

HYDE • PARK

MAY 2015

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hydeparkhouston.org

Letter from the President



Hello Hyde Parkers,
Thanks to all who attended the Super Fun Picnic last month and for Board Member **George Sroka's**

event coordination efforts. See page 4 for a recap.

Board and Deed Restrictions Committee Member **Divya Chandrasehkar** has resigned, accepting a new position in another state. On behalf of the Board, I thank Divya for her commitment and hard work serving our community and contributions to the enforcement of our deed restrictions. Divya, you will be missed. If you are interested in serving on the Deed Restrictions Committee, please contact president@hydeparkhouston.org.

In most exciting news, this newsletter has a new editor! Finally! Big kudos to resident

and artist **Adrienne Wong** for stepping up to accept this role. Watch for more details in the June issue. And appreciation is extended to **Jesse Jackson** for serving as temporary editor, producing the fabulous issue you hold in your hands now.

I'll keep this short, as there is a LOT of important info inside. Join our Facebook page if you want even more current news. AND - if you're not an official HPCA member - please change that by using the form inside or visiting hydeparkhouston.org.

I hope to see you at our May 4 meeting, when city speaker **Brian Crimmins** will discuss big vision planning for the city and how you can contribute. See page 3 for more details and speaker information.

Sincerely,
Macy Bodenhamer

New Condo Development Coming

Submitted by Diana Mobley

A replat request was approved on April 16 to allow two large lots at the intersection of Waugh and California to become an unrestricted 15,625 square foot lot. Vernon G. Henry, & Associates, who requested the replat, stated that the developer plans to construct condominiums. Building plans have not been finalized, however the applicant stated the developer does

not plan to request variances. The final height of the project and total number of condos is undetermined, however high rise ordinances should prevent the project from exceeding eight stories.

The lots are not deed restricted and have no Chapter 42 minimum lot size protections. The required setback is five feet from the sidewalk.

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meetings at Rudz, 6:30 p.m.

MAY 4: Brian J. Crimmins, Houston Planning & Development Department

JUNE 1: BikeHouston Guest Speaker

JULY: Volunteer Reception (date TBD)

BOARD CONTACTS

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lamarpark@hydeparkhouston.org

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Roy Brooks
volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org

NON-EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

HPD Non-Emergency (713) 884-3131

24/7 Montrose Management
District Security Patrol
(832) 370-9191

Dial 311 for City Helpline

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

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Alex Aranda 713-533-9474

Hyde Park Crescent

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Carlos Fernandez 713-520-7017

Hyde Park Townhomes

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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

Roy Brooks 832-691-6587

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.**

April 2015 Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Travis Marshall, Secretary

The April 6 Hyde Park Civic Association (HPCA) meeting was called to order at approximately 6:40 p.m. by **Vice President Tammi Wallace** with 35 guests present. The meeting started with the attendees introducing themselves, 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.

It was announced that **Roy Brooks** will be serving as HPCAs **Volunteer Coordinator**. **Roy** is a resident of Peden St. and was featured in last month's newsletter as Neighbor of the Month. He is excited about setting out an action plan to engage more volunteers in the happenings of the community. Also it was announced that the new liaisons with HPD and their Positive Interaction Program (PIP) are **Sharon Seligman** and **Nelson Vergel**. Thanks for stepping up guys! We are still looking for a new Lamar Park Chairs. If you are interested in this position, please contact **President Macy Bodenhamer** at president@hydeparkhouston.org.

It was also announced that **Deed Restrictions Committee Member and Board Member Divya Chandrasekhar** will be leaving the neighborhood in the coming months. **Divya** has been key in the enforcement of our deed restrictions and will be missed dearly as her and her husband Michael move on to their next stage of life.

Treasurer Rex Richardson reported that HPCA saw an influx of cash this month. If you would like access to a thorough breakdown of HPCA's financials, please contact **Rex** via his email treasurer@hydeparkhouston.org.

Rex is also the Citizens on Patrol coordinator and reported several incidents within the neighborhood. He reminded us to not confront the incident, but to report

it to HPD. Safety should be our first priority.

Membership Chair and Board Director-at-Large Sandie Zilker announced that the 2015 membership is the largest in recent history, at around 180 members. Keep inviting neighbors to join and attend the monthly meetings. You can join on the civic association's website at hydeparkhouston.org.

There have been several reports of the blue trash trucks picking up the green recycling bins. CM Cohen's office stated that sometimes the city will deploy blue trash trucks to pick up the recycling bins when the green trucks are running behind. If you witness something that looks suspicious, please report it to 311.

The Deed Restrictions Committee had nothing to report. Development still seems to be slow. HPCA will try to keep the neighborhood aware of road closures when possible. Contact deedrestrictions@hydeparkhouston.org for more info on protection for your block.

It was also announced that the Hyde Park Wikipedia page is now up and running thanks to **Diana Mobley**. You can check it out at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyde_Park,_Montrose,_Houston.

The general meeting agenda was followed by this month's **guest speaker Trudi Smith of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership**. She discussed the new and future developments going on at Buffalo Bayou along Allen Parkway. For more information, see the article recapping the presentation on page 3.

The next meeting is on May 4, hosting a speaker from the city's Planning Department who will be seeking input from Hyde Park residents. Be sure not to miss this opportunity to help the city know what our neighborhood needs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Previous Guest Speaker Recap

Trudi Smith of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership visited last month's meeting educating us on the past, present, and future of Buffalo Bayou Park, one of Houston's most prominent parks. There are 22 bayous in Houston and the majority of those bayous flow into the the 52 mile Buffalo Bayou. The Buffalo Bayou Partnership is a nonprofit organization that works with the city on projects to better the area of Buffalo Bayou between Shepherd Drive and downtown. They are responsible for managing over a \$150 million worth of projects including Sesquicentennial Park, Sabine Promenade, Allen's Landing and Buffalo Bend Nature Park. There are a lot of fun activities going on at the park, so make sure to check out buffalobayou.org to see all that is going on.

May 4 Association Meeting Guest Speaker

City Guest Speaker to Discuss City's General Plan

On May 4, **Brian J. Crimmins, chief of staff for the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department**, will discuss Plan Houston, the effort to create the city's first ever general plan. The goal of the general plan is to create a citywide vision and create collaboration across city departments and agencies, to guide Houston's growth and development, enhance neighborhoods and better coordinate efforts to make positive change throughout our city.

The website <http://plan-houston.org/> will keep citizens informed of these efforts and will eventually host the planning coordination tool that will help the community see specific plans for their neighborhood. On the site is the draft vision and goals for Plan Houston. The City is asking residents to comment and give feedback.

Since joining the Department in 2006, Brian has worked to revise "one size fits all" ordinances by developing creative solutions that recognize the uniqueness of areas without the use of zoning. His efforts include major revisions to Houston's parking ordinance and primary land development code, Chapter 42, as well as leading the exploratory and framework phase of the general plan development. As the Chief of Staff, he has taken a proactive approach to citizen engagement by working to remove the barriers between government and the community.

Brian graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Before moving to Houston, he worked for the Michigan Department of Transportation on the bi-national team studying the need for additional border crossing capacity in the Detroit/Windsor region.



In his private time, Brian is involved with BikeHouston, a nonprofit organization that works to secure equitable access for bicyclists to regional facilities, lands and roads; educates members of the public and policymakers about rights and responsibilities of bicyclists; and promotes public awareness of the personal and community benefits of cycling.

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 held on the 1st Monday of each month, with exceptions noted below.

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

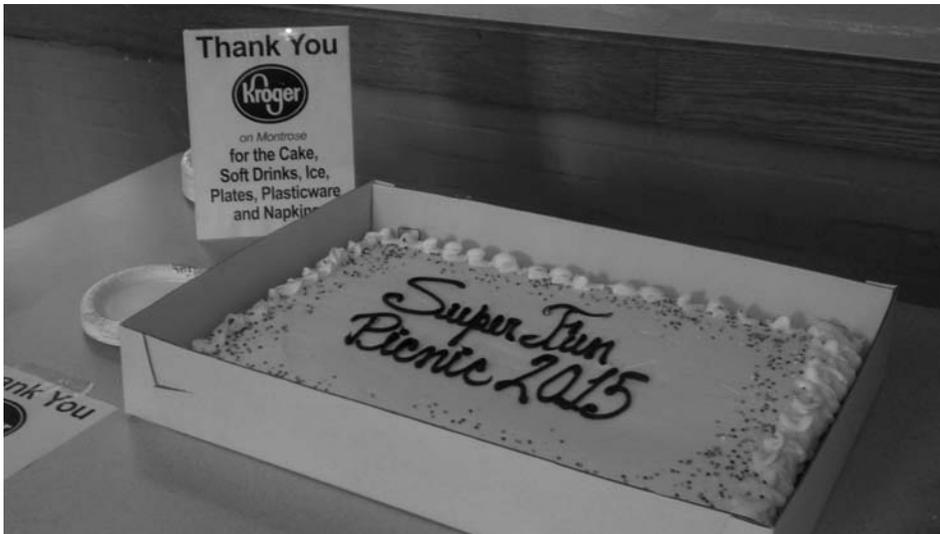
TREE WASTE
May 6, Jul 1, Sep 2, Nov 4

HEAVY/JUNK
Jun 3, Aug 5, Oct 7, Dec 2

GENERAL RECYCLING SCHEDULE

May 11, 25; Jun 8, 22; Jul 6, 20;
Aug 3, 17, 21; Sep 14, 28; Oct 12, 26;
Nov 9, 23; Dec 7, 21

Super Fun Picnic Succeeds Despite Threat of Rain



About 50 local residents shared food and played games Saturday, April 11, at the Second Annual Super Fun Potluck Picnic in Cherryhurst Park. Despite the threat of rain, the day remained rain free, allowing participants to enjoy their food and games on tables set up outside.

Inside the Cherryhurst Community Center, participants young and old played ping pong and sampled food contributed by residents. Kroger on Montrose donated a large white-and-chocolate cake, soft drinks, paper plates,

napkins, plastic flatware and ice. Niko Niko's on Montrose provided several tasty desserts.

Thank you, **Kroger** and **Niko Niko's**, for your support.

Volunteers from the **Friends of Cherryhurst Park (June Spencer, Carol Rensink)**, the **Hyde Park Civic Association (George Sroka)**, and the **East Montrose Civic Association (Glenn van Gaalen)** organized the event. Volunteers from Hyde Park (**Diana Mobley**, her sister, **Zeki**, and **Travis Marshall**) helped set up and clean up. Residents from all



local neighborhoods were invited to attend.

The doorprize - a gift card for **Low Brows on Main and Mandell** -- was won by **Ken Smith**, who lives in Cherryhurst

New Residential Parking Permit Area

On April 8, the City Council unanimously voted to designate the 1300 block of Hyde Park Boulevard a residential parking permit (RPP) area. The RPP program should go into effect no later than June 7, at which point, parking on the block, which runs between Waugh Drive and Van Buren, will require a parking permit between 8AM and 8PM daily.

Two long term Hyde Park residents started the petition two years ago at National Night Out in response to growing concern of excess business parking on the block. Street parking was at full capacity on a daily basis, preventing parking for visitors and service

workers to the residents. It was noted many of the cars were not street legal. **Mark Garcia**, the owner of Downtown Automotive on Fairview, voiced opposition on Houston Public Media to the new parking regulations and says his business will utilize different residential streets within the neighborhood if they are unable to park vehicles on the 1300 block of Hyde Park Blvd.

To complete a permitting process, more than 60% of residents must support the initiative. Then, the city must perform a parking study on the block during the designated hours, and determine the block should become an RPP

area. Finally, the city council must approve the formation of an RPP area.

Residents within the RPP area can purchase up to six stickers for permanent vehicles in the household, four guest hanging tags, two hangers for service vehicles, and an additional tag for a health care professionals. These permits will cost \$27.52 each year. Additionally, guests can also purchase up to 100 short-term use passes each year, for \$1.10. More information can be found at: <http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/Residential-Parking-Permits>

New Sidewalks in Hyde Park!

If you navigate the sidewalks of Hyde Park, your journeys may be improved.

Montrose at Jackson, Fairview and Hyde Park and Yoakum are the locations of new sidewalk/curb installations. Typically the property owner is responsible for installation and maintenance of sidewalks. However the Safe Sidewalk Program provides sidewalks and ramps within the public right-of-way for pedestrians to use around schools and major thoroughfares and to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Once constructed, they become the maintenance responsibility of the abutting property owners.

For the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Houston, the Safe Sidewalk Program (SSP) provides.

The Department of Public Works and Engineering (PWE) constructs sidewalks as an independent public improvement through the SSP under **Pedestrian Accessible Review (PAR) Program, Safe School Sidewalk Program** and the **Major Thoroughfare Program**.

Pedestrian Accessible Review (PAR) Program: The PAR Program is administered by the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD). Sidewalks and curb cut/ramps are provided to improve sidewalk accessibility for people with disabilities. A disabled citizen is considered eligible to participate in the PAR Program when there is no safe accessible path of travel to any facility/structure deemed necessary to provide quality of life.



Safe School Sidewalk

Program: Provides for the installation of sidewalks leading to schools based on the following criteria:

- Students currently use route/street to walk to school
- Located within four blocks of a school
- Adequate existing right-of-way
- No constructibility issues (large ditches, slopes, large tree roots, utilities, etc.)

Major Thoroughfare Program:

Provides for the installation of sidewalks along major thoroughfares based on the following criteria:

- Thoroughfares lacking safe passage for pedestrians to reach areas around shopping centers, bus stops and other frequently traveled routes
- No constructibility issues
- Each request will not exceed 5 blocks

- Roadways scheduled for future construction within the next 5 years will not be considered

Pedestrian Accessible Review

(PAR) Program: PAR requests must be made by a person with a disability or their caregivers and submitted to MOPD by e-mail at mopdmail@houston.tx.gov. For additional information regarding MOPD, please call (832) 394-0814.

Upon MOPD's approval the request is forwarded to PWE for final design and construction.

Safe School Sidewalk

Program: Requests can be made by anyone. However, to ensure that new sidewalk installation is desired by the majority of the abutting property owners; a letter from the Home Owners' Association (HOA), Super Neighborhood Committee and/or the Council Member's office will need to be provided. Property owners can also submit a petition signed by 75% of the abutting property owners.

Major Thoroughfare Program:

Request can be made by any individual. The request must be for a specific street segment and include the following information:

- The requested street name
- The limits of the street segment (i.e. from the 8500 to 8600 block)
- Name of requester
- Address of requester
- Daytime phone number of requester
- Specific reason(s) for this request

Hyde Park on Wikipedia

Submitted by Diana Mobley, board member and Deed Restrictions Chair

The Hyde Park community now has a Wikipedia page! Hyde Park has a rich history that gets buried under the Montrose umbrella.

The Wikipedia page touches upon some of this unique history, and also covers current topics of interest in the neighborhood.

Check out this work in progress at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyde_Park,_Montrose,_Houston.

HPD Crime Incidents: January thru February

Submitted by Rick Wannall

In 2014, HPD changed the software used to track crime reporting, which resulted in extended delays of information availability. Data from last summer forward is now available and pulled into the charts at right.

Note that the system is not consistently providing the information for the type of premise on which the reported crime occurred.

Also note that "Theft" refers to theft from a motor vehicle. Theft OF actual motor vehicles is reported as "Auto Theft" separately. Theft from motor vehicles has consistently been the highest reported crime in Hyde Park for the past several years.

Times are reported in 24-hour format.

Activity	Street/Block	Name	Date & Time
JANUARY			
Aggravated Assault	1400-1499 California	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/16/2015 04
	900-999 Westheimer	Bar or Night Club	1/3/2015 06
	900-999 Westheimer	Other Parking Lot	1/23/2015 21
Auto Theft	1700-1799 Commonwealth	Apartment Parking Lot	1/25/2015 19
	1100-1199 Peden	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/24/2015 09
Burglary	1500-1599 Maryland	Residence or House	1/26/2015 20
	1700-1799 Commonwealth	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/29/2015 07
	1100-1199 Gray	Strip Business Center Parking Lot	1/5/2015 08
	1400-1499 Gray	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/17/2015 07
Theft	1300-1399 Westheimer	Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot	1/21/2015 19
	1400-1499 California	Bar or Night Club Parking Lot	1/19/2015 23
	1400-1499 California	Convenience Store	1/21/2015 15
	1700-1799 Commonwealth	Bar or Night Club Parking Lot	1/30/2015 00
	1700-1799 Commonwealth	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/30/2015 02
	1300-1399 Fairview	Driveway	1/16/2015 08
	1400-1499 Gray	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/9/2015 16
	1500-1599 Hyde Park	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/25/2015 18
	1400-1499 Jackson	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/28/2015 20
	1100-1199 Missouri	Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot	1/13/2015 11
	1400-1499 Vermont	Residence or House	1/7/2015 12
	1600-1699 Waugh	Other Parking Lot	1/2/2015 12
	2000-2099 Waugh	Other Parking Lot	1/17/2015 10
2000-2099 Waugh	Other Parking Lot	1/20/2015 23	
2500-2599 Waugh	Church, Synagogue, or Temple Parking Lot	1/6/2015 21	
1200-1299 Welch	Apartment	1/27/2015 11	
1300-1399 Welch	Commercial Parking Lot or Garage	1/30/2015 00	
1300-1399 Welch	Commercial Parking Lot or Garage	1/30/2015 01	
1400-1499 Welch	Other Parking Lot	1/1/2015 16	
900-999 Westheimer	Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot	1/22/2015 14	
1100-1199 Westheimer	Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot	1/14/2015 11	
1100-1199 Westheimer	Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot	1/14/2015 22	
1100-1199 Westheimer		1/15/2015 00	
1100-1199 Westheimer	Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot	1/29/2015 15	
1100-1199 Westheimer	Other, Unknown, or Not Listed	1/31/2015 14	
1300-1399 Westheimer	Bar or Night Club Parking Lot	1/30/2015 20	
2700-2799 Yupon	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	1/10/2015 12	
FEBRUARY			
Auto Theft	900-999 Westheimer	Service or Gas Station	2/20/2015 19
Burglary	2500-2599 Van Buren	Residence or House	2/27/2015 14
	1400-1499 Vermont	Residence or House	2/10/2015 11
	2600-2699 Waugh	Construction Site	2/5/2015 10
Theft	1100-1199 Drew	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	2/8/2015 21
	1000-1099 Fairview	Road, Street, or Sidewalk	2/6/2015 22
	1400-1499 Fairview	Residence or House	2/11/2015 11
	1300-1399 Gray	Bus Stop	2/4/2015 13
	1300-1399 Gray	Bar or Night Club Parking Lot	2/21/2015 11
	1400-1499 Gray	Miscellaneous Business (Non-Specific)	2/27/2015 16
	1500-1599 Hyde Park	Other Parking Lot	2/4/2015 21
	1500-1599 Indiana	Driveway	2/24/2015 13
	2000-2099 Waugh	Bar or Night Club Parking Lot	2/22/2015 09
	2600-2699 Waugh	Construction Site	2/18/2015 07
900-999 Westheimer		2/12/2015 22	
1200-1299 Westheimer	Strip Business Center Parking Lot	2/10/2015 14	
1200-1299 Westheimer	Restaurant or Cafeteria Parking Lot	2/24/2015 09	



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HPD Discusses Dispute Resolution Services and Nuisance Abatement

Submitted by Nelson Vergil

The Houston Police Department's Positive Interaction Program is a periodic community outreach and education meeting for representatives of neighborhood associations.

The last meeting was April 7, with around 30 people and six officers in attendance. It was my first meeting, so I did not know what to expect.

The first (and most useful) presentation was from Ms. Jackson, who explained a free service that we could all use in case of financial disputes with people.

Established in 1980, the Dispute Resolution Center (DRCHouston.org) is a nonprofit corporation, sponsored by the Houston Bar Association and funded through the Harris County Courts, providing free mediation services for the residents of Harris County.

The DRC mediates over 2,800 disputes each year that include: family, neighbors, auto repair, landlord and tenant, consumer and merchant, homeowner associations, employment, personal injury, and many more. The Dispute Resolution Center can provide services before or after a lawsuit has been filed.

Mediators must have completed a DRC (or DRC-approved) 40 Classroom Hour Basic Mediation Training in compliance with Texas Civil Practices & Remedies Code, Sec. 154.052 and meeting or exceeding the guidelines set forth by the Texas Mediation Trainers Roundtable.

Mediation:

- provides an extremely effective process for merging interests and resolving differences
- is a relatively quick process - when compared to often lengthy, drawn-out lawsuits and trials

- helps create an "outside the box" approach to problem solving
 - provides the parties an opportunity to craft a resolution that is right for them - instead of having one imposed on them by someone else (like a judge, or administrator etc.)
 - allows the parties to maintain existing business or personal relationships while merging their interests or differences
 - is confidential and avoids public disclosure of private matters
 - provides agreements that are typically very durable over time
- You can get free mediation by visiting their website DRCHouston.org.

The second presentation was provided by **Assistant County Attorney Celena Vinson** who works in nuisance abatement. Her group cracks down on illegal activities such as gambling, prostitution, illegal drugs, gang activity, and alcohol license/afterhours violations. It is called the Forfeiture Abatement Support Team, or F.A.S.T. Unit. The F.A.S.T. Unit is an interdepartmental approach involving HPD, HFD, the city's Legal Department and the Planning Department's Neighborhood Protection Division to address nuisance violations on property vulnerable to criminal activity. The F.A.S.T. Unit encourages compliance by property owners to correct violations and curtail criminal activity at locations where suspected criminal activity may be occurring. If a property owner fails to comply, they face possible legal action from the city.

The group focuses on establishments reported by the community to HPD as serial offenders. The city can sue landlords and business owners involved in those activities. Leases can be

suspended and nuisance businesses can be shut down if no resolution occurs.

Since we passed a new ordinance in July 2007, owners of apartments with excessive crime must meet with police officials and implement proven crime reduction methods, e.g., lighting, fence security, security personnel, tenant screening, etc.

FAST analyzed the apartment crime, inspected the apartments, and provided a Nuisance Abatement Plan requiring the owner's signature. FAST re-inspected the properties within 30 days to ensure all the measures in the plan were implemented. FAST monitored the crime for six months. FAST has filed lawsuits against property owners who refuse to take steps to make their property safer. HPD Patrol Divisions in your neighborhood increased patrols at the identified apartments.

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12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30

S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 GENERAL MEETING RUDYARD'S 6:30 PM	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Full Moon	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Mother's Day					Armed Forces Day
17	18 Last Quarter	19	20	21	22	23
	New Moon					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Memorial Day First Quarter					