feral 2011" duct tape sash.



Elizabeth Nelson, a Bomar resident dressed to impress.



Greg Jeu & Jim Hurst (Winner of the Luxury Condo Weekend) help themselves to sliders.



Denise Saad & Melinda Winn display an MBC party centerpiece.



Donna Tomlinson, Rebecca Szwarc, Sandra Bubbert (3rd prize winner).



Bill Pesota, Kathy Schipper (a feral trapper), Beth Cunningham.

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Just north of West Gray across from Luby's

Hyde Park Neighbor of the Month: Tammi Wallace

2011 Pride Parade Female Grand Marshall

Hyde Park resident Tammi Wallace has been named the Female Grand Marshal for the 2011 Pride Parade in recognition of her work in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community.



A board member of the Hollyfield Foundation (<http://hollyfield.org/>), Tammi has been chosen by HPU Civic Association to be its June 2011 Neighbor of the Month.

Tammi has lived in Hyde Park for 2 years on Van Buren with partner Mercedes Leal, who has lived in Hyde Park for 20+ years. They have a small menagerie of rescued pets: two Chihuahuas, Chule and Lucy, and an orange tabby named Ramona.

Tammi recently started a new job as the Chief Growth Officer for KIPP, the Knowledge is Power Program (www.kiphouston.org). In this position, she will oversee Development, Marketing and PR, Govern-

mental Relations/Advocacy and overall growth strategy. KIPP works in Houston and across the nation to help underserved students (see sidebar). She was previously the Chief of Staff and Campaign Manager for State Rep. Ellen Cohen.

In addition to her career and advocacy for the GLBT community, Tammi's lifelong passion has been photography. She's a member of the Houston Innerloop Photo Club.

Tammi says she "likes living in Hyde Park/Montrose because we are right in the middle of this vibrant and growing city that I so dearly love!!! I like to think that Montrose is where the city converges to show our best attributes: diversity, energy, creativity, and history. I moved to Houston in 1986 from a small town outside of Memphis, Tennessee called Southaven, which is actually in Mississippi. I have NEVER looked back!!!!

"Houston is home and I feel fortunate that my life journey has brought me to such an incredibly giving and open city.

Very specifically, what I love about living in our neighborhood is hearing the church bells from Grace Lutheran on a beautiful Sunday morning and of course, Niko Nikos." ■

About KIPP

KIPP, the **Knowledge Is Power Program**, is on a mission to *develop in underserved students the academic skills, intellectual habits, and qualities of character necessary to succeed at all levels of pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, college, and the competitive world beyond*. Now entering its second decade, KIPP has become a national leader in the movement to provide all children with access to an excellent education. KIPP was founded in Houston, and 18 of KIPP's more than 90 schools are here, modeled after what we started in 1994. While just 40% of low-income students across the nation matriculate to college, KIPPsters boast a 90% college matriculation rate.

As we teach our students, *there are no shortcuts* on the path to college graduation. Students achieve their dreams by following two important rules: **Work hard. Be nice.** KIPPsters work hard by spending *more time on task* than many of their peers. They are in class from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and have extra learning opportunities during weekends and summers. Nevertheless, at KIPP, we believe it is just as important to be nice as it is to *work hard*. KIPP schools develop character traits that empower students to become ethical leaders, productive citizens, and loyal friends. ■

HPU LOGO CONTEST

Contest will remain open until we have a winner!

All members of Hyde Park Civic Association are invited to submit entries for a new logo that captures the eclectic charm of one of Houston's oldest inner-city neighborhoods.

Submit your design in .eps or .jpg format to president@hydeparkunited.org.

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Important Dates & Membership

Garbage & Yard Trimming Collection
Every Monday (except Holidays)
Recycling
JUNE 2011
Monday, June 13
Monday, June 27
JULY 2011
Monday, July 11
Monday, July 25
AUGUST 2011
Monday, August 8
Monday, August 22
Heavy Trash (2nd Tuesday)
June 14 – Junk Waste
July 12 - Tree Waste
August 9 – Junk Waste
Monthly Membership Meeting
Monday June 6 – 7:15 PM 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:					
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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!