

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

A HOME TOWN NEAR DOWNTOWN SINCE 1907

WHCA NEWSLETTER: A PUBLICATION OF THE WOODLAND HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2019

EVENT CALENDAR

- 5/31: HISD last day of school
- 6/1: Heights Fun Run 5K & 10K
- 6/6: Trash & Recycling Collection
- 6/8: Birding in Woodland Park
- 6/13: Trash & Lawn Collection
- 6/19: Heavy Trash / Junk Collection
- 6/20: Trash & Recycling Collection
- 6/27: Trash & Lawn Collection-
- 7/4: Trash & Recycling Collection
- 7/9: WHCA July General Meeting
- 7/11: Trash & Lawn Collection
- 7/17: Tree Waste Pickup

MEMBERSHIP

WHCA memberships run April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. Residents are encouraged to join or renew online at www.woodland-heights.org.

WHCA Board 2019-20

Harry McMahon, President

Alaina Hebert, Secretary

Doug Carroll, Treasurer

Stephanie Riceman, Dir. Beautification

Michael Graves, Dir. Communications

Melissa Sternfels, Dir. Deed Restrictions

Brad Sneed, Dir. Infrastructure

Sharon Greiff, Dir. Membership

Cody MacGregor, Dir. Security



It's a QR code. You scan it with the camera of your smart phone and it takes you to our web site with no typing at all.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! RESIDENTS TO THE RESCUE

THE NEIGHBORS OF WOODLAND HEIGHTS, ONE AND ALL, ARE CALLED UPON TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

PRESIDENT'S CALL.

CALLS FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS OPEN POSITIONS

LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS, HOME TOUR, SIDEWALKS, URBAN FORESTRY, IT/DATA MANAGEMENT, BLOCK CAPTAINS

VOLUNTEER TODAY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.WOODLAND-HEIGHTS.ORG

Okay, the enemy is not exactly assailing our gates but that doesn't lessen the need. Projects for the benefit of your neighborhood require people. It is my hope the neighborhood will step up and volunteer in sufficient numbers to staff our projects, plan the projects and work to make them a reality. I am making this plea to remind those willing to serve, the need is great.

We have several committees that can only move forward if the volunteer force is sufficient. There are many committees that need your help, including; Lights In The Heights®, Home Tour, Sidewalks, Urban Forestry, IT/Data Management and Block Captains. There's something to interest everyone.

Sign Me Up!

Okay, how do I sign up you may ask? Visit our website by scanning the QR code (pictured left) or visiting <https://www.woodland-heights.org/volunteer/> where you'll find a

PDF form for WHCA volunteers. Mark your preference and email the form to president@woodland-heights.org.

It would be inappropriate to close a call for volunteers without thanking those who have volunteered in recent the past. You know who you are, but I would like to offer special thanks to those folks instrumental in making our Home Tour such a success. Also, those who work so tirelessly to make Lights In The Heights® a special event and credit to the neighborhood. Lastly, the WHCA Board Members who are shortly stepping down; Debbie Hall, Sharon Greiff, Jay Francis and Matt Johnson. They deserve our collective gratitude for their efforts over the past year.

Please reach into your time wallet and donate generously to your home neighborhood.

Harry McMahon
President,
Woodland Heights Civic Association

WHCA May General Meeting: New Bylaws & Board Members



The WHCA General Meeting on May 14th was one of the most significant in recent memory. At this gathering the WHCA board, lead by President Harry McMahon, presented the membership with an overview of the newly adopted bylaws of the organization, followed by a process of acclaiming four new directors to the WHCA board. The meeting was held in the library at Travis Elementary School and attended by 31 members of the civic association.

In presenting the new bylaws, Harry began by explaining the motivation for the effort. He noted that the organization's original bylaws had not been fundamentally reworked since the WHCA was founded in 1986! After 33 years, the old bylaws simply did not reflect the current reality of the organization or the environment in which it operates. This made it difficult for new boards, who often received very little guidance about how things must be done.

He went on to highlight some of the most significant changes. One of the most notable is the restructuring of the terms of the Board of Directors. Electing almost an entirely new board each year has led to difficulty with organizational memory and continuity. So, it was decided that, going forward, the various positions would hold two-year terms, offset so only half of the board is elected each year.

In addition, the Annual General Meeting where the board election is held was moved from March into May. This change overcomes the long-running conflict with the meeting falling during March Break, when many families are unable to attend.

Both the new bylaws and a summary of the major changes are available at the WHCA website.

The new bylaws were crafted with the able assistance of Brad Rauch of Hirsch-Westheimer, who has a depth of experience in this area. They are the result of a six month collaboration with the WHCA board. Harry further noted that the entire project was accomplished at no cost to the organization.

Following the bylaw discussion, the Nominating Committee introduced the four members nominated to the WHCA board for the 2019-2021 term:

- Alaina Hebert (Secretary)
- Sharon Greiff (Director-Membership)
- Brad Sneed (Director-Infrastructure/Land Use)
- Doug Carroll (Treasurer)

Each took the opportunity to introduce themselves. As noone was nominated in a contested race, the assembled membership in attendance unanimously agreed that all should be acclaimed into their new roles.

After a brief presentation by each of the existing board members, the meeting adjourned at around 8:00pm.



Houston Parks Summer Enrichment Program: Come Play With Us!

S.E.P. is a 10-week day-camp style program for youth ages 6 - 13. Registration is required for this fun-filled program. Available at 49 H.P.A.R.D. community centers, including Woodland Park (pictured) and Stude Park.

Program activities include: crafts, nutrition, fun fitness, track and field, soccer, swimming, junior golf, nature exploration, computer literacy programs, recycling awareness, kayaking, bird watching, fishing and hiking excursions and youth entrepreneur experiences.

The cost is \$30.00 per child per week. Online registration Fee exemptions are available to parents or guardians who qualify. Appropriate documentation is required. Ask for more information regarding qualification criteria.

For more info or to register visit: <https://houstontx.gov/parks/youthsports.html>

The WHCA invites you to join or renew your subscription to the 2019-20 Constable Patrol Program



Overview

The WHCA has a contract with the Constable Patrol Program, serviced by Harris County Precinct One. We have two full-time deputies that patrol our neighborhood for a total of 80 hours each week, in two staggered shifts—one during the day and one at night.

Benefits

The presence of the constable patrols in the neighborhood is a benefit to all residents as the constables patrol the entire neighborhood.

Program benefits include:

- **Police presence** – dedicated deputies are visible, learn the neighborhood, and prevent crime;
- **Prompt response** – deputies usually respond more quickly than HPD;
- **Vacation Watch*** – a deputy will do a physical, daily inspection of your home while you are on vacation;
- **Home Security Check*** – a deputy will physically come to your home to provide a security assessment;
- **Text/Email Crime Alerts** – you may sign up for crime alerts from Precinct 1;
- **Coordination with alarm companies*** – you may give the Precinct One dispatch number to your alarm monitoring companies;
- **Coordination with the Constable's office** – the VP of Security will act as a liaison with the department to coordinate any special requests or concerns;
- **Coordination with surrounding neighborhoods** – an unheralded benefit, allowing constables in surrounding areas to respond to calls when our deputies are off duty.

While any resident can contact Precinct One Dispatch to report suspicious activity, *some aspects of the program are only available to residents subscribed to the program.

Program Changes

In past years it was possible to subscribe to the program in a manner that automatically renewed each year. For logistical reasons we are no longer offering automatic renewal. Those who had previously renewed automatically were notified in early February that this would not happen for the coming year. Everyone who wishes to participate must sign-up anew for the 2019-20 year.

Program Costs

The cost to WHCA is \$6,628 per deputy, per month (totaling \$13,256 per month, or \$159,088 per year). This is NOT paid for by property taxes or any other source.

Are We There Yet?

In offering the program this year we tried something new. Rather than waiting until April 1st to begin promoting the new year of the program, we tried to entice people to join with an Early Bird discount starting in late January. We thought that we could encourage more people to join with a slightly lower price, and get the process started before the prior program came to an end.

This strategy was somewhat effective, resulting in **376 households presently subscribed**. While we're happy with that running start, we **need another 156 households to fully fund the program for the entire year**.

If we stay at the current level of subscribers, we will not be able to sustain two shifts throughout the year. If we fall short, we will go down to one day shift for the remaining months of the fiscal year. With your help, we hope to avoid that.

We hope you will join or renew to help us sustain the program at the current level of service. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well!

How To Enroll

Enrolling in the Constable Patrol Program is easy!

By Mail/Check - If you prefer to pay by check simply return the form included in this newsletter, along with your check for \$350 made out to The Woodland Heights Civic Association.

Online, by Credit Card - If you prefer to pay by credit card visit the Constable Patrol page on our web site, where you'll find a link to enroll online.

Please feel free to contact the VP of Security, Cody MacGregor (security@woodland-heights.org) if you have any questions or comments about the Constable Patrol Program.



I-45 Project Update



Legend		
● Benefited	— Proposed Barriers	--- Existing Right of Way
● Impacted	— Existing Barrier	--- Proposed Right of Way
● Non impacted	— Proposed Design	

North Houston Highway Improvement Project
 Exhibit 2: Noise Receivers and Proposed Barriers Map
 Page 16 of 32

As you may have heard, TxDOT is planning to do a major road project near you! But one thing you need to know ... is that the I-45 project, as currently designed, is NOT a done deal! There is still time to get TxDOT to listen to things that should be done & eliminate items that should NOT be done ... but that door is closing quickly!!

What are some of those things?

... TxDOT is designing their drainage system based on 100-year storms...only for the incremental difference of what they are planning to do, NOT for the entire project. If you or I do a major remodel to our house, we must incorporate drainage requirements to a 500-year storm standard for the entire project ... not just the new portion! This is wrong!!

... TxDOT will not commit to adding sound barriers along roadways. They say they will consider it after they get approval for the project.

... Concerns about neighborhood connectivity, bikeways and walkways

... Concerns about air quality, sound levels and general negative impact to the neighborhood quality of life.

TxDOT is working on their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and once that is complete, they will get the final go-ahead with the ROD (Record of Decision) which gives them the green light to start construction. Our opportunity is to work with TxDOT, the City, the County & the State PRIOR to the ROD.

On Thursday, June 13 at 10 a.m. in City Hall Council Chamber, the Houston City Council's TTI Committee will address the North Houston Highway Improvement Project. Please plan to come, if you can to that meeting ... *we should plan to fill Council Chambers, and then some!*

Who Are We?

The **I-45 Coalition** is a grassroots organization of concerned citizens and civic association representatives from neighborhoods affected by the potential I-45 expansion. It was formed in 1998 (21 years ago!) I have been involved for the last 14 years. The I-45 Coalition has joined forces with the **Make I-45 Better Coalition** (headed by Michael Skelly) which consists of numerous groups and organizations that are also concerned about the upcoming project and the lack of responsiveness from TxDOT.

Some of the groups involved include:

- Woodland Heights Civic Association
- Air Alliance Houston
- Avenue CDC
- Bayou City Waterkeeper
- Bayou Preservation
- Bike Houston
- Buffalo Bayou Partnership
- Downtown District
- Eastwood Civic Association
- Friends of Woodland Park
- Freedman's Town Preservation Committee
- Galveston Bay Keeper
- Germantown Historic District
- Greater East End
- Heritage Society
- Greater Heights Super Neighborhood 15
- Greater Northside Management District
- Hermann Park Conservancy
- Houston Parks Board
- Kinder Foundation
- LINK Houston
- Montrose District
- Montie Beach Civic Club
- Museum Park Super Neighborhood 66
- Scenic Houston
- Trees for Houston
- Memorial Park Super Neighborhood 22
- White Oak Bayou Association



To stay up-to-date – you can go on FaceBook to Make I-45 Better Coalition and like the page. <https://www.facebook.com/makel45better/>

If you want to be emailed directly with updates, go to www.I-45Coalition.org, go to How You Can Help, to bottom of page & add your info. I will add you to our email list.

Thank you for getting involved. I-45 is a once-in-a-lifetime project and one that we HAVE to get right! - *Jim Weston, I-45 Coalition*

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DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
Annual Membership Dues 2019-20	General \$50	\$ _____
	Senior (65+) \$20	\$ _____
Constable Patrol Program 2019-20	Membership \$350	\$ _____
	Additional Donation	\$ _____
Super Neighbor <i>(an additional donation that helps support the functions of the WHCA, including beautification efforts and community events like the 4th of July parade)</i>		\$ _____
Our Front Porch <i>(beautiful coffee table book featuring Woodland Heights porches, photographed by locals)</i>	Softcover \$20 Sale! \$15	\$ _____
	Hardcover \$45 Sale! \$35	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Pay by Check & Mail:	Pay Online by Credit Card:
Please forward this completed form and your dues payable to: Woodland Heights Civic Association P.O. Box 7754, Houston, TX 77270-7754	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit http://www.woodland-heights.org • See Neighbors link on top right of screen • Choose Constable Patrol and/or WHCA Membership. • Click Buy Now link. • Go to WHCA Store for Porch Books.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check One: **Homeowner** **Non-Homeowner Resident (Renter)**

THANK YOU! THE WOODLAND HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION RELIES ON YOUR CONTINUED VOLUNTARY SUPPORT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

Yard-of-the-Month: 931 Merrill



A neighbor messaged me about the 900 block of Merrill and said I should check out these green spaces popping with colors, and so glad I did! There is a cluster of beautiful yards, and it was hard to choose, but I found Vaughn Heinzelman tending his garden at 931 Merrill and it was clear where we should plant this month's sign! When I mentioned how beautiful his neighbors' yards looked too, he grinned and admitted to a little inspired and friendly rivalry. They really love their block and our whole neighborhood benefits from their talents.

The yard is bustling with life whether planted, flying, buzzing, or crawling. Around the front you will find crepe myrtles, boxwoods, flowering wild petunias that thrive in the summer sun, loropetalum, and sage; and around the porch there are blue-purple false heather and firecracker bushes that will bloom beautiful bright orange tube blossoms next month to draw in the hummingbirds.

A small pergola to the side supports his spouse's grandmother's wisteria, bringing incredible blossoms in the spring. More front beds bloom with azaleas, rose bud with narrowleaf angleon, sky flower, blanket flower, blue wings, blue lily, loropetalum, knock out red roses, and iris will show off later this summer. And not to be overlooked, an exotic passion flower, plus a potted barberton daisy that has bloomed all spring. Wow - I'm sure I've left something out!

A year ago an injured raccoon visited their yard, and they started feeding it and named it Rocket. To their delight Rocket has made a home in their beautiful yard and comes to dinner every evening. Their sanctuary is just that welcoming.

Vaughn is a descendant of northern midwest farmers, and must have a love for the earth in his blood. As a child he had the job of manicuring the hedges and now you can see the decades of practice along his front walk. He has lived here for more than 25 years, and nurtures a combination of new and old.

Closer to the street there are two China Berry trees he lovingly calls the "Old Men" that have accompanied the home for nearly 100 years! On Mother's Day he had a visit from a woman, with her grandchildren, who had lived in the house as a child. How special to be able to share that history and have the responsibility of carrying it on, and to see it in the trees that still grow old with the home.

- Stephanie Riceman, Dir of Beautification



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WH Home Tour 2020: Call For Historic Homes!

The 2020 Woodland Heights Home Tour Committee has begun the process of selecting homes for next March's tour. One of the neighborhood's biggest fundraisers, the tour also showcases our charm to other Houstonians who don't have the joy of living here. If you would like your original home – renovations and additions welcome – to be considered, please email limoss@comcast.net.

Our goal is to finalize home selection by Sept. 1, and we will be scheduling visits from now through mid-July. We couldn't have the tour without the homeowners who so graciously open their doors to visitors. Past participants tell us that being on the tour has the added advantage of encouraging them to finish all those projects they had been planning!

Volunteer Opportunities

With the 2020 Home Tour less than a year away, we are looking for a first round of volunteers. It takes a lot of elbow grease to pull the tour off! If you are interested in helping with the planning and potentially chairing one of the many committees, we can find a role to fit your skills, interests and time availability.

In January 2020, we will reach out again for volunteers to help weekend of, including docents that guide visitors through the featured homes, event logistics support and cashiers.

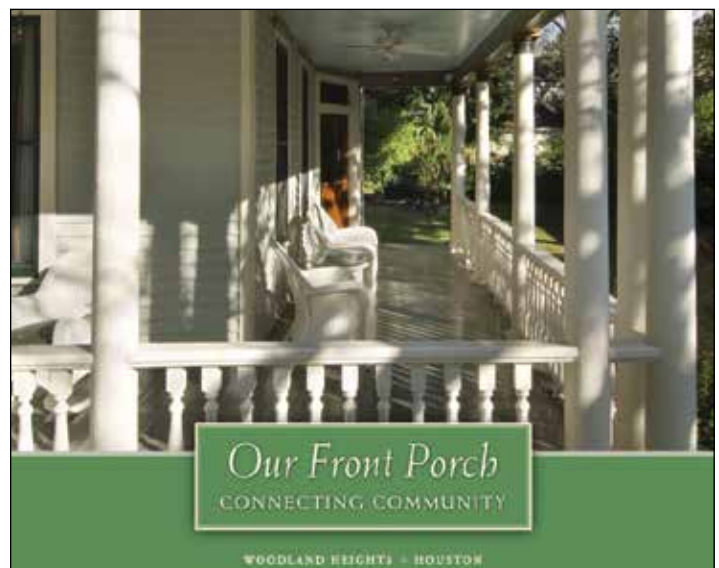
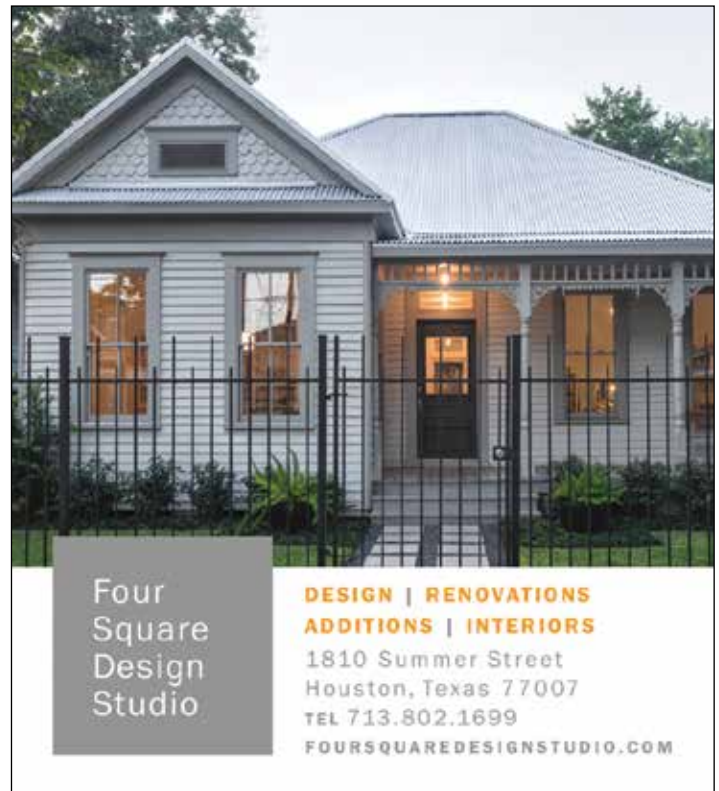
Volunteering is a fun way to meet your neighbors and give back to the community. Want to volunteer or have questions on what's involved? Please call Louise Moss at 713.793.1412 or send her an email at limoss@comcast.net.

Our Front Porch: Connecting Community

Old-timers, newcomers and visitors alike often enthuse about Woodland Heights' small-town feel. And a key component connecting us is the wide, welcoming front porches that grace many of our homes – both historic and newer versions.

As part of its centennial celebration, the Woodland Heights Civic Association and a group of dedicated volunteers – photographers, writers and coordinators extraordinaire – came together to commemorate and celebrate our porches and our neighborhood. The result was a beautiful coffee table book, *Our Front Porch: Connecting Community*. (pictured right)

Visit www.woodland-heights.org/store to purchase a hardcover for the discounted price of \$35 or the softcover for \$15, or add it to your membership form. All proceeds go to support preservation efforts in the neighborhood.





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About WHCA
WHCA General Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. (January, March, May, July, September, and November). Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at Travis Elementary School, 3311 Beauchamp St.

WHCA
P.O. Box 7754
Houston, TX 77270-7754

Please visit our website (www.woodland-heights.org) to sign up for our monthly digital newsletter. The website also contains additional news updates, volunteer opportunities, and so much more.

**MAKE I-45 BETTER
COALITION
ADVOCACY
OPPORTUNITY!!!**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 13 @ 10 AM IN
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**CITY COUNCIL'S TTI COMMITTEE
WILL ADDRESS THE NORTH
HOUSTON HIGHWAY
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**



*Let's fill the Council
Chambers!*