

HYDE • PARK

FEBRUARY 2016

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hydeparkhouston.org

Letter from the President

Happy February



Dear Hyde Park Neighbors,

It's a new year ripe with opportunity for our community to engage, grow

and improve! Find out how you can contribute.

MEMBERSHIP

The Hyde Park Civic Association's (HPCA) community-elected board of directors held a 2016 planning session mid-January to identify the highest priorities for our neighborhood. At the top of our list is developing our membership. We have a community of about 1,500 households, yet right now, less than 100 are official members. It's time to renew your expired membership or sign up!

Your individual membership is just \$30 a year, and you can sign up online in a matter of minutes at www.hydeparkhouston.org. OR — see the form in this newsletter and use the included envelope to mail in your membership. Consider donating to Lamar Park, our only green space and the home of the Dolphin Fountain, the city's oldest continuously-running fountain.

VOLUNTEER

Speaking of membership, a volunteer is sought to hold the

position of Membership Chair. This role requires only a few hours a month and a little enthusiasm. Many other volunteer positions are also open, so those interested should email **Volunteer Coordinator Roy Brooks** at volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org.

If you'd like to contribute to this newsletter, send your ideas or suggested content to newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Plan to join our February 1 HPCA meeting, 6:30pm at Rudz, where Harris County Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen will serve as our guest speaker. There will be time for Q&A after his presentation. Come early to enjoy a pint and burger!

Also mark your calendars for March 7 when Mayor Pro Tem and City Council Member Ellen Cohen will speak. Ms. Cohen has visited us annually since she joined the Council.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our meetings and out and about. Remember you can engage more often with your neighbors on our Facebook page — over 300 have joined our private group!

Cheers,
Macy Bodenhamer
President

NON-EMERGENCY CONTACTS

HPD Non-Emergency (713) 884-3131

24/7 Montrose Management

District Security Patrol (832) 370-9191

Dial 311 for City Helpline

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meetings, Rudyard's British Pub

FEBRUARY 1ST, Monday

Harris County Constable Rosen

MARCH 7TH, Monday

Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen

BOARD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT - Macy Bodenhamer

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California / Westheimer

Cecilia Kammer 832-788-1586

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Liz Hudson & Carol Brownstein
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Mark McCreary

Fairview

Irene Dahlgren 713-299-5190

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Missouri

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Christina Ptasinski 832-516-9811

Peden

Lori Corwin 832-582-6520

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Sharon Lord 713-522-9427

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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.**

HPCA January 2016 Meeting Minutes

On Jan. 4, 2016, **President Macy Bodenhamer** called the general meeting of the Hyde Park Civic Association to order about 6:35 PM. She invited the approximately 25 people in attendance at Rudyard's to introduce themselves, and to mention their position in the civic association (if any) and the street where they live.

Treasurer Rex Richardson reported that the civic association made "a little bit of profit" last year - about \$500, when comparing 2015 to the year before.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Bodenhamer pointed out that memberships and newsletter advertising are the two major funding sources for our association. Membership is \$30 per person per year, and is due at the beginning of the year if it wasn't paid at National Night Out in October or the Holiday Party in December. Hyde Park has 1,500 households, but the civic association last year had only 186 members. And of that number, more than 100 members need to renew their memberships for 2016. Bodenhamer urged everyone to renew their membership or join the civic association online at hydeparkhouston.org or using the form printed in this newsletter.

Richardson, who also chairs Citizens on Patrol, reported that the group has 32 participants who walked 117 hours and drove 44.7 hours in November. Walking hours are recorded, but not reported to the Houston Police Department, which discourages citizens from patrolling on foot. He said HPD urges participants to "observe and report" from their cars only and not to confront anyone.

If you're interested in joining Hyde Park's Citizens on Patrol, email Richardson at treasurer@hydeparkhouston.org. Participation requires attending a short training session at the HPD Storefront on Westheimer to become certified.

VACANT POSITIONS

Bodenhamer mentioned three vacant positions in need of eager volunteers: Membership Chair, Lamar Park Chair (or Co-chairs), and a Deed Restrictions Committee member. The Membership position requires 2 - 4 hours per month. The Lamar Park Chair coordinates maintenance at the park and fund-raising for the dolphin fountain renovation project. The Deed Restrictions Committee

is a three-member committee in need of a third member to enforce deed restrictions and oversee development in our neighborhood.

Bodenhamer reported that a long-sought, often delayed meeting with city officials regarding Downtown Automotive finally took place in December. Nearby residents have been complaining about the many cars parked on residential streets near Downtown Automotive. Besides being unsightly, residents expressed concerns about safety since the parked cars prevent anyone from walking on the sides of the street.

The parked cars violate no city ordinances, Bodenhamer explained. The city does have a "24-hour rule" requiring parked cars to change position at least slightly every day, "but moving a car two inches meets that requirement," she added.

The civic association is working with city officials to find a solution, Bodenhamer said.

Bodenhamer invited attendees to suggest topics or speakers for future meetings. One suggestion was to invite a speaker on traffic calming solutions similar to a speaker we had from the now-defunct Citizen Transportation Coalition a few years ago. Bodenhamer said Willard Street resident Delia Cuellar — with the civic association's support — had recently filed an application with the city for a traffic study of our neighborhood.

RUDZ OUTDOOR EVENT APRIL 2

Joe Apa of Rudyard's briefly addressed the group, asking the civic association to support a special event the afternoon of Saturday, April 2, to celebrate their 100th beer tasting dinner. Apa said they plan to fence off their parking lot across the street and invite a funk band to play outside. "We'll have security," Apa added, and participants will be encouraged to use Uber to alleviate parking problems. Proceeds from the event will benefit "Recipe for Success," a Houston-based non-profit dedicated to "combating childhood obesity by changing the way children understand, appreciate and eat their food and by helping the community provide healthier diets for our kids." Learn more online at recipe4success.org.

The meeting was adjourned about 7:30 PM.

Submitted by George Sroka

Harris County Constable To Speak on February 1

All residents are invited to our monthly association meeting on Monday, Feb. 1 at 6:30pm, Rudyard's Pub, 2nd floor, 2010 Waugh Drive. Precinct One Constable Rosen is the guest speaker for the evening.

Life-long Houstonian Alan Rosen's law enforcement experience, business experience, training, and education uniquely qualify him to provide the leadership and management skills needed for the success and growth of the Precinct One Constable's Office.



First elected in 2012, the Constable has spent more than 25 years in local law enforcement, chiefly at the Constable's Office and the Harris County Sheriff's Office. He has worked in street patrol, fugitive warrants, marine patrol, criminal warrants, narcotics and mental health warrants. He also served as a member of the Sheriff's executive command staff. With his extensive business background, Constable Rosen manages budgets and taxpayers' money effectively. Constable Rosen has saved taxpayers' money every year in office by bringing a business approach to managing the Constable's Office budget.

During his first year in office, Constable Rosen required all personnel to attend law enforcement ethics training, created the first Precinct One Special Response Group, the first Precinct One S.W.A.T.-Certified Tactical

Response Team and the first Precinct One Game Room and Prostitution Task Force, which has shut down illegal gambling establishments and massage parlors that are often fronts for prostitution and human trafficking organizations and seizing the assets of these illegal establishments. He also assigned the first Precinct One Deputy to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's anti-

drug task force and ensured that all deputies assigned to the Mental Health Special Operations Division are mental health-certified through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

The Constable was the recipient of the Acres Home Chamber of Business and Economic Development Inc.'s Empowerment Award in Community Politics for 2014 and the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce's Government Advocate of the Year award for 2013. Under his leadership, the Precinct One Constable's Office was awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Driving ("MADD") Outstanding Law Enforcement Agency of the Year 2014. Precinct

One was also recognized as the National Night Out Rookie (agency) of the Year.

Constable Rosen served or is serving on local civic boards and committees, including the MD Anderson Cancer Center Advance Team Board of Directors, the Greater Houston Visitors and Convention Bureau Board of Directors, the Houston Police Department - Citizen Review Committee, the Beth Yeshurun Day School Board of Directors (development chair), Beth Yeshurun Synagogue (security committee) and the Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, also serves on the Seven Acres Jewish Geriatric Home Board of Directors and currently Co-Chairs the Harris County Law Enforcement Technology Committee.

He is a Life Member of the 100 Club of Houston, and a Life Member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He was awarded the Presidential Volunteerism Award for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Constable Rosen earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Houston, graduating with honors. He is deeply committed to keeping families safe, aggressively addressing crime issues and improving the quality of life for all residents of Precinct One. He and his wife and children are proud residents of the precinct.

Submitted by Macy Bodenhamer, president

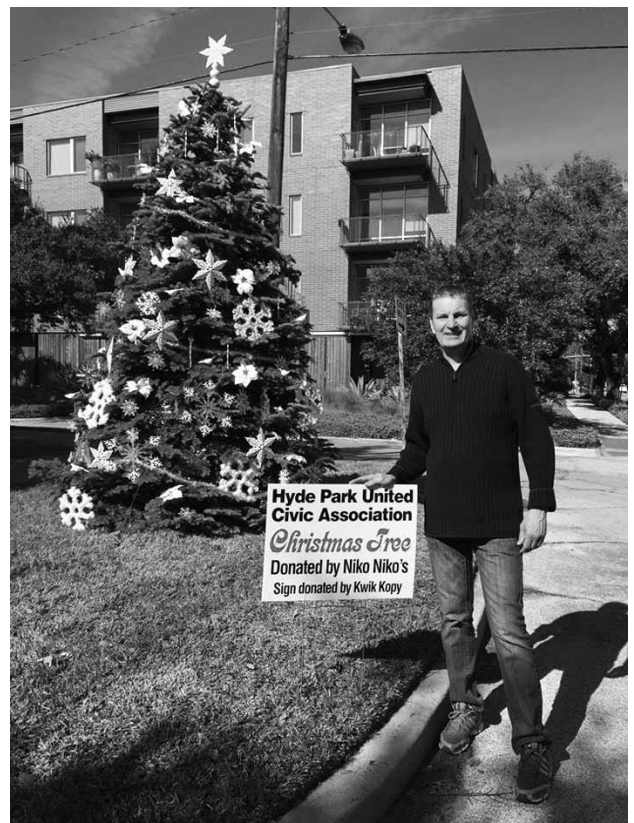
Hyde Park Holiday Tree Glistened



The Hyde Park holiday tree was generously donated by Niko Niko's again last year, in honor of Dimitri Fetakokis' father and following the tradition of many years past. Located in Lamar Park at Waugh, the tree decoration was led by Stephen Eade-Hill, who coordinated a decorating party in early December which was joined by local residents and families. Those driving by at night noticed the glowing stars and white lights celebrating the holiday spirit.

Photos by Tammi Wallace

For more photos, visit the Hyde Park Civic Association on Facebook: www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.978517488874149&type=1



NEWSLETTER:

Please submit all material for March consideration by February 20, 2016 to newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org

Cuteness Alert: Peek the cat and furry friends look for new caring homes

Most of us didn't know Camille Bogel but she was a true leader in the Hyde Park Civic Association and a compassionate and outstanding cat rescuer among many other talents. Sadly, she lost her health battle in Spring 2014 and left behind many lovely cats.

Late in 2014, seven of her highly adoptable cats were taken under the wing of a long time rescue friend and colleague who runs SavAPurrfectCatRescue so that good adoptive homes could be found. Six of these lovelies have found new places and SavACat is in the home stretch looking for a forever home for Peek. He is a magnificent healthy boy and a favorite of the volunteers-and had SavACat not lost its lovely adoption center to make way for the new CVS at Alabama and Shepherd, Peek would be long gone by now.

Please look at these marvelous photos and think about getting

Peek's new year off to a great start by finding him a fabulous home! SavAPurrfectCat is open every weekend and Peek would love a visit.

Submitted by Jane Schmitt



Volunteer Appeal for our Hyde Park Community

Currently we are especially in need of volunteers for three very important roles: (1) Membership Chair and (2) Citizens on Patrol Coordinator (3) Deed Restrictions Committee Member/Board Director. Please send me an email: volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org with questions or ideas.

Membership Chair

The membership chair is a unique position that affords a chance to meet many new faces. Not merely a keeper of membership records, this position seeks creative ways to increase membership enrollment. Sandie Zilker, our former membership chair, will help the new person ease into the role.

Deed Restrictions Committee Member/Board Director

The Deed Restrictions Committee Members/Board Directors play a necessary

role in monitoring, enforcing, reviewing, and recommending actions regarding deed restrictions and deed violations in Hyde Park. Attentive to various new constructions, this position requires active monitoring throughout Hyde Park. Attendance at HPCA board meetings (monthly) and committee meetings is required.

Citizens on Patrol

"was established in an effort to bring the citizens and the police department together for a common goal, and that is to improve the quality of life by eliminating crime." Its goal is to reduce crime while also making our community a friendlier place while also encouraging crime awareness. The coordinator oversees the training as well as the reports of patrollers.

Lamar Park Fundraising Committee

Do you have experience in fundraising? We need your help with carrying on our efforts at restoring Houston's oldest fountain in Hyde Park; The Eight Dolphins.

Newsletter Writers

Have you had a long-time interest in exploring something different or relevant to you about our neighborhood? We would love to feature your own research and writing in the newsletter! Other possibilities include writing about your restaurant experiences here in Houston, or even about something daily that you live/experience that when viewed from a slightly different angle, is extraordinary.

Co-Chairs, Home Tour

These two positions would be responsible for organizing and overseeing the annual display of historic and noteworthy homes in Hyde Park. An interest in architecture and the history of Hyde Park is not necessary but a big help!

Submitted by Roy Brooks, Volunteer Co-ordinator

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

David Viscott

Citywide HPD PIP meeting discuss terrorism concerns, gas station thefts

The first city wide meeting for 2016 was an overview and general feedback meeting.

Chief Charles McClelland, our **Chief of Police**, led the meeting.

While he stated that the final year end numbers are not finalized, he was able to offer a broad brush over view of the stats for 2015.

Property Crimes are down, which included break-ins, burglaries. Gun Violence is up, primarily related to crimes of passion, money and drugs.

Chief McClelland addressed the new open-carry ordinance. He stated that there have been minimal calls, expressing concern about this. Also, very few of our officers or public attendees had observed people who openly carried firearms. He directed the public to the police web site, www.houstontx.gov/police/open_carry/index.htm.

He also stated that the Dept. is preparing to implement the body camera program. He addressed the concerns about terrorism and encouraged the public that we should feel safe to attend large public events, such as the Marathon, Rodeo, etc.

Another issue that was quite interesting was his discussion about response time. For emergency issues, the response time is under 5 minutes, which he stated is within the standards. Non-emergency issues is too slow. He explained that the Department has 200 less officers than when he assumed his position in 2010. Obviously, the population growth and fewer officers creates an inevitable deficit for non emergency issues. Cadet classes are slated for February, March and June, 2016, and he stated that there is a proactive move to increase the number of officers.

Captain Martin also spoke, with further detail about the crime stats.

Murder and Commercial Building Burglary have increased, while Rape, Robbery and Residential Burglary have decreased. The one exception to personal offenses is Auto Break-ins. Emphasis was placed on the importance of cleaning out our cars, to avoid temptation, locking our cars and parking behind fences or in garages, when possible.

Captain Martin discussed the current issue of 'Sliders', individuals who enter

our cars from the passenger side, usually at gas pumps or water/air stations. These people count on our being distracted and grab what they can in our cars.

He emphasized the following:

- Lock the vehicle
- Be attentive, aware, vigilant
- DO NOT RESIST

Captain Paul Follis, from Westside Patrol, addressed Community Policing.

He emphasized the value of cooperation and communication with the public. He encouraged the public to communicate with the local stations, when there are concerns. Drugs, Prostitution, Homeless Population and Property Maintenance are the areas that are greatest concerns for the communities. Time was short and I felt that this topic did not get adequate attention. Hopefully, our local meeting will be more detailed about how to best benefit from Community Policing.

Submitted by Sharon Seligman

Your local civic association needs YOU!

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 do so. Use the form above 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:
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FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

A M.A.T.C.H made in Midtown

The Midtown Arts Theater Center Houston (MATCH) is located at 3400 Main Street and opened in October. The space has two buildings, the North Building and the South Building. The North Building has 4 performance spaces that can accommodate from 100 to 329 people and can be used for art, dance theater, music and other events. There is also a café and the box office for all performances in this building.

The South Building has rehearsal studios, gallery space and offices for performing and visual arts

organizations. MATCH can be reached by riding the MetroRail to the Ensemble/HCC Station or you can drive and park in the Mid-Main Garage off Holman, or other surface lots for a fee. There is also some street parking. Go to their website for a map and additional parking details. www.matchhouston.org

Upcoming shows in March include: The ROCO Brass Quintet; *Junie B*, a children's play produced by Main Street; *The Baby*, a drama produced by the Next Iteration Theater Company (note this is a "pay-what-you-can"

performance); The Necks, Australian musicians; *What Shall We Do Next*, a multimedia group exhibition. For tickets, call the box office at 713-521-4533 or online at their web site.

You can also rent space at MATCH by calling the office at 713-325-5370 or email to Executive Director Chuck Still at chuck@matchhouston.org. Sign up for their email list of upcoming events.

Other events you might enjoy in March: Stages is presenting the regional premiere of *End of the Rainbow* about Judy Garland, (www.stagetheatre.com). Main Street Theater is presenting *Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill, a fantastic playwright. I have seen several of her plays and they were all great. Call immediately as it closes March 6, 713-524-6706 (www.mainstreettheater.com).

Lamar Park: A greenspace with history in Hyde Park

Submitted by Roy Brooks, Volunteer Co-ordinator

As the only greenspace in Hyde Park, Lamar Park is a half-acre "pocket park" that over the years has been radically transformed by Hyde Park residents. The park is named after Mirabeau B. Lamar, the second president of the Republic of Texas (1838-1841). Lamar owned a summer home on Yupon Street where Woodrow Wilson Elementary School is currently located, and he also owned the land on which the current park is located.

Although Houston Parks and Recreation Department does not know exactly when Lamar Park was acquired, Lamar Park has been a recognizable feature of the neighborhood since its annexation by the city of Houston in 1905. Between 2001 and 2005, our civic association raised approximately \$150,000 with grants and local neighbors' contributions to install the walking path and plaza as well as installing trash receptacles, bench seating, an irrigation system, and several new live oak trees. According to one of the fundraising brochures from that period, the purpose of the renovation was to "attract people to the park, whether for planned neighborhood gatherings, spontaneous social interaction, or for solitary respite from an increasingly dense urban atmosphere."

Renovating the dolphin fountain on the east side of the park was also originally part of our association's plan for refurbishing the park. Unfortunately, doing so proved too costly, so the effort

to renovate the fountain continues. The fountain was originally purchased in 1946, meaning that 2016 marks 70 or more years that the fountain has been part of our neighborhood. It was given to the residents of Hyde Park by the owner of a funeral home that used to be in the park's vicinity.

Rodney Morris, the former co-chair of the fountain restoration project believes

that the fountain was probably the oldest continually operating water feature in the city.

While the city handles maintenance and repairs to the fountain, extensive repairs are in the hands of Hyde Park residents. To date, the association has raised only a fifth of the cost needed to repair and renovate the fountain and its surrounding island.

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 Feb 1

Monday Mar 7

Monday Apr 4

TRASH/RECYCLING:

TRASH PICK-UP: Mondays
SINGLE STREAM: Feb 1, 15, 29,
Mar 14, 28.

TREE WASTE: Mar 2, May 4, Jul 6.
HEAVY/JUNK: Feb 3, April 6, Jun 1.

Seniors: Exercise into a healthy new year

The Senior Exercise Program at Cherryhurst Park, at 1700 Missouri, is looking forward to an active 2016. It is free and meets at 1:00 p.m. every Wednesday for a brief 30 minute session, which teaches the Quick 15-minute program. It is not overly difficult and you don't have to get down on the floor! Just come as you are; do some balance and muscle stretching routines; and meet new friends! A great program conducted by Ian Gordon of the Cherryhurst Civic Club under the auspices of the park director.

Quick 15-minute Senior Exercise Program: Wednesdays, 1:00 to 1:30pm
Cherryhurst Park Building, 1700 Missouri Street. Free.



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All other days by appointment only

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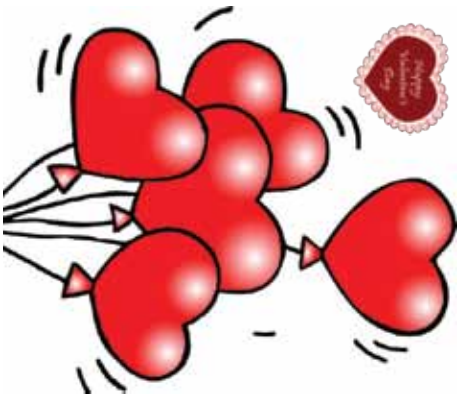
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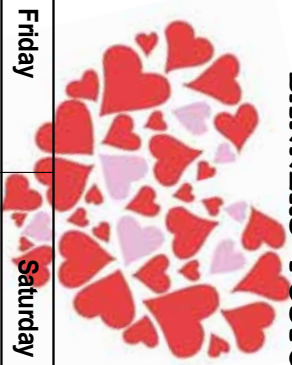
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February 2016



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- INDOOR & OUTDOOR SIGNS • PRESENTATIONS
- PROPOSALS

- LAMINATION • POSTERS
- BANNERS • POSTCARDS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 GENERAL MEETING RECYCLING	2 Groundhog Day	3 HEAVY WASTE	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Super Bowl Sunday	New Moon	Ash Wednesday	17	18	19	20
14 RECYCLING	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day	Presidents Day First Quarter					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Washington's Birthday Full Moon					
28	29 RECYCLING					

Election Leap Year

Don't forget to Vote in November