

HYDE • PARK

JANUARY 2016

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Letter from the President

Happy New Year, Hyde Park!



I hope you all had a joyous holiday season, and are ringing in the New Year with great things ahead.

About 65 neighbors celebrated together at our holiday party in early December. Check out photos on page 5 for some highlights. Many thanks to **Riva's** restaurant for hosting the decadent Italian buffet in the perfectly festive ambiance **Riva's** is known for each year.

2015 was a successful year for **Hyde Park Civic Association (HPCA)**! With **Volunteer Coordinator Roy Brooks** on board, the association had more volunteer support than in previous years. But many positions are still open, so be sure to see page 4 for details. If you have a little free time each month, consider giving back to your community. Every set of helping hands makes a difference.

Association membership reached a near-high last year, which means it's time for most current members to renew. If you haven't already done so,

renew your membership online at hydeparkhouston.org or see the form inside this newsletter. For only \$30/year, you can strengthen our neighborhood solidarity. And if you are not a member, now's the time to become one.

With more than 1,500 households and less than 200 actual members, I hope this newsletter encourages many of you to just do it. Join or review now!

In community news, Houston City Council approved the proposed Montrose TIRZ on December 9th. See page 3 for details on the infrastructure improvement plans.

Topical news is always needed for this newsletter, so send your ideas or suggested content to newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org.

In the spirit of a happy, healthy new year and all those resolutions are our minds, our January 4th civic association meeting will feature a guest speaker presenting on health and wellness. Give yourself a pass, and come early to enjoy a pint and burger! Hope to see many neighbors there—all residents are always welcome.

Cheers,
Macy Bodenhamer

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
JANUARY 4TH 2016, Monday
FEBRUARY 1ST, Monday

BOARD CONTACTS

PRESIDENT - Macy Bodenhamer
president@hydeparkhouston.org

VICE PRESIDENT - Tammi Wallace
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TREASURER - Rex Richardson
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PAST PRESIDENT - George Sroka
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membership@hydeparkhouston.org

CITIZEN PATROL - Rex Richardson
citizenpatrol@hydeparkhouston.org

NEWSLETTER - Adrienne Wong
newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org

ADVERTISING - Carlos Fernandez
advertising@hydeparkhouston.org

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Roy Brooks
volunteer@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

Nelson Vergel 713-539-1978

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.**

Mark Your Calendars to Join Neighbors

Following is the civic association monthly meeting schedule for 2016. All residents are invited to join the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm, with exceptions noted below. Gatherings are held on the second floor at Rudyard's Pub, 2010 Waugh. Come early to order food and drink, then enjoy during the meeting.

Guest speakers on topics relevant to the neighborhood are featured at each meeting. If you have a guest speaker or topic suggestion, message president@hydeparkhouston.org.

Many thanks for Rudz for hosting us for yet another year!

2016 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

- January 4th
- February 1st
- March 7th
- April 4th
- May 2nd
- June 6th
- July - summer break, no meeting
- August 1st
- September - Tuesday the 6th due to Labor Day holiday
- October - Tuesday the 4th the National Night Out
- November 7th
- December - holiday party TBD

Submitted by Macy Bodenhamer, president

Happy New Year to newsletter contributors!

Thank you to all our writers, proof-readers, photographers, distribution volunteers, and contributors who devote time and talents to make deadline each and every month; to our sponsors; and to our readers for supporting our neighborhood community.

If you're interested in contributing pieces of your writing, please see page 4 for more information on how you can volunteer.

Don't forget you can find current and older issues of the newsletter online at:

www.hydeparkhouston.org

Happy New Year!

Submitted by Adrienne Wong, newsletter editor

NEWSLETTER:

Please submit all material for February consideration by January 18, 2016 to newsletter@hydeparkhouston.org

TRASH PICKUP AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE 2016:

TRASH - first Monday of each week

RECYCLING - every other Tuesday

TREE AND JUNK WASTE - first Wednesday of each month

Tree Waste months are January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Junk Waste months are February, April, June, August, October and December.

At print deadline, the 2016 Trash Pickup and Recycling Schedule was unavailable from the City of Houston.

Montrose area TIRZ Approved

On December 9th 2015, the Houston City Council unanimously voted to create a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, commonly known as TIRZ, for the Montrose area.

The funds the TIRZ will generate will mostly help Montrose repair and enhance its infrastructure.

Some potential projects include new sidewalks and repairs to the drainage system.

For Mayor Annise Parker, the measure passed by the council is one that can make a difference.

"If these TIRZs weren't in existence, half the CIP would

disappear. So, it is a way to do capital projects, much needed capital projects," said Parker, during her usual press conference after council meetings.

The CIP is the Capital Improvement Plan, which to a great extent determines the City's priorities in terms of infrastructure.

Montrose is located in District C, which Ellen Cohen represents in City Hall.

Cohen says the TIRZ should also help the neighborhood enhance transportation and parking options.

Town hall meetings to discuss the Montrose TIRZ were held in

late 2015, where the public discussed potential pros and cons of the measure.

Some residents expressed support for the idea, but others voiced concerns about the governing board, which the city will appoint.

Neartown Association Vice President Kay Warhol expressed excitement about the news with "a big THANK YOU to all... members for your participation and hard work towards bringing the vision of establishing a Montrose TIRZ to a reality."

Submitted by Macy Bodenhamer, president

Secure Minimum Lot Size Protection for Your Street in 7 Easy Steps

The City of Houston adopted measures in 2002 to enable residents to add protection to their neighborhoods in the form of a Minimum Lot Size (MLS) and/or a Minimum Building Line (MBL) application that is approved by City Council and entered into the city's Code of Ordinances. What do these designations mean exactly?

Simply put, the MLS protection specifies that each lot on a given block or block face must conform to a minimum lot size. This legal protection effectively prevents the subdividing of lots for 40 years. The MBL protection designates that each new structure on a given block or block face must be built within a specified number of feet from the sidewalk. The MBL legal protection is good for 20 years.

Both types of protections, enacted into the Code of Ordinances, were created to preserve the lot size and setback character of existing neighborhoods like Hyde Park. So, how can this information benefit you?

Unless you've been living in a cave these past few years, you may have noticed that Hyde Park's 5000 square-foot lots are being cut up to allow for the construction of two (2) or more townhomes, condominiums, or apartments on a single lot. As impressive as these new homes can be, they increase traffic and reduce street parking spaces on a given block. A few town homes can be a welcome and pleasant addition to a block, but too many of these structures can erode the quiet and charm of the neighborhood.

The MLS protection can prevent traffic congestion and reduced parking spaces, and best of all, it is not that difficult to achieve. Residents of Bomar Street turned their MLS application in with signatures to city planners in only one week; West Drew did the same in about three weeks. Welch St took a while but was finally protected under this statute. (Note: the South side of Welch between Montrose and Van Buren did not

get enough signatures to qualify yet.). A petition was started on Peden but has since been dormant due to the lack of positive response from residents.

To submit an application, all it takes is for volunteers on a given block to work in tandem –someone does the paperwork while residents on the street help promote it. The time to start a petition is NOT when a multi-story building is being constructed.

I've set up a site at <http://www.ch42.org> to help explain a streamlined method for pursuing this objective. Cynthia Greenwood, a Willard Street resident and champion of this movement, has dubbed it a "guerrilla style" approach to protecting our neighborhood.

Please check out www.ch42.org and get it going on your street! The website has a contact link for any questions.

Submitted by Delia Cuellar

Volunteer Appeal for our Hyde Park Community

Special thanks go to volunteers this month who helped put up a beautiful Christmas tree at Lamar Park donated by Niko Niko's. Thanks also go to **Rex Richardson** and our outgoing **Membership Chair, Sandie Zilker**.

As we look ahead at the upcoming year, I wonder if you will consider making a resolution to donate a few hours a month to your neighborhood?

We will be having another Hyde Park Happening in January to give new neighbors as well as old friends the chance to meet each other at a local bar/restaurant. Be sure to join our Facebook page to find out more details as the date draws nearer: just search under 'Hyde Park Civic Association'.

There are many ways to get involved in HPCA. If you're interested in a possibility you don't see below, don't hesitate to send me an email. You and your ideas can make a difference. Write me at: volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org

Currently we are especially in need of volunteers for two very important roles: (1) **Citizens on Patrol Coordinator**, and (2) **Membership Chair**.

"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.

Lamar Park Co-Chairs/ Committee Members

We are in need of three committee members and one more co-chair to fill the Lamar Park Maintenance Committee. Neighbor **Sharon Beausoleil** has graciously stepped forward, and we are hoping for more members in the coming weeks!

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!

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop

Membership Chair

The effectiveness of HPCA is only as strong as its efforts in reaching out into the community and creating a presence in our wider community. This is done primarily through the membership committee. The Membership Chair maintains records of membership, makes regular reports of the Associations numbers, and seeks creative ways to increase membership enrollment.

*Submitted by Roy Brooks,
Volunteer Co-ordinator*



Another successful Hyde Park Holiday Party!

Submitted by Tammi Wallace, vice president

A good time was had by all at the 2015 Hyde Park Holiday party held at Riva's on December 7th. With over 60 Hyde Parkers attending this year, there were plenty of smiles, conversation and great food! A huge thank you to **Michael Sibouyeh** and the stellar team at Riva's for taking such good care of us once again this year. Riva's is such a treasured neighbor and they always go above and beyond to support Hyde Park.

Thank you to **Macy Bodenhamer, Rex Richardson, George Sroka, and Sandie Zilker** for handling all the event planning. And, much appreciation to **Jayne Richardson, Rex and Sandie** for their efficient check-in process at the event. Thank you to **Sara Fernandez** for capturing the photographs from the event which are included in this issue. Wishing you and yours a happy and safe holiday season!



Photos: Sara Fernandez



HPCA Board Directors in the house! Vice President Tammi Wallace and Volunteer Coordinator Roy Brooks were recognized for their dauntless efforts coordinating the highest-attended, and most successful National Night Out in Hyde Park history! Back row l-r: George Sroka, Rex Richardson, Tammi Wallace. Front row l-r: Diana Mobley, Sandie Zilker, Roy Brooks



Support a local playwright

Sam Havens was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas, and attended high school in Anahuac, Texas. He's lived in Houston since 1964 and is Professor Emeritus at the University of St. Thomas. Sam has taught drama and directed plays since 1969 and still teaches playwriting and screenwriting. I took a play writing course from Sam in the late 1980s and I have been hooked ever since. One of Sam's twenty-three scripts will have its World Premiere at the University of St. Thomas, February 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13 in Jones Theatre on the University of St. Thomas campus at 8:00 PM.

Here is a brief description of **The Love Seat**: Just in time for Valentine's Day, hilarity reigns in this fast-paced comedy with lots of physical action, gags, and four busy doors. Each time

a character sits on a certain love seat, love blooms. Next thing you know a bewitched rug and a naughty lamp add crazy complications. Plenty of romance, mixed up couples and mad magic. Does Junie truly see a quadruped? Will scary Mrs. Castleberry show up? Can we blame it on the bossa nova? Come and be the first to try your luck on the love seat

Ticket information for **The Love Seat**: Student/Senior \$10; General Admission \$15 For reservations and information call the Drama Program at 713-525-3520 3910 Yoakum Blvd., Houston, TX 77006. Purchase your tickets online at www.stthom.edu/dramatickets.

You can also see a Regional Premier of **52 Pickup** by TJ Dawe and Rita Bozi at Theater LaB. This is another play about love in 52

scenes. Details can be found at www.thelabhouston.org. Performances will be at the new Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston (MATCH). More about that facility in the next newsletter.

Last month I discussed ways to see quality theater at reduced rates. Here is another way to purchase discounted tickets. Goldstar.com/Houston has reduced and sometimes even complimentary tickets to many different events in the Houston area. You can sign up and receive notifications of events several times a week. Chase the post-holiday blues away with a trip to the many cultural events available to us lucky people who live in Hyde Park.

Mary Ellen and husband Tom have lived in Hyde Park for almost 40 years. They can be seen walking the neighborhood with mostly unruly dogs. Mary Ellen is an environmental engineer and a playwright.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Hyde Park Civic Association Annual Membership</h2>		
Individual - \$30	Couple - \$60	New or Renewal (circle one)
Date Paid:		
Amount Paid: \$	Check No.:	
Name(s):		
Address:		
Telephone:		
E-mail:		

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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McDonald on view from January 8th
through February 12th.

gallery@themariagocollective.com | 832.997.6102
1707 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77006 | themariagocollective.com

W & F 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
All other days by appointment only

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January



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★ 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Last Quarter	2
3	4 GENERAL MEETING	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 New Moon
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23 First Quarter
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Full Moon
31 Last Quarter						