

Urban Harvest Grows Local Food System

Submitted by Andrea Oyuela

Meet the leader behind Houston's largest farmers market! Join us March 10th at Brookstreet BBQ at 7:00 p.m. for a conversation with Urban Harvest Executive Director Janna Roberson on how local food is shaping healthier Houston neighborhoods.

For more than two decades, Urban Harvest has been a cornerstone of Houston's local food movement — and for many Hyde Park residents, its Saturday Farmers Market along Buffalo Speedway is a beloved weekly ritual. From fresh produce and local meats to prepared foods and community connections, Urban Harvest has helped shape how Houstonians access and experience fresh, local food.

Urban Harvest is led by Executive Director Janna Roberson, who brings over 30 years of experience across education, equity, counseling, and marketing. Since 2018, her leadership has helped expand Urban Harvest's work beyond farmers markets to address food access through data-driven analysis and research on food deserts, culminating in programs designed to provide healthy, local food choices in low-access neighborhoods.

"At Urban Harvest, our mission is to be a catalyst in transforming food accessibility," Janna shares. "We aim to achieve this by fostering strong partnerships with local farmers and gardeners, operating vibrant farmers markets, and providing comprehensive



Urban Harvest Executive Director Janna Roberson garden education. Our goal is not just to improve, but to transform the way communities engage with and access fresh, locally sourced food."

What began in 2004 as a small market with just seven vendors has grown into one of Texas's largest farmers market, now supporting more than 75 local farmers and food vendors — all located within 180 miles of Houston. Prepared and hot food vendors also source a majority of their ingredients locally, further supporting regional farmers and strengthening Houston's local food system.

Each year, more than 45,000 Houstonians shop at the Urban Harvest Farmers Market, helping expand access to fresh food while building healthier, more resilient neighborhoods. As Urban Harvest continues to grow, its vision remains clear: to support fresh, real food — and the people who grow and raise it.

Upcoming Events

- > **General Meeting**
Tuesday, March 10th
7 pm @ Brookstreet BBQ
1009 Missouri St
- > **Neartown Association**
Thursday, March 12th
7 pm @ The Women's Home
607 Westheimer
- > **TIRZ Meeting**
Monday, March 16th
6:30 pm, at Havens
Center, 1831 W. Alabama St.
- > **Happy Hour**
Thursday, March 19th
5:00 pm, at Traveler's Cart
1401 Montrose Blvd.
- > **Hyde Park Cleanup**
Saturday, March 28th
8:30 am. - meet at 1408
Michigan (details, page 4)

Important Phone Numbers

- HPD Non-Emergency 24-Hr Hotline:
713-884-3131
- Harris County Dispatch:
713-755-7628
- City of Houston Service Line:
3-1-1
- HSPCA Cruelty Hotline:
713-869-7722
- Illegal Dumping Hotline:
832-927-1567
- Human Trafficking Hotline:
888-373-7888
- Illegal Removal/Pruning of a Tree:
832-395-7100

Neartown Association February 12, 2026 Meeting

Quite a lot going on in the neighborhood

Highlights noted by Karen Baribeault

6 Montrose-area civic associations have sent attestations so far in 2026 (includes HPCA) and are considered members of Neartown. The board is working on getting more associations to join.

Matching grants - 2 matching grants given in 2025 - \$5000 to WAMM (Westheimer, Alabama, Montrose, and Mulberry) for their adopted esplanade/easement. \$5000 to Wharton school (landscaping and irrigation repairs). Encouraging groups to apply before August 2026 – need letters of recommendation from District C and others for the application.

Neighborhood clean-up Saturday, April 25, 7:30 – 9:00 AM. At Montrose & Westheimer – Sponsored by Neartown.

Neartown Officer Elections – March 2026 meeting. Same candidates as current board. Still time for candidates to apply.

HPD Officer Snell – Homeless at the food truck park at Montrose and Westheimer is an ongoing problem and at the Spur. Skanska said they will replace the food truck park with a paid parking lot. Skanska waiting on infrastructure reimbursement from TIRZ to move forward on developing that property.

Solid Waste Presentation - Shiva Singh – COH – Asst Director Working on the on-demand heavy trash system. Currently no roll-out

timeline. Backlog is 3000+ work orders for heavy trash and 1000+ illegal dumping reports. On-demand will give each address 4 scheduled heavy trash pick-ups/year. Resident will need to call 3-1-1 to submit work order. Solid Waste will make a public announcement at least 2 weeks before start.

Neartown Web site update – Looking for content and Montrose history articles. Maybe model the new web site after Midtown, Alief and Museum District – these have lots of site visits.

District C Candidate Forum – WAMM hosting forum on 2/19 at Bering Church Fellowship Room. All 7 candidates are confirmed.

District C Runoff Forum - Neartown will host a candidate forum 2 weeks after the special election on April 4 if a runoff is required. <https://www.houstontx.gov/2026-district-c-election.html>

Tour of Covenant House - WAMM hosting a tour on 3/19. RSVP to Kevin Sokol-White to attend. <https://www.wammcivic.org/contact>

Neartown Name Change Proposal – from Neartown to Montrose. Next step is for association leaders to present to their members and relay feedback to Neartown.

City of Houston Updates - Mayor Assistance Office (Rene Ruiz) <https://www.houstontx.gov/mao/memorial.html>. Sign up for alerts at City-

ofHouston.news. DON (Dept of Neighborhoods) has matching fund grants <https://www.houstontx.gov/neighborhoods/matching-grant-program.html>. **Apartment Ordinances** – currently weak ordinances in place. Stakeholder meetings to be scheduled for the next 45 days. **Budget Update** - \$267m deficit projected in 2027. \$55m OT paid in 2025 (Fire, police, solid waste).

Updates from Government Reps District C – Annual report for 2025 available – highlights are 2600 calls and 40,000 emails. If a resident has heavy trash report, send them to council office.

“Banner District” along Westheimer - established in the 1990’s for Pride for banners during Pride. \$7000 is pledged for 10-12 flags from Montrose to Taft. Need approval from City, Centerpoint (pole owners) and flag vendor.

Harris County – Atty Fombonne (<https://cao.harriscountytexas.gov/About/Jonathan-Fombonne>). Gave a statement about risk of rolling back greenhouse gas rules for Harris County. They have paid internships available this summer at their office.

US Congressional Rep – District 7 Lizzie Fletcher - Her office can help with visas/immigration. On 2/23 at Ave 360 Clinic – sponsoring constituent services pop-up. Passport fairs.

<https://www.neartown.org/home/>. Next meeting is March 12 at 7PM – 607 Westheimer.

Several comments on W. Alabama project, Safe Routes

Submitted by Sarah Frazier

Public comments:

We had a fuller than usual room at the Havens Center on Feb. 16, 2026, as Friends of the Boulevard mobilized some folks to attend. Thus, several public comments related to West Alabama project and Safe Routes to Schools. Some comments claimed that Re. Lizzie Fletcher had won federal funds specifically for bike routes on West Alabama and then the TIRZ misused funds by not putting bike routes on that street.

Later, the Goodman rep explained that Fletcher had applied for some funds, but Goodman asked for the proposal to be retracted after the City's

design manual changed and the design changed accordingly.

Financial:

Budget is not allocating money to phase 2 of Montrose Boulevard for now, and will revisit the following year. The City adding a service fee charge for all TIRZes that formerly it charged only to some. After an executive session, the board voted to renew on-call engineering services for HR Green /Gauge for \$20,000 a year, same as last year.

Montrose Blvd project:

These components are complete: Pedestrian bridge: eastern side,

south of Dallas; North of Dallas. Clay intersection is still closed. Very Landscaping is last. March 14 is the "substantial completion" date.

Cherryhurst project

Gauge hopes to begin by June. At this meeting, the board approved a negotiated Knudsen construction contract. Gauge is currently reviewing a request regarding a single tree removal.

Public Engagement:

There will be a presentation soon about the parking survey, but there is a lot of data and Goodman is still analyzing it.



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MARCH 2026 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Submit your articles or story ideas about Hyde Park

Submitted by Karen Baribeault

Ahhh March in Houston!

Enjoy the weather, longer days, daffodils and more time to walk the neighborhood. What do you see around Hyde Park – the dolphin fountain, Niko Niko's adopted esplanade, new homes on West Drew or people enjoying the patio at Rudyard's? Maybe you see graffiti, an overgrown triangle park or heavy trash waiting to be picked up?

Write an article for the HPCA newsletter to encourage us or make us aware of your concerns. George Sroka, our Newsletter

editor, welcomes your contributions (george.a.sroka@gmail.com).

Now an update on HPCA membership - welcome to members who have joined or renewed - Dalton DeHart, Lori and Chris Corwin and Yoryenys Del Moro, Thanks for being members of HPCA and your membership is good until January 2027!

HPCA needs a new Newsletter Distribution Manager to pick up the monthly newsletters from Kwik Kopy and bundle and deliver to block captains. No experience needed – we will train you! Ross Lee

and I are filling in to distribute the March newsletters.

There are four ways to pay the \$30 HPCA annual dues:

1. Venmo @HydeParkCA
2. PayPal – go to HydeParkHouston.org
3. Credit cards – go to HydeParkHouston.org
4. Paper check
Hyde Park Civic Association
PO Box 66422
Houston, TX 77266-6422
Love Hyde Park!
Karen Baribeault, Membership
Karen.baribeault@comcast.net

FEBRUARY HAPPY HOUR

Nando's PERi-PERi: Hot, Spicy and In-Between

Submitted by Patty Hunt

Approximately a dozen of us met at Nando's PERi-PERi for Hyde Park Happy Hour on February 19th. The weather was perfect for us to gather on their patio. All different versions of the chicken dishes were very tasty and moist. We were able to choose the level of spiciness we preferred on every dish. The food and drink service was quick and the staff was very accommodating to all our needs. So if you're looking for some good food in the neighborhood, visit Nando's and show your appreciation for them supporting Hyde Park National Night Out.

They're located at:

Nando's PERi-PERi | 1201 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX 77006 | Montrose@NandosPeriPeri.com | 713-238-7710



Let's Clean Up Hyde Park on Sat., March 28

You'll sign in at 8:30 am at 1408 Michigan St, We'll have coffee and snacks to get you started. Bags, gloves and grabbers provided. If you have a grabber, please bring it..

We will clean until 11:00, but you can stop whenever you need to. If it is raining, we'll reschedule.

To learn more, contact Mary Ellen and Tom Whitworth 713-523-8035

Upcoming Happy Hours

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| March 19 | Traveler's Cart
1401 Montrose Blvd |
| April 16 | BB's Tex Orleans
515 Westheimer Rd |
| May 21 | ChopnBlok
507 Westheimer Rd |
| June 18 | La Mexicana
1018 Fairview Ave |

General Meeting February 10, 2026

How 311 works (or doesn't) plus Park Rangers available

Submitted by Sarah Frazier

To start our general meeting on Feb. 10th, **Cruz Almonaci** with Council Member Kamin's office spoke briefly about her gun safe campaign and gave away gun safes to all who wanted them. Her number is 832-393-3004. Cruz.almonaci@houston.tx.gov

Amethyst James spoke in Paula Walker's stead, representing Houston 311. She is a Master Caller. Houston 311 is a service to submit a report to the right department. You can contact 311 online, call, or in person at its office on Bagby at City Hall. The software 311 uses is called "Rubicon."

311 doesn't "close" requests

You can get a response back from the department if you provide your contact information, and most people want to do so. 311 staff are not the pertinent department, so they don't know how long it will take for a department to respond. 311 doesn't process reports, control their priority, or close them.

The pertinent department will close your report in Rubicon if they try to remedy it and can't because you haven't enabled them to do so (for example, they arrive to take your trash but you haven't put it out), or if it's in error, or if there are physical challenges demanded for service.

Some reports take longer, like community code enforcement, especially where private property is concerned, since they can't enter private property off the bat. Sometimes reporting directly to a particular department is the most effective way. Prime example: if



311 Master Caller Amethyst James explains how 311 works at the Feb. 10th meeting

you know who dumped illegally, report it to HPD's environmental investigations division or *Rat on a Rat* (easily found via internet search).

Dmitri talked about the City's failure to pick up his recycling since October; Solid Waste has repeatedly closed his case. How to deal with a case that's closed repeatedly? Report it again AND ask your council member.

Optimize the effectiveness of your 311 report

Pictures are very helpful and help folks plan a response. Leave your email even if you call, so you can email additional photos in response to 311 follow-up emails acknowledging your submission.

Who leads 311? Charles Jackson is the Director. Email him or Paula Walker (who was our original speaker but had to cancel). If you ask to speak with him and he's available, he will take it.

Lamar Park disturbances

Who is the responsible department when there are disturbances in Lamar Park at night? Parks & Recreation has **Park Rangers** who can police parks after hours. **Call 832-395-7100.** Park rangers will come out if someone is cutting a tree or mudding in a City park; they may bring HPD. They are 24-7. Parks & Rec is also where 311 will send requests. Sleeping there overnight is illegal when the park has a sign saying so. Lamar Park is closed Dusk to Dawn.

Do multiple reports help? Not necessarily the way we hope. The department will merge cases and reference the different case numbers then close duplicate reports. It doesn't necessarily speed up the process unless it's something like being out of water.

Continued on next page

311 *Continued from previous page*

When 311 is not working ...

What else can you do when 311 is not working? You can ESCALATE the issue. Calling 311 (not submitting online) is the best way to escalate.

Mary Ellen Whitworth mentioned making open sewage reports and then being asked by Public Works to fix the problem, when she was just walking by the issue. Open sewage can go to Public Works, but it's also a nuisance and can be handled that way.

Amethyst James stayed for the rest of the meeting to handle any 311 complaints in person and answer questions. If the City ever wants to know how departments are really doing, folks like Amethyst know. She is an impressive professional. We held our business meeting after

that, beginning with introductions all around. Shoutout to **Carla Schwarz** for attending her first Hyde Park meeting!

Karen reported over 200 members—this is the highest membership has been in years and the envy of Montrose. Our happy hours are set for the next six months and really help boost membership. Our volunteers are amazing.

I spoke briefly about the Deed Restrictions Committee. The board voted to again oppose the same proposal, re-submitted, to build a high-rise tower at Khun Khai. The design would overpower the half block they have, pouring regular delivery traffic on the adjacent streets that are part of the Safe Route to Schools project, underway with TIRZ and DOT funds.

We prevailed: the Planning Commission again rejected the proposal. Rocky Kneten spoke eloquently and I weighed in, too. It would be nice to think that a tower like this would help house people or improve housing affordability, but it's luxury housing with 3000 square foot units and, according to its architect, would likely be one-third unoccupied due to investor ownership.

I gave a treasurer's report for January, which, as corrected, indicates that the neighborhood's account balance increased from \$8391.12 to \$8499.99, as the newsletter bills were paid in other calendar months, and Paypal deposits including dues exceeded monthly Paypal email expenses.

Mary Ellen said our speaker in March is Urban Harvest, and after that, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

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Having issues with construction crews?

The Hyde Park Board Wants to Know About Your Experiences

Many neighbors have complained about construction crews working on homes and landscaping projects. Here are a few common complaints:

- Parking and blocking the street completely
- Parking and leaving an extremely narrow passage for through-traffic
- Leaving construction debris unconfined
- Construction vehicles' tires pushing mud out into the traffic lanes
- Destruction of sidewalks or shoddy repairs done

Send your experiences and observations (with photos, if you have some) to info@hydeparkhouston.org

Note that this is an effort to recognize patterns of violations, and is not intended to solve a particular incident. We will be taking this information to City of Houston officials and elected representatives

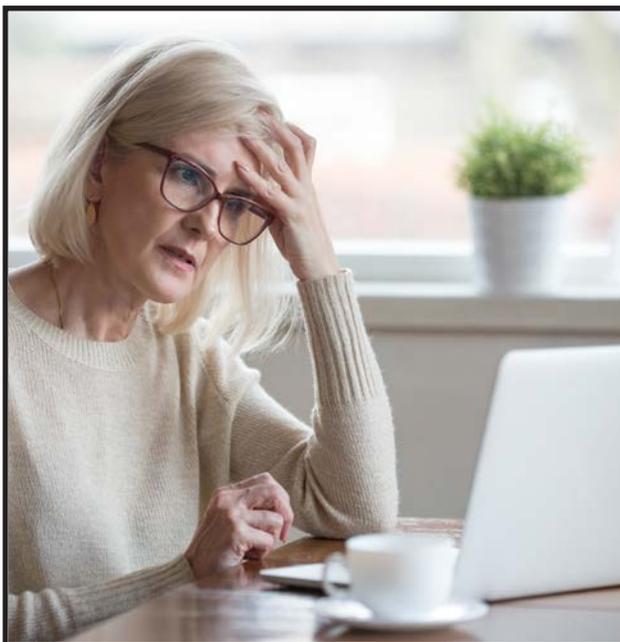
and asking them:

- What ordinances apply to these construction activities to protect residents
- Which departments oversee these activities and are responsible for compliance
- What to do in addition to contacting 311
- What to do if 311 doesn't provide a satisfactory response

Results and actions to take will be published in a future newsletter.



Construction Trash Dumped Curbside on Vacant Lot



Is Using Your Computer More Frustrating than Fun?

- Go beyond the basics with your computer skills.
- Zip through tasks that used to take forever
- Avoid the frustration of not knowing what to do when @#!*%&! happens

**Contact George,
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Contact Karen Baribeault at Karen.baribeault@comcast.net

Lamar Park Committee Chair sought

Do you appreciate Lamar Park and the Dolphin Fountain, and would you be willing to invest some time in keeping them well-maintained? More details are in the article at the top of the next page. If you're interested, please email info@hydeparkhouston.org

Chair sought for Lamar Park Committee

Submitted by Sarah Frazier

Hyde Park is seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Lamar Park Committee, which covers both Lamar Park and the Dolphin Fountain, as our wonderful neighbor Ste-

phen Cook is unable to continue in this role. This committee plans and makes recommendations relating to our little parks that we envision will cover some or all of: homeless and/or criminal activity, landscaping installation and maintenance,

potential park get-togethers, and a potential historic marker for the dolphin fountain and/or historic designation. If you're interested in serving as chair, or just on the committee, please email board@hydeparkhouston.org.



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- manage deed restrictions
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Mail form and check to:
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Volunteer Coordinator –
 Mary Ellen Whitworth
volunteer@hydeparkhouston.org

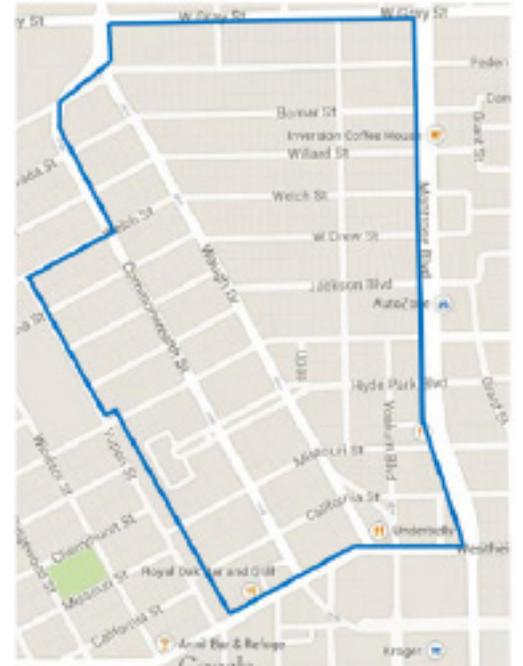
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Scan the QR code to sign up for your Hyde Park Civic Association membership via PayPal!

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Karen Baribeault 708-870-6870

Hyde Park / Upas

Melba Bowen 713-526-9212

Hyde Park Crescent

Carlos Fernandez 832.541.9246

Hyde Park Townhomes

Clint Harbert 832-428-0158

West Gray & Indiana / Yupon

Dmitry Bazykin 281-771-4799

Jackson

Peter Mcgillivray 504-231-8565

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Francisco Gutierrez 832-597-3299

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Tom Whitworth 713-523-8035

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Ross Lee 708-203-2333

Welch

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 Cliff Jones 713-471-6936

West Drew

Andrea Oyuela 281-406-0566

Westheimer

OPEN

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Macy Bodenhamer 713-201-5810

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Address	Printing Paid	Details
• 1204 Willard	• ✓	• Listing by Builder in Hyde Park
• 1118 Welch Unit B	• ✓	• Buyer Referred to Mike, Bought in Hyde Park
• 1311 W Bell	• ✓	• Buyer Referred to Mike by Hyde Park Resident
• 1515 Fairview	• ✓	• Listing by Seller in Hyde Park
• 1110 Peden	• ✓	• Listing by Seller in Hyde Park
• 1336 Milam	• ✓	• Referral to Columbus TX
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March 2026

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Women's History Month & National Reading Month	2 Trash, Yard Waste & Recycling	3 General Meeting 7 pm Brookstreet BBQ	4 Heavy Trash	5 Neartown Assn. 7 pm @ The Women's Home 607 Westheimer	6	7
8	9 Trash and Yard Waste	10 St. Patrick's Day	11	12 Happy Hour 5 pm Traveler's Cart 1401 Montrose	13	14
15	16 Trash, Yard Waste & Recycling TIRZ 6:30 pm Havens Center	17 National Puppy Day	18	19	20	21
22	23 Trash and Yard Waste	24	25	26	27	28 Hyde Park Cleanup 8:30am - meet at 1408 Michigan
29	30 Trash, Yard Waste & Recycling	31				