

# Hyde Park United

AUGUST 2008

A S E N S E O F C O M M U N I T Y

A publication of the Hyde Park United Civic Association  
P.O. BOX 66422 • HOUSTON, TX 77266-6642  
[www.hydeparkunited.org](http://www.hydeparkunited.org)

## President's Letter

### Save Wharton Elementary School

Houston Independent School District (HISD) has proposed the consolidation of Wharton Elementary and placed the Wharton Elementary Property at 900 West Gray on its disposition list for possible sale. We need your help right now to stop this proposal!

The greater Montrose area has an urgent need for your help in preserving Wharton Elementary School located at 900 W Gray. HISD, under the guidance of the much-maligned and overpaid school superintendent Abe Saavedra, has plans to demolish the school and sell this valuable property to developers.

Scores of residents, parents, and organizations such as Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, Museum District Business Alliance, and Neartown Little League are on record as opposing the proposed demolition and sale.

The school is named after Major General John A. Wharton, hero of the battle of San Jacinto. General Wharton was a frequent visitor to the old Lamar House which once rested on land that many years later would become the neighborhoods of Hyde Park and Cherryhurst. It was built around the same time and similar architectural styles as River Oaks and Poe Elementary schools — which are not up for demolition.

The Wharton campus is one of the last huge greenspaces found in the Montrose area. The Neartown Little League, with a generous grant from Eric Hilton (uncle of Paris) paid HISD over \$200,000 for upgrades and use of the baseball field to accommodate increasing numbers of children wanting to play ball. The park is also used by adults playing impromptu soccer games on weekends. There has also been some discussion of building a granite-gravel jogging track around the perimeter of the property — an amenity perceptibly lacking in our area.

Wharton Elementary is the only HISD Magnet school that supports an exclusive focus on dual-language instruction in every class. It is the only dual-language program in the city — and is one of a few in the country. Children are taught equally in English and Spanish and are quite fluent in both languages before entering middle school. The program includes many — if



not most — children who speak English as the primary language.

Lastly, and according to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 2025 Regional Growth Forecast, the metro area is expected to grow by another three million people in the next 20 years, reaching a population of more than 7.6 million in 2025. To demolish Wharton Elementary now would be extremely short-sighted. Perhaps Mr. Saavedra can tell us where these kids will go to school?

For more information on where to register your protest and to view sample letters, visit [www.friendsofwharton.org](http://www.friendsofwharton.org).

*Kathy Schipper, President  
Hyde Park Civic Association*

**No General Meeting  
in August**

**Next meeting Sept. 6**

**National Night Out Oct. 7**

Block Captain Appreciation Dinner at  
7 pm Monday, Aug. 4, at Aladdin  
Mediterranean Restaurant,  
Westheimer @ Montrose.

**Deadline for September newsletter: Wed., Aug. 20**

# 42 homeowners volunteer their homes for Home Tour 2009; selection committee narrowing list

The Home Tour Committee has received an overwhelming list of nominees for the next tour scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2009. By the time this newsletter goes to the printer, all 42 homeowners should have received a letter seeking permission to use their home on the tour.

Once the respondees are tallied, the "Selection Committee" will begin making home visits and ultimately obtain a short list of homes that reflect a wide-range of decorating and architectural styles found throughout the neighborhood.

If you have been honored with a letter, or if you didn't

receive a letter but would like to offer your home for the tour, please respond ASAP to [hometour2009@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:hometour2009@hydeparkunited.org).

Proceeds from the Home Tour are slated for maintenance of Lamar Park. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the Lamar Park Capital Improvements Fund, please contact [president@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:president@hydeparkunited.org) to obtain a packet with instructions...it's very easy! These funds are designated for large projects such as the planned complete restoration and landscaping of the Dolphin Fountain area. — *submitted by Kathy Schipper*

## Thank you **BLOCK CAPTAINS** for volunteering

|                             |                   |              |                        |                     |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Bomar                       | Dan Schnorr       | 832-455-7135 | Michigan               | Tom Whitworth       | 713-523-8035 |
| California/Westheimer       | Kathleen Schipper | 713-522-2538 | Missouri               | Jeanne Wallace      | 713-528-0834 |
| Commonwealth                | Neal Boggiano     | 713-524-5795 | Montrose               | Sara Fernandez      | 713-520-7017 |
| Commonwealth Apts.          | Libby Cook        | 713-522-0584 | Peden/Haddon/Van Buren | Randy Stadler       | 713-524-2756 |
| Fairview/Van Buren          | Tom Greer         | 713-526-9149 | Vermont                | Peter Forbes        | 713-527-0948 |
| Hyde Park & Hyde Park Apts. | Linda Carter      | 713-524-2952 | Waugh                  | Sue Chin            | 713-522-3231 |
| Hyde Park Crescent          | Carlos Fernandez  | 713-520-7017 | Welch                  | Scott Whitley       | 713-545-1497 |
| Hyde Park Townhomes         | Jean Garwood      | 713-807-1228 | West Drew              | Alice McCarthy      | 713-521-5807 |
| Indiana/Yupon               | Brigette Wignall  | 281-788-8011 | W Gray/Hazel           | Scott & Lina Rigrod | 713-528-2791 |
| Jackson                     | Doug Prince       | 713-471-6816 | Willard                | Camille Bogel       | 713-526-7625 |
| Maryland                    | Chris Lemus       | 713-528-1673 | Yoakum                 | Ryan Levy           | 713-319-7376 |



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# Recyclable materials accepted in curbside program

The City of Houston now accepts more kinds of plastic for recycling (#1-5 and #7; the number is usually stamped into the plastic.) Here is the list of recyclables accepted in curbside recycling.

## Mail, Envelopes, Home Office Paper

- No dark colored or decorative papers
- No foil packaging

## Aluminum, Tin, Steel & Empty Aerosol Cans

- Rinse & drain
- Labels are okay
- Place lids inside larger containers
- No coat hangers

## Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, Telephone Books

- Loose dry & unsoiled
- Remove plastic wrapping, rubber bands

## Flattened, Corrugated Cardboard

- Flatten to a maximum of 3 feet on each side
- No food, pizza or cereal boxes

• No beverage carts, gift boxes, styrofoam, packing material  
**Used Motor Oil**

- Drain into original container
- Clean, non-chemical/non-detergent screwtop container OK
- 2 gallon limit per collection No empty used oil containers
- No antifreeze liquid or containers accepted

## Now Accepting Plastic (#1-#5; #7) Items.

The following Categories Only! (Please Rinse & Drain):  
 Plastic Bottles, Jars, Jugs, Tubs & Lids: milk, water, juice, soft drink, beer, salad dressing, condiments, cooking oil, sauces, squeezable bottles & jars; laundry & dishwashing detergent, medicine, mouthwash, cosmetic & shampoo bottles; cat litter jugs; yogurt, butter, margarine, ice cream (tubs & lids); coffee can lids.

**Plastic Items NOT Accepted:** All #6 plastics (including styrofoam, plastic bags, packaging material, meat and food trays, food wrap, toys and furniture.

# Our Garbage Collection and Recycling Schedule

## Garbage & Yard Trimming Collection:

Every Monday (except holidays)

**Recycle:** Every other Tuesday (except as noted\*).

**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 recycling, as the city cannot recycle wet newspapers. **Glass is NOT accepted curbside**. The recycling schedule:

| August 2008 |        | September 2008 |        |
|-------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Tuesday     | Aug 12 | Tuesday        | Sep 09 |
| Tuesday     | Aug 26 | Tuesday        | Sep 23 |

Check the city's trash pickup and recycling schedule online at <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/77006.html>

**Heavy Trash:** Second Tuesdays. August 12 & Sept. 9

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## Free Shumard Red Oak Trees available. Call now!

Two Shumard Red Oak saplings recently planted at 1315 Willard are available for free. They should be easy to dig up and move, as the root balls have not had time to settle. Act quickly. Shumard Red Oaks are prized as shade trees. Contact Rosemary Moll at [rosemarymoll@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarymoll@gmail.com) or 713.449.3718

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**Report**

## Caronna reports on HPD's Crisis Intervention Team

The July meeting featured a presentation by HPD Police Officer Mark Caronna who is with HPD's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The purpose of CIT is to provide a more professional and humane response to individuals in serious mental health crises, and is a collaborative effort led by the Mental Health Association of Greater Houston and HPD.

Caronna is a CIT instructor at the HPD Academy and has been a police officer for 25 years; 15 of those years were spent in Central District. In 1999, the Crisis Intervention Team began at Central and at the 802 Storefront, and is the most successful program at HPD – and it is privately funded.

HPD's program is the largest in the country. It is presently an HPD requirement that every officer must have at least 16 hours of CIT training, and Officer Caronna is responsible for providing that training at the Academy. A few of the things discussed by Officer Caronna:

(a) one in five people that officers encounter in their work suffer from some type of mental illness; (b) the CIT Unit's presence at an incident is to deescalate the incident; (c) new police cadets must participate in a full 40 hours of CIT training; (d) a CIT technique is one of 'active listening' and slowing things down; (e) there is a wide spectrum of types of mental illness; (f) In 2007, HPD took in 2057 persons with symptoms of mental illness; (g) persons taken in by HPD with mental illness symptoms are taken to nuro-psychotic centers (NPC) operated by the city.

As part of our regular meeting, we also heard from Captain Mark Holloway, who heads up Central Division. He pointed out that overall, crime incidents in Central were down by 20% from the previous month, and all crime was down except for robbery. He pointed out a couple of accomplishments – one is the closing of the adult book store at 240 Westheimer, and arresting of a large group of panhandlers around Hwy 59 and Colquitt. The result of this was clearing 44 city warrants and sending 11 of them to jail.

Officer Wayne Pate reminded everyone that National Night Out has been switched this year from August to October 7 in order to avoid the August heat.

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 (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 to attend the meetings, which are held at the Police Officers Union Bldg, 1602 State St. The next regularly scheduled PIP meeting is August 27.

— Reported by Tom Greer

### CRIME STATISTICS: JUNE 2009

| Activity                | Street/Block      | Premises                | Date/Time        |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Murder                  | None Reported     |                         |                  |
| Rape                    | None Reported     |                         |                  |
| Robbery                 | 1000 Westheimer   | Bar Parking Lot         | 06/23 – 02:10 pm |
|                         | 1400 W. Gray      | Restaurant              | 06/13 – 12:30 am |
| Assaults                | 1400 Westheimer   | Bar/Night Club          | 06/02 – 01:30 am |
| Burglary                | 1100 Bomar        | Garage/Carport          | 06/12 – 04:00 pm |
|                         | 1200 Peden        | Duplex/Triplex          | 06/27 – 11:00 am |
|                         | 1400 Westheimer   | Residence/House         | 04/10 – 12 noon  |
|                         | 1700 Montrose     | Residence/House         | 05/01 – Midnight |
|                         | 2500 Commonwealth | Residence/House         | 06/28 – 04:00 am |
| Burglary of Mr. Vehicle | 1500 W. Gray      | Other Parking Lot       | 06/26 – 05:30 pm |
|                         | 1700 Montrose     | Other Parking Lot       | 06/24 – 05:15 pm |
|                         | 2600 Yoakum       | Road/Street/Sidewalk    | 05/31 – 11:15pm  |
|                         | 1300 Westheimer   | Night Club Parking Lot  | 06/07 - Midnight |
| Auto theft              | 1100 Jackson      | Driveway                | 06/01 – 09:00 pm |
|                         | 1100 Willard      | Driveway                | 06/06 – 07:00 pm |
|                         | 1100 W. Gray      | Road/Street/Sidewalk    | 06/25 – 02:00 pm |
|                         | 2500 Montrose     | Conv. Store Parking Lot | 06/28 – 11:00 pm |
|                         | 1400 Westheimer   | Conv. Store Parking Lot | 06/28 – 12:30 am |
| Narcotics               | 2300 Montrose     | Road/Street/Sidewalk    | 06/21 – 02:22 am |
|                         | 2600 Montrose     | Unknown                 | 06/11 – 09:38 am |
| DWI                     | 1000 Westheimer   | Road/Street/Sidewalk    | 06/07 – 10:26 pm |



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# City to provide free trees in Oct. for planting in right-of-way

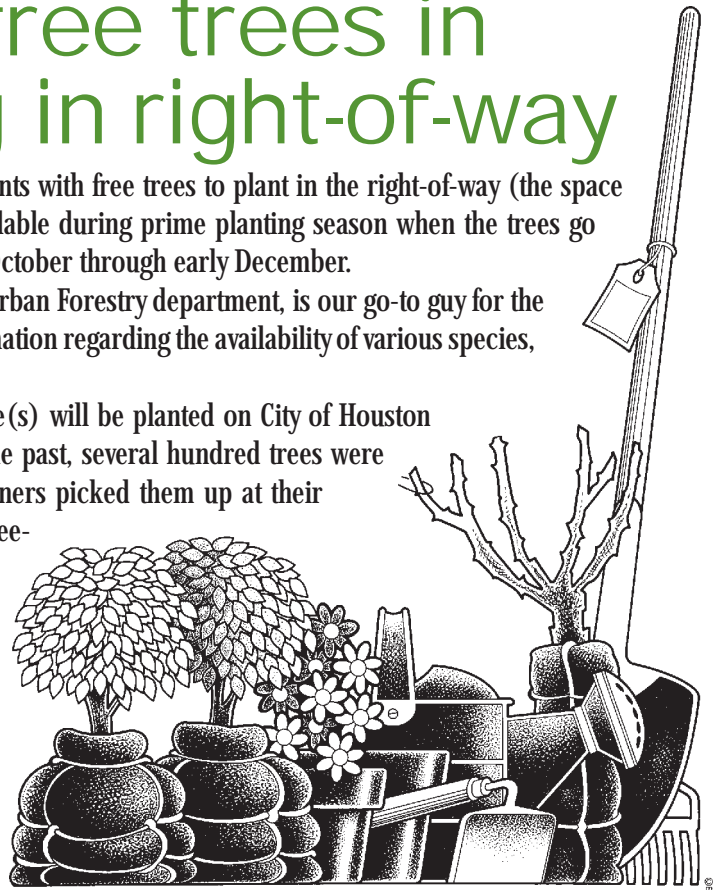
The City of Houston is again providing Hyde Park residents with free trees to plant in the right-of-way (the space between the sidewalk and the street). The trees will be available during prime planting season when the trees go dormant for the winter season. In Houston, this means late October through early December.

Brad Hendricks, Superintendent of the City of Houston Urban Forestry department, is our go-to guy for the project. The next issue of the newsletter will have more information regarding the availability of various species, suitability, photographs, and directions to several specimens.

The homeowner will have to sign a form stating the tree(s) will be planted on City of Houston property and will be fed and watered until established. In the past, several hundred trees were deposited on Kathy Schipper's driveway and prospective owners picked them up at their leisure. Hyde Park residents will have first dibs, then it's a free-for-all for everyone else in Montrose and surrounding areas.

Email [president@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:president@hydeparkunited.org) and let Kathy Schipper know if you have a special preference and I'll get started on the ordering process. Available species are listed: bald cypress, Shumard red oak, bur oak, sawtooth oak, live oak, Texas ash, lacebark elm, American elm, cedar elm, American holly, loblolly pine, Chinese pistache, Mexican Buckeye, sycamore, anaqua (Sandpaper tree).

**ALSO: See Free Tree announcement on Page 3**



## Police seek info, suggest precautions after rape on Hyde Park

*From Officer Wayne Pate of the Neartown Storefront:*

On July 13 at approximately 4 am, a young female was raped by a black male on the premises of a small apartment complex located at 1405 Hyde Park.

She came home late from partying at a bar and was attempting to parallel park her vehicle on the street. The suspect came out of nowhere and offered to assist her in parking the car. When walking to her apartment area and going through the security gate, the suspect would not allow her to close it.

The suspect then tore off her dress and raped the female.

She managed to get away from him and scream at the door of the apartment manager. The male kept her dress and ran away.

The suspect is described as a black male, age 21-28, with acne, and weighing around 220 lbs. If anyone has information that could help identify and/or arrest the suspect, please call the Neartown Storefront at 713-284-8604 or report in person to 802 Westheimer.

- 1) Always be aware of your surroundings.
- 2) If somebody is near your car when you pull up, don't get out of the car; drive around the block.
- 3) If you're going out, always try to be in a group.

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Dinner 5:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Saturday

12:00 Noon — 10:00 p.m.

Sunday

12:00 Noon — 9:30 p.m.

# Help sought in restoring College Memorial Park Cemetary

*Historic cemetery on West Dallas contains graves of many former slaves*

Houston was a primary destination for freed slaves in Texas after the Civil War. Jack Yates became the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church and was instrumental in the organization and development of the black community of Houston's Fourth Ward.

In 1896, Yates was influential in the opening of College Memorial Park Cemetery, in the 3500 block of West Dallas Avenue, which received its name because it was affiliated with Houston Central College for Negroes, across the street. The 5.9 acre cemetery contains the graves of over 6000 persons, mostly former slaves, including the Rev. Jack Yates and his family.

Recently, the beautiful and historic Bethel Baptist Church located at 500 Clay in the Fourth Ward was destroyed by vagrants in a fire. The pastor, Robert O. Robertson, states that

the church is still the steward of the College Park Memorial Cemetery which is listed on the National Register for Historic Places. He would like to see it refurbished as a place of history and meditation as well as a large public greenspace for the neighborhood.

Pastor Robertson's vision for the restoration includes installing signposts, lighting, walkways, grave markers, a prayer garden, a gazebo, removing weed trees, and a rehabilitated front entryway facing the street.

Currently probationers (working off misdemeanors) are being used to aid in the cleanup, but others interested in preserving a unique bit of history are welcome to help out. Cleanups occur on the second Saturday of each month during the hours of 8-12 noon. If anyone has a company that can provide any of the above listed materials or services, please contact pastorROR@aol.com.

Pastor Robertson has detailed architectural plans for the cemetery, and at some point, he plans to post them online along with a list of much-needed items or services. Pastor ROR spoke at the Neartown Association meeting on July 22 and his passion for preserving history and enthusiasm for the project was impressed upon everyone present. If you can help him out in any way at all, please do so. This cemetery is truly an old treasure we are blessed to have in the area. — *submitted by Kathy Schipper*



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# Hyde Park resident Larry Thomas — and Poet Laureate of Texas — publishes new collection



*Texas Poet Laureate  
Larry D. Thomas  
(photo by Carol  
Rowe DeBender)*

Larry Thomas, Hyde Park resident and current Poet Laureate for the State of Texas, has a new collection of poems published by TAMU Press guaranteed to transport and delight. In his capacity as Poet Laureate, Larry has been traveling extensively throughout the realm giving readings and lectures on the art of poetry. If you've never been to a poetry reading and wonder what all the hubbub is about, Larry will be reading in Houston on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 7 pm at Borders Bookstore at the corner of W. Alabama and Kirby — just in time for holiday gifting. A poetry reading is a great experience — it's like going on a trip to a magical place — and letting someone else do all the work of navigating!

Editor Billy Bob Hill has this to say about Thomas:

*A mature poet, Larry Thomas has an extraordinary gift which has evolved through decades at his craft. Thomas explores the natural world of Texas; its animal icons like the Hereford or hawk or rattlesnake, the larger-than-life geography, which is the stuff out of which legends are made.*

Thomas captures the spirit of place within larger truths that "travel well," as editor Billy Bob Hill explains in his introduction. Hill also takes note of the poet's deft alliteration and just-right compression of language.

## Wanna do this newsletter?

*Yes, I mean you.* Producing the Hyde Park United Newsletter is fun and you get to work with interesting people. All you really need is willingness to dive in and see how it works. Computer skills are handy and some experience with desktop publishing is useful. But you don't need to be a super techie or a graphic designer. Call or e-mail now, because the current editor (that would be me) is retiring soon. *Real soon.* The fat lady isn't singing just yet, but she's starting to hum in the background. So call. Now. Or e-mail. Really. Now (did I say now?)

**E-mail George at [gsroka@aol.com](mailto:gsroka@aol.com) or call 713-522-7050**

**JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS — JOIN HYDE PARK UNITED**

### THE HYDE PARK UNITED CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) New Member ( ) Renewal Cost: \$24 annually for residents and renters

Additional donation(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ for Lamar Park and \_\_\_\_\_ for Neighborhood Protection

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you  
for joining!**

Community Interests / Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

One vote per membership. The bylaws of Hyde Park United define who can be a member. Your annual membership fee 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 this 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 • P.O. Box 66422 • Houston, TX 77266**

You also can join online at [www.hydeparkunited.org](http://www.hydeparkunited.org) or bring this form with you to the next meeting.