

HYDE • PARK

MARCH 2015

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hydeparkhouston.org

Letter from the President

This newsletter needs a new editor



Howdy, Neighbors!

Do you enjoy receiving and reading this monthly newsletter? Then help us find a new editor, so we can keep the publication coming to your doorstep! Our former editor served us well, but has moved on. Any resident with some graphic design skills and four-six hours of extra time each month is eligible. If interested, please email: president@hydeparkhouston.org.

A big thank you goes out to the 150 or so new and renewing members of the association. Your support helps pay for the printing of this newsletter and maintaining Lamar Park. It also helps keep the wheels turning within this all-volunteer-run nonprofit organization, which serves to represent our 1,100 households and growing. If you haven't joined or renewed yet, please do so at www.hydeparkhouston.org or see the mail-in form on page 5.

I would like to extend another shout out to a second group of important folks - our block captains. This group of 26 volunteers deliver newsletters each month to homes, complexes and businesses in our hood. Their time and efforts help keep everyone informed. See page 2 for the block captain list and contact info.

This publication serves YOU, so if you have a topic of interest you would like to see covered or one that you would like to see addressed at a monthly meeting, please let me know.

And, mark your calendar for Monday, March 2, to hear **Council Member Ellen Cohen** speak at our next meeting. Submit any questions you have in advance to president@hydeparkhouston.org. I hope to see you there.

In the meantime, enjoy rodeo season, the coming of spring, and all that our wonderful community has to offer.

Sincerely,

Macy Bodenhamer, *President*

Annual Capital Improvement Plan meeting March 4 in West Gray MSC

The annual District C Capital Improvement Plan Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4th, 2015 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at the West Gray Metropolitan Multi-Service Center (1475 W. Gray St, 77019) The Public Works and Engineering Department and others will present upcoming infrastructure projects that will affect the district. A portion of the meeting will be devoted to questions and comments from the community. The public is invited to attend and learn more about how the city plans to invest in community improvements.

NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

HPD Non-Emergency Line
(713) 884-3131

24/7 Montrose Management District Security Patrol
(832) 370-9191
Dial 311 for City Helpline

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 2 - General Mtg., Rudz, 6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker - City Council Member Ellen Cohen

April 6 - General Mtg., Rudz, 6:30 p.m.

April 11 - SuperFun Picnic
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Cherryhurst Park

BOARD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT - Macy Bodenhamer
president@hydeparkhouston.org

VICE PRESIDENT - Tammi Wallace
vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org

SECRETARY - Travis Marshall
secretary@hydeparkhouston.org

TREASURER - Rex Richardson
treasurer@hydeparkhouston.org

PAST PRESIDENT - George Sroka
pastpresident@hydeparkhouston.org

DEED RESTRICTIONS - Diana Mobley
deedrestrictions@hydeparkhouston.org

MEMBERSHIP and DIRECTOR AT-LARGE - Sandie Zilker
membership@hydeparkhouston.org

CITIZEN PATROL - Rex Richardson
citizenpatrol@hydeparkhouston.org

NEWSLETTER - Position Open
newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org

ADVERTISING - Carlos Fernandez
advertising@hydeparkhouston.org

LAMAR PARK
Rodney Morris and Dean Emmons
lamarpark@hydeparkhouston.org

SEEKING BLOCK CAPTAIN West Gray / Hazel

Contact: vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org

BLOCK CAPTAINS

Bomar

Greg Jeu & Jim Hurst 281-541-6756

California / Westheimer

Cecilia Kammer 832-788-1586

Commonwealth

Liz Hudson & Carol Brownstein 713-527-9852

Mark McCreary

Fairview

Irene Dahlgren 713-299-5190

Hyde Park / Hyde Park Apts.

Linda Carter 713-524-2952

Alex Aranda 713-533-9474

Hyde Park Crescent

Susan Ellis 713-528-8289

Carlos Fernandez 713-520-7017

Hyde Park Townhomes

Daniel Posada 713-454-7834

Indiana / Yupon

Alice McCarthy 713-521-5807

Jackson

Brandon Bartee 832-866-1426

Maryland

Cathy Hanchett 713.542.4921

Michigan

Tom Whitworth 713-523-8035

Missouri

Tammi Wallace 713-301-2266

Montrose/Waugh

Christina Ptasinski 832-516-9811

Peden

Lori Corwin 832-582-6520

Vermont

Sharon Lord 713-522-9427

Welch

Scott and Lina Rigrod 713-528-2791

Cliff Jones 713-524-3055

West Drew

Mike McKann 713-526-6777

West Gray / Hazel

OPEN

Willard

Delia Isabel Cuellar 832 819-0813

Yoakum/Van Buren

Macy Bodenhamer 713-201-5810

Block captains: Notify
vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org
of any changes in contact information.

February 2015 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Travis Marshall, Secretary

The February 2 monthly Hyde Park Civic Association (HPCA) meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. by **President Macy Bodenhamer** with 30 guests present. The meeting was kicked off by the attendees introducing themselves, and by sharing their civic association role and the street they live on. A sign in sheet was passed around in order to document those in attendance.

Guest Speaker Stephen David of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development discussed and answered questions on the topic Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones, or TIRZ for short. It was a very informative and honest conversation had between Mr. David and the HPCA members in attendance. See recap on page #.

Membership Chair and Board Director-at-Large Sandy Zilker announced membership numbers. She stated that the 2015 membership is up to about 151. More residents are still in need of renewing their membership. You can join on the civic association's website at www.hydeparkhouston.org.

It was then announced that HPCA is still in need of a new Newsletter Editor. Graphic design abilities are needed and it only requires about six hours of work a month. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering their time to HPCA please contact **Macy** at president@hydeparkhouston.org.

Deed Restrictions Committee Chair Diana Mobley and Divya Chandrasekhar shared a development update. They stated that all is quiet in regards to contact with developers. They did share that Commonwealth Commons has eight permits in and will begin building soon and that communication with the Fairview Flats

developers is ongoing. It was also shared that West Drew has successfully become Chapter 42 protected, which means that the minimum lot size has been limited. If you are interested in Chapter 42 protection for your block, petitions are underway for several blocks and you can find out more information by contacting deedrestrictions@hydeparkhouston.org.

Treasurer Rex Richardson has stepped up and filled the recently open role of the Coordinator for Citizens on Patrol. Citizens on Patrol is a cooperative program between HPD and HPCA to increase the vigilance of the community on the comings and goings of our neighborhood's streets. Rex will serve as the coordinator short term until resident and patroller **Bill Ellis** returns to Houston in early summer.

Bodenhamer next reported that the Crime Watch data will be in this month's newsletter. There is usually between a two and three month delay because of the way HPD gathers data. Auto theft from vehicles has the highest crime rate in our neighborhood.

Next month, HPCA's meeting is on March 2 and will be hosting **Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen**. Many topics concerning our neighborhood will be discussed, so be sure not to miss this opportunity to learn and express your concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Hyde Park Needs You!

*Volunteer to be our
Newsletter Editor*

If interested, please email:
president@hydeparkhouston.org.

City Guest Speaker Elaborates on Proposed TIRZ

Submitted by Macy Bodenhamer

At the March 2 monthly meeting, **Steven David** with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development spoke about last December's Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) proposal to annex portions of Montrose into Midtown. The proposal was hotly discussed at a Dec. 15th community meeting, at which many expressed disappointment at the lack of prior communication regarding the proposal and had extensive inquiries into what the proposal might mean for our area and residents.

Steven acknowledged these facts and assured that the City has pulled the proposal back off the table to "hit the reset button" due to concerns. Details will be reevaluated with the Mayor and City Council, who will then determine a new proposed plan, to be discussed with community stakeholders in March. At that time, the community's voice will determine next steps.

The TIRZ primary intent, Steven explained, is to spur commercial and economic development. An annexation of Montrose territory into Midtown would provide property



Steven David with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development

tax revenues within the zone's boundaries to be frozen at a base level. The amount collected above that level, known as the increment, is funneled back into the zone to pay for infrastructure and capital improvements in hopes of spurring private development. Some residents questioned this need, given the already seemingly abundant development in the area. Others inquired about the exact application

of the funding and control of that.

A board of directors, appointed by the Mayor, would determine exactly how those funds would be applied. The original proposal intended to connect Midtown to areas of Montrose and the Museum District, with a map that included a small portion of Hyde Park. Street portions of Montrose, West Alabama, Richmond, Westheimer, and West Gray were included, with the aim of improving roads, sidewalks, green space, and transportation modes. No more than 30% of residential properties can be included in a TIRZ. Steven pointed out that Midtown's funding is vastly greater than any funding that could be produced by Montrose alone. A typical TIRZ spans three ten-year increments.

Watch this newsletter for updates on the topic next month.

Our appreciation is extended to Steven for attending our meeting and thoroughly addressing questions from the audience. He can be reached at Steven.David@houstontx.gov and (832) 393-0985.

2015 MEETING, TRASH PICKUP AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

All residents are welcomed to monthly meetings (@ **6:30-7:45 p.m., 2nd floor Rudyard's Pub on Waugh**). Featured guest speakers will be announced in advance. Come early to order dinner or a beverage and enjoy during the meeting. Meetings are always held on the 1st Monday of each month, with exceptions noted below.

Monday, March 2

Monday, April 6

Saturday, April 11: SuperFun Picnic

Monday, May 4

Monday, June 1

**Monday, July 6 - No meeting,
Volunteer Reception TBA**

Monday, August 3

**Tuesday, September 8
(Monday the 7th is Labor Day)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 6 - National Night
Out in Lamar Park**

Monday, November 2

**December - No meeting, Holiday
Party TBA**

TRASH/RECYCLING:

TRASH PICK-UP: MONDAYS

SINGLE STREAM: Mar 2, 16, 30

TREE WASTE: Mar. 4; May 6; Jul. 1

HEAVY/JUNK: Feb. 4; Apr. 1; Jun. 3

NEWSLETTER:

newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org

CITIZENS ON PATROL - FEBRUARY 2014

Volunteer Patrol Hours:

From February 1st through February 15th the Citizen's Patrol spent 22.25 hours on the street and 17 hours in their cars.

Rex Richardson is now the Citizens Patrol Coordinator. Much appreciation is extended to **Cynthia Greenwood** for the fine job she has done creating, spearheading and managing this program since its inception. **Thank you, Cynthia!**

SAVE THE DATE:

**2nd Annual
Super Fun Picnic
Saturday, April 11
11 AM - 2 PM
Cherryhurst Park**

Cohen to address Hyde Park March 2 at Rudz



**Houston City Council Member
Ellen Cohen**

Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen will address the Hyde Park Civic Association on Monday, March 2, at Rudyard's on Waugh Drive. Cohen represents District C, which includes Hyde Park, Montrose, the Heights and more. The meeting starts at 6:30. Arrive early if you'd like to order food and beverage to take upstairs to the meeting.

Cohen has lived and worked in the city of Houston for the past 37 years. She served for 10 years as the Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee, and for 18 years as the CEO of the Houston Area Women's Center, working with survivors of sexual and domestic violence. In 2006, she was elected as the Texas State Representative for District 134. After serving two terms in the Texas State Legislature, Ellen decided to continue her public service career at home. She ran for Houston City Council, and was sworn into office in January 2012 as the Council Member representing District C.

During her tenure on Council, Ellen has championed the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, the elimination of the sexual assault kit backlog, the creation of a Parking Benefit District for the Washington Corridor, and many other initiatives to improve the quality of life of her constituents. She is currently serving her second term on Council.

NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH: *Diana Mobley*

Submitted by Travis Marshall, Secretary

A Hyde Park resident for the better part of two years, Diana, a Fairview Street resident, is an avid traveler who enjoys bike riding, playing guitar, and doing water aerobics at the YMCA when not exploring the ends of the earth. Diana is an environmental engineer at National Oilwell

Varco and brings that passion for the environment to the Deed Restrictions Committee by helping to protect the historic trees of our neighborhood. You can probably find Diana hanging around Rudyard's or catching half price Montrose Monday at El Real with her fiancée, John. Diana is a member of the Houston Pride Band, where she plays bari sax, and is a volunteer for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, where she has been matched with her "little sister" for five years. Diana's favorite movies are Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" and "Waterworld" and she is currently reading Rick Hanson's Hardwiring Happiness. Be sure to meet Diana at the next HPCA meeting!



Diana Mobley, avid traveller and defender of our deed restrictions



Diana with an ancient Roman aqueduct while traveling in Paestum, Italy

**Recommend someone for
Neighbor of the Month by emailing
Travis Marshall at:
secretary@hydeparkhouston.org**

Our Neighborhood Boundaries

Ever wondered exactly what territory makes up Hyde Park? See the map at right for our boundaries.

The northern-most upper section was annexed into our area in the 1990s to include Peden, Hazel and West Gray.

Appreciation is extended to Board Member **Divya Chandrasekhar** who created the updated, easy-to-read map.

There are about 1,100 households in our neighborhood, compared to Cherryhurst on our west side, which has only 300 households.

Only about 10% of residents are civic association members. If you're not one of them, please consider joining for just \$30/year. And if you haven't renewed your membership for 2015, please so do. Use the form below or just go to our website to pay through PayPal. Memberships fund the cost of printing this newsletter, help maintain Lamar Park and more. We need your support and welcome your involvement!

Mail form and check to:
Hyde Park Civic Association
PO Box 66422
Houston, TX 77266-6422
Or just pay online at
www.hydeparkhouston.org.



Hyde Park Civic Association Annual Membership

(Due each January, no proration)

Individual - \$30	Couple - \$60	New or Renewal (circle one)
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Date Paid:	
Amount Paid: \$	Check No.:
Name(s):	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-mail:	

Do you know how much you pay for electricity?

Do you know how much you pay for electricity? Answering that question could save you money *and* benefit the Hyde Park Civic Association.

The civic association has partnered with Stream Energy in their PowerUp program to raise funds for the maintenance of Lamar Park. Stream contributes \$5 per month to the civic association for every customer who switches their electricity to Stream through Hyde Park's PowerUp web site.

It's fast and easy to do so, and best of all -- you could save money on

your electric bill. If you need any help understanding your electric bill and your rate, please call George Sroka at 713-522-7050. There's no obligation to switch; the choice is always yours.

Lamar Park is the location of our annual National Night Out celebration in October. Maintaining the park is the responsibility of the civic association. When you see the grass being cut and edged, that's civic association money you see being spent.

Maintaining Lamar Park costs the civic association about \$3,000 per year. Park maintenance and printing

the monthly newsletter are our two biggest annual expenses.

If 25 people switched to Stream through our PowerUp fundraiser, that would raise \$1,500 a year, cutting our park maintenance expenses in half.

Switching is as easy as visiting hydeparkhouston.org and clicking the "PowerUp" link. Or you can go directly to hydepark.streampowerup.biz. It just takes a few minutes to switch. And if you'd like a free analysis of your electric bill, call 713-522-7050.

-- submitted by George Sroka

Friends of Cherryhurst Park host award-winning journalist March 12

The Friends of Cherryhurst Park will have its first Speaker Event for 2015 on Thursday, March 12, at the Cherryhurst Community Center at 1700 Missouri in Montrose.

Claudia Kolker who is an award-winning journalist and fellow Montrose neighbor will be our speaker. She is a writer for the Houston Chronicle.

The topic of Ms. Kolker's talk will be her published and well-received book called, *THE IMMIGRANT ADVANTAGE: What We Can Learn From Newcomers To America About Health, Happiness, And Hope.*

A few reviews:

"A sparkling debut and reminder that America was built by immigrants in search of a better future for their

children" -- Kirkus reviews

"A fabulous, fun, eye-opening read" -- Amy Chua, author of Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother

One of O Magazine's Ten Titles to Pick up Now

The Phoenix on Westheimer located at 1915 Westheimer is the sponsor providing the refreshments for the event.

Refreshments and Registration

6:15 pm - 6:45 pm

Claudia Kolker Speaker / Q&A

6:45 - 7:45 pm

Donations are appreciated with all money going to programs for children and adults in Cherryhurst Park. Friends of Cherryhurst Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Donations may be made by check or credit card.

43rd Annual Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta March 7

Date: Saturday, March 7

Time: 7:30 am - 2 pm

Start: 7700 San Felipe

(1/4 mile west of Voss Street)

End: Sesquicentennial Park

Entry Fee: \$45 - \$60 per person

Houstonians (ages 12 and up)

are encouraged to participate

(competitively or just for fun) in

the 43rd Annual Buffalo Bayou

American Canoe Association (ACA)

sanctioned race along the scenic

Buffalo Bayou. For more informa-

tion, visit www.buffalobayou.org.

Hyde Park Needs You!

Volunteer to be our next Newsletter Editor

We need a volunteer to fill the crucial role of newsletter editor starting with the March issue. The **Hyde Park Newsletter** is one of our most important communication channels in Hyde Park and it also generates ad revenue that supports the association. Please consider volunteering for this

important role. Volunteers make the difference in Hyde Park! The role description for the newsletter editor is included at right. If interested in volunteering, please email vicepresident@hydeparkhouston.org.

Software Requirements:

Proficiency with Adobe Indesign (Mac or PC); Adobe Photoshop

Time Requirements:

Between 4 and 8 hours monthly

Logistical:

Coordinate with President on content Preparation of files for printer

General Knowledge:

Ability to lightly edit submitted copy for clarity; Adjust photo tonality; Basic design skills



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12:00 Noon — 10:00 p.m.

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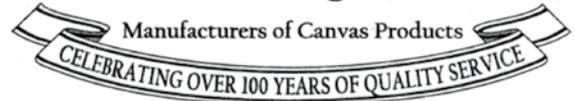
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SAVE the DATE!

Second Annual

Super Fun Picnic

and

Neighborhood Potluck

Saturday, April 11

11 AM - 2 PM

in Cherryhurst Park

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Windsor, Missouri and Ridgewood.*

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APRIL 2015

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March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 <i>Full Moon</i>	13	14
Daylight Saving Time Begins	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Last Quarter</i>	21
22	23	24 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	25	26	27 <i>First Day of Spring New Moon</i>	28
29	30	31			<i>First Quarter</i>	
Palm Sunday						