

# Hyde Park United

A PUBLICATION OF THE HYDE PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

*Hello Neighbors!!*



**W**ell, change is happening, and that's a good thing. First I hope you like the updated look/style of the newsletter. Many of you have spoken to George and myself at membership

meetings, via email, and of course posted on our new Facebook Group page. We're listening and discussing your ideas with fellow board members. We hope you'll enjoy starting to see some of the enhancements we are beginning to put in place.

Communications is key to any successful organization. I am thrilled to inform you that we have upgraded our email communications, and a big thanks goes to **Mike Spear** for sponsoring this effort. Next on our list, is upgrading the Hyde Park United web-site. **David Centanni** our web-master has done a tremendous job of keeping the current site maintained, and with help from him and a Houston marketing agency (who have donated their services) we will be launching a new web-site soon!

I am pleased to announce, we have a new Membership Chair (thank you Stephen) and have created the Hyde Park Civic Association Social Committee! This group of individuals (led by Stephen) will organize and plan a series of fun social activities for us to participate and enjoy during the course of the year.

Our Resident of the Month is KHOU news anchor, **Len Cannon!** Learn more about Len on page 2 of the newsletter; thank you, Len for agreeing to this and your support of HPCA.

In February I attended the neartown meeting, and met **Barbara Wein** from Hostelling International USA. She was invited to speak on the evolution of the Lovett Inn becoming a Youth Hostel. You can read more about this project on page 3.

During March, I am sure many of you will be digging out your walking shoes to participate in Houston's AIDS Foundation Walk. Scheduled for March 13, this event attracts more than 10,000 walkers. I am so proud to be part of this event, but why I mention this in my message is to recognize our good friend **Michael Sibouyeh** owner of our neighborhood restaurant, Rivas.

Michael donates his time, restaurant and staff consistently to host several pre-walk and post-walk events, and has sponsored one particular team for more than 10 years. Thank you Michael for everything you do for our community. Your neighbors really appreciate you!

Finally...if you are a Facebook user; please consider joining our Facebook Group. It is growing every day!

*Quatar*

## NEXT MEETING...

**Monday, March 7**  
**Doors open at 7:15PM**

The following Special Guests/Speakers are ready to take your questions!

**Council Member**  
**Wanda Adams**

**HPD Officer**  
**Wayne Pate**

Grace Lutheran Church – See you there!!

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Macy Bodenhamer 713-521-4655

# Meeting Minutes

HYDE PARK UNITED CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 2011

Submitted by *Macy Bodenhamer, Secretary*

**INTRODUCTION & OFFICER REPORTS**

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

Cynthia and resident **Camille Bogel** announced that Willard St. residents have started a petition to begin the process of gaining a set-back ordinance with the city.

Hyde Park United Vice President **George Sroka** opened the meeting. George led introductions of all those present.

George thanked former resident and newsletter editor **Jill Ledgerwood** for her past service and announced that the transition process to a new editor is in progress for the March newsletter.

Minutes from the January association meeting were submitted by Secretary **Macy Bodenhamer**, then motioned and approved as submitted.

Resident **Stephen Hill** volunteered to serve as the new 2011 Membership Chair and was appointed by George.

HPU Treasurer **Carol Brownstein** shared the Treasurer's Report, which was motioned and approved, noting four new and renewing memberships.

George announced that the HPU website will be refreshed through in-kind work by Unleaded Communications, including a new design and cloud package. Additionally, HPU will begin using Constant Contact for e-communication to residents, with improved accessibility and efficiency. Local real estate agent **Mike Spear** offered to sponsor the cost of the service.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Former HPU VP **Cynthia Greenwood** is our primary contact for HPD's Citizens On Patrol (COP) neighborhood watch program. Cynthia provided an update that HPU is close to achieving the minimum number of patrol hours to be eligible for neighborhood watch signs. The HPU board will be recommending sign locations and purchasing them soon. On Monday, Feb. 28 at 7PM, there will be another HPD training session for those interested in joining the COP program. Email [president@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:president@hydeparkunited.org) if you are interested in participating.

George thanked former Lamar Park Committee Chair **Jean Garwood** for her service and welcomed newly-appointed chair **Kathy Schipper** in this role. Kathy offered a history on Lamar Park and the options to do so.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Central City Co-Op guest representation Scott reminded residents that the Co-Op operates on site at Grace Lutheran every Wednesday from 9AM-6PM. They offer locally-grown, organic produce along with USDA-certified free range grass-fed beef and chicken, plus eggs. Scott invited all to visit.

George announced that the annual Block Captain dinner will be held in May or June and reminded everyone of the National Night Out event in October. Interested volunteers should contact [president@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:president@hydeparkunited.org).

Local City Council Representative **Wanda Adams** will speak at the March HPU association meeting on Monday, March 7 along with HPU Officer **Wayne Pate** – all are invited to join.

*The meeting was then adjourned.*

**RESIDENT OF THE MONTH: LEN CANNON**



My wife and I have lived in the Hyde Park neighborhood for four and a half years. I am the 6pm News Anchor and reporter for KHOU TV 11 (CBS). Some of my favorite activities are Tennis, reading and spending hours with my daughter at nearby Cherryhurst Park.

We love the neighborhood, as it is close to everything, and is loaded with great restaurants and fun shops. We rarely have to travel more than 15 minutes to visit friends, downtown, restaurants, medical center, and museums.

And most importantly, I am only five minutes from work. We love it!



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# Changes ahead at the Lovett Inn

**BARBARA WEIN - HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL**

Houston will soon join other large cities in America that attract young international travelers with a Hostelling International hostel. Hostelling International USA (HI-USA), in partnership with the local Bluebonnet Council of HI-USA, is purchasing the Lovett Inn, at 501 Lovett Blvd, for a hostel.

Hostelling International USA, a 75 year old non-profit charity, achieves its mission of promoting intercultural understanding through its hostels and educational programs. Hostels are simple, affordable, cooperative overnight accommodations, especially popular with young adults between the ages of 20 and 30, but also used by groups, families, and senior adults. Most of the guests in HI-USA's large city hostels are international travelers who are on extended travels to experience other countries before settling into career and family. Most arrive by public transportation and enjoy the communal aspect of a hostel where they can meet and socialize with travelers from other cultures in the hostel's common areas.

The new Houston hostel will be named for Morty Rich, a native Houstonian, who died prematurely in a private plane crash. An adventurer and avid hostel supporter, Morty left a bequest to Hostelling International to help fund the development of a

hostel in Houston, putting front and center the city and the organization he loved. After graduating from Rice University, Morty lived and worked in the Montrose neighborhood, not far from the proposed hostel location. The student health center at Rice and several leadership scholarships there are also named for Morty.

Like many HI-USA hostels, the building at 501 Lovett Blvd. is historic with cultural significance to the community. The house was built in 1917 for former Houston Mayor, Joseph C. Hutcheson, Jr, who later became a federal judge. The story of the house's famous original resident will be shared in one of the downstairs rooms and featured in a neighborhood walking tour for hostel guests.

"Hostelling International USA is uniquely positioned to take on a project like this," says Doug Markham, Houston attorney and hostel advocate. "The organization has a proud record of restoring and adapting historic buildings for public use, including many on the National Register of Historic Places. They range from 19th Century lighthouses, mansions, and farmhouses to a New York City landmark building.

In recognition of its preservation efforts, HI-USA has received the prestigious National Preservation

Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the California Preservation Foundation Award for "Excellence in Historic Preservation Design", and a stewardship award from the Sacramento Old City Association, among others.

If all proceeds as planned, the Morty Rich Hostel in Houston will open this summer.

To become involved as a volunteer, or to donate to the hostel project, please contact Doug Markham at 713-869-2193, or [hihouston@gmail.com](mailto:hihouston@gmail.com).

Mayor and later federal judge Joseph Chappell Hutcheson, Jr, also had a connection with the Hyde Park neighborhood.

*Shortly after he married Elizabeth, he moved from the family home of his father, Congressman Hutcheson who lived at 1417 McKinney, to the northwest corner of Commonwealth and Missouri, at first unnumbered, but later assigned 2516 Commonwealth. The 1907 city directory shows him there, and the 1910 census shows him living there with his wife, 3 year old son, and two servants. By 1915 he had moved to Truxillo, and then in 1916 he bought the lot on Lovett for \$7500, took out a building permit in 1917, and started what we now know as the Lovett Inn.*



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# Eating Green: Central City Co-op Makes it Easy

**SCOTT PALMER - CENTRAL CITY CO-OP**

Supporting sustainable agriculture is a walk in the park – Hyde Park, that is. Every Wednesday, Central City Co-op provides local and organic produce, meat, and eggs to green-minded shoppers right here in our own backyard: at the corner of Waugh and Missouri, inside Grace Lutheran.

"Most people want to do what's right, to buy food that hasn't been raised with chemicals or on factory farms hundreds of miles away," says Central City Co-op board member Scott Palmer. "But let's face it," he acknowledges, "that takes a lot of effort. You have to read a lot of labels, and visit a lot of farms. Most people don't have the time."

"We make it easy," says Tiffany Tyler, also a board member. "We do the homework, so you don't have to."

What homework? Operations Director Carolyn Lambeth, who buys all of the co-op's produce every week, personally visits each local farm to approve their farming methods. So she knows the struggle small local farms face. "They can't sell to chain supermarkets if they aren't big enough to stock all

the stores," she explains, "and they can't label their produce 'organic' unless they spend a lot of time and money to get certified." The result, Lambeth says, is that smaller farms struggle. "We help them stay in business, and they help us by respecting the planet."

Walk in the door, and Central City Co-op looks a lot like a farmer's market or a tiny corner grocery. But the co-op's best-selling item isn't a single fruit or a vegetable – it's what they call a "share". "A share is basically your portion of our weekly purchase," explains Palmer. "Imagine that three friends go to a farmer's market together, buy a whole case of apples, and then divide them up. That's what we do, except we're doing it for a couple hundred of our friends every week, and we're buying a lot more than just apples." When members order shares in advance, the co-op holds those shares in reserve for the members to pick up each Wednesday. "It's kind of like an RSVP," says Lambeth. "It's like we're having a dinner party every week, and you're asking us to save you a seat at our table."

"But you don't have to RSVP," she adds. Each week, the co-op buys a little extra produce, and what isn't reserved for the shares is sold in their open market. "Members who buy a share in advance get the real variety and value that a co-op offers," Lambeth says, "but anyone is welcome to drop in and buy items in the open market as well."

In addition to fruits and vegetables, the co-op's open market also offers sustainably-raised meat and eggs, dry goods like beans and pasta, local honey, and even their own signature blend of coffee roasted right here in Montrose. Every item on Central City Co-op's shelves is either local or nationally-certified organic, and the list keeps growing. The co-op expects to carry local cheese soon, "whenever the goats decide to start making it!" laughs Lambeth.

For more information, stop by Central City Co-op at 2515 Waugh from 9am-6pm on Wednesdays, or visit [www.centralcityco-op.com](http://www.centralcityco-op.com).

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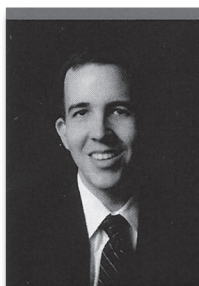
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# Positive Interaction Program (PIP)

**REPORTED BY – KATHY SCHIPPER**

Officer Carlos Cantu of the Fugitive Unit spoke about the life and times of an HPD Warrant Officer.

The unit is comprised of four officers and one sergeant working under the auspices of the Tactical/SWAT Division.

The unit coordinates with other law enforcement agencies at all levels in tracking and capturing the most-wanted and dangerous criminals. In 2010 alone, 390 fugitives were arrested and later faced an additional 500 charges. Interestingly, the unit receives most of its best information on whereabouts from girlfriends, wives, ex-wives and other relatives – especially if a substantial reward is involved.

The officers use equipment similar to that of the SWAT Team such as chain breakers, ballistic-level vests, window security-bar openers and a very nifty handheld battering ram. Depending on the situation, officers have all the resources of the SWAT team available to them.

While serving warrants, at least one officer wears the standard HPD blue uniform and, if the situation permits, there is an HPD patrol car visible on the street so that the criminals know it isn't a joke.

Please report concerns or questions online to the 802 Westheimer Storefront using this email address: [centralpatrol1district@cityofhouston.net](mailto: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., March 8 on the topic of TABC & new laws.

## Neighborhood Crime Report - December 2010

Activity	Street/Block	Premises	Date/Time
Robbery	1000-1099 Westheimer	Other/Unknown	12/03 12AM
	2500-2599 Montrose	Convenience Store	12/15 18PM
	1400-1499 Welch	Road/Street/Sidewalk	12/19 12AM
Agg. Assault	1500-1599 Westheimer	Apartment Parking Lot	12/20 09AM
	1300-1399 Westheimer	Parking Lot	12/24 06PM
	1400-1499 Westheimer	Bar/Nightclub	12/02 09PM
Burglary	2600-2699 Yoakum	Residence/House	12/01 12PM
	1400-1499 Hyde Park	Apartment	12/11 07AM
	1300-1399 Fairview	Residence/House	12/18 12AM
Auto Theft	1500-1599 Missouri	Apartment	12/30 07AM
	1400-1499 Indiana	Road/Street/Sidewalk	12/01 10PM
	1500-1599 Michigan	Road/Street/Sidewalk	12/05 11PM
Theft	1500-1599 Michigan	Driveway	12/05 11PM
	2400-2499 Yoakum	Road/Street/Sidewalk	12/04 01AM
	1200-1299 Bomar	Driveway	12/08 10PM
	2600-2699 Yupon	Driveway	12/09 11PM
	1100-1199 Willard	Residence/House	12/11 09PM
	1400-1499 Hyde Park	Driveway	12/13 05AM
	1500-1599 California	Residence/House	12/13 09PM
	1400-1499 Hyde Park	Apartment Parking Lot	12/21 01AM
	1200-1299 Jackson	Apartment Parking Lot	12/28 06PM
	1400-1499 Westheimer	Bar/Nightclub	12/30 12AM
Auto Theft	1200-1299 Welch	Apartment Parking Lot	12/30 01PM
	1300-1399 Bomar	Driveway	12/30 10PM
	1700-1799 Waugh	Other Parking Lot	12/30 04PM
Auto Theft	1500-1599 Missouri	Driveway	12/30 11PM



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# Neighborhood Watch Report

REPORTED BY – KATHY SCHIPPER

All residents are encouraged to contribute

Activity	Address	Description of Problem	Date/Time	311	Police
Female casing houses	1400 block of Missouri, Westheimer, Hawthorne, Mt.Vernon.	<p>Starting this morning at about 8:00 I noticed a short, dark-skinned female making multiple passes along our block. I had been outside our house in the 1400 block of Missouri, washing a tarp and noticed her come by twice. After going inside I saw her come by again, and noticed that she seemed to be looking into yards. She exited the block on the west end and turned south on Commonwealth. My wife, already walking towards the bus stop at Westheimer/Commonwealth, reported seeing the woman again apparently sort of studying houses as she walked by. She had also noticed the woman's multiple passes, and was worried that I might leave the garage open.</p> <p>The woman was about 5 feet tall, with dark brown skin, a light cap, with short pony tail coming through the "strap gap", dark blue jacket, blue jeans, and dark shoes.</p> <p>By now I wondered if we had a "spotter", a person walking through neighborhoods. I got into my van and drove to the end of the block, where I noticed her standing at Westheimer. I spent the next 30 or so minutes (until 9 a.m.) observing the woman after she crossed into the WAMM area. Over that time, she circulated through an area centered at Mt.Vernon/Hawthorne. After watching her cover the same blocks a couple of times, I reported the activity to non-emergency desk at HPD. I continued observing her from a distance, circulating as far away as I could and still keep track of her. A few minutes before 9 I saw a police cruiser turn west towards me on Hawthorne. I flagged him, confirmed that he was responding to the call, and confirmed that the woman was the one sitting on the curb a few yards away from us. I summarized my observations from Missouri, across Westheimer, and through the neighborhood along Hawthorne and left the area.</p> <p>While in the van, I went ahead and cruised the blocks between Commonwealth and Vaughn up to Gray, and then returned home.</p>	2/14/2011 08:00 am -09:15 am	No	Yes

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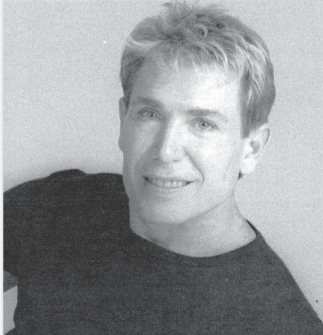
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Every Monday (except Holidays)
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<b>MARCH 2011</b>
Monday, March 14
Monday, March 28
<b>APRIL 2011</b>
Monday, April 11
Monday, April 25
<b>MAY 2011</b>
Monday, May 9
Monday, May 23
<b>Heavy Trash</b>
March 8 - Tree Waste
April 12 - Junk Waste
May 10 - Junk Waste
<b>Monthly Membership Meeting</b>
Monday March 7 - 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 recycle, because the city cannot recycle wet newspapers (they will pick them up but they cannot be recycled). Also, Glass is **NOT** accepted curbside. You may bring glass to one of the drop-off sites that accept glass – Sunbeam, Kirkpatrick, Lawndale. 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](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org).

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## Hyde Park Civic Association Membership Form Membership Fees ONLY \$25 Annually

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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 insures 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 these 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](http://www.hydeparkunited.org) or at the next membership meeting!**