

# Hyde Park United

JANUARY 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, Texas 77266

www.hydeparkunited.org

## President's Letter

**O**ur first meeting of the year is just around the corner. For those of you new to this area, this is the meeting where we prioritize our goals for 2008. Bring your issues and concerns and let's see what we can do to tackle 'em. We have two new politicians, District D Councilmember Wanda Adams and Councilmember-At-Large Position 5 Jolanda Jones — both winning their positions due to an enormous turnout from the Montrose area. It's time they hear from us!!

Many folks have expressed a desire to get more involved in the neighborhood. Throughout the year, lots of volunteer opportunities arise such as the Home Tour, Art Crawl, National Night Out, public art projects, etc. Most events only require light duty for a single day or evening, some require planning and organizational skills, and still others, just need funding! So, there are many ways to participate. Remember, we are all volunteers: we have day jobs, families, and outside interests like everyone else. We can use your help.

I hope to see familiar *and* new faces at the next meeting. We've got a lot of important work to do.

Celebrate all things good in your world — and have a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

*Kathy Schipper, President, Hyde Park United*

## Schwebach resigns as secretary, Greenwood volunteers

Sob, sob. With deep regret, I must announce that Val Schwebach, hubby Robert Hearne, and their two beautiful children are moving to Denver. And Val was just getting warmed-up as Secretary of Hyde Park!

HPU thanks you for the numerous (though disheartening) visits with City officials and for offering thought-provoking commentary, although I doubt anyone on the Planning Commission or City Council experiences higher-level synaptic transmissions. Val has promised to stay in touch and keep us informed of smart happenings in other cities. Who knows? Maybe we can persuade

# Happy New Year

NEXT MEETING:

Monday,  
Jan. 7 at 7:15 PM  
**Grace Lutheran Church,  
2525 Waugh Dr. @ Missouri**

Agenda:

Introductions

New Business

- Vote on Vice-President
- Accept Nominations for Secretary
- Discuss Goals for 2008
- Political Activity

Old Business

- Home Tour / Art Sale

Announcements

Adjournment

**Deadline for newsletter submissions: Wed., Jan. 23**

our newly-elected Councilmembers that it's okay (meaning not a sign of weakness or inferiority) to borrow good ideas and adapt them to our needs.

As a counterbalance, Cynthia Greenwood of Willard Street has agreed to fill the position of Secretary. You can see from the smiling photo that she'll make a great Secretary. She begins filling in for Val this January, and we'll vote on her election in February. — *Kathy Schipper*



CYNTHIA  
GREENWOOD

Hyde  
Park  
Christmas  
Tree 2007



THANKS to Sara Fernandez, Jan Goddard-Finegold, Niko Niko's, and Christopher Kyle McLain

# 4-story 'green' complex at Hyde Park and Waugh named The Mirabeau B

The four-story complex to be built at Hyde Park Blvd. and Waugh Drive now has a name: The Mirabeau B, named after the most well-known owner of the land which became our neighborhood. Mirabeau B. Lamar was a war-hero at the Battle of San Jacinto and served as second President of the Republic of Texas way back in 1836-7 when Texas was a separate country.

The construction company is Mission Construction (company details at [www.missionconstructors.com](http://www.missionconstructors.com)). Before construction commences, a metal build-

ing will be erected on the site for presale activity. Models and information booths will be set up within to illustrate the idea of a project based on LEED "green" building principles.

Developer Joey Romano has offered to take us on a "field trip" to better understand the project. Overall, it promises to be an interesting and neighborhood-friendly addition. If you know of anyone seeking unique and forward-thinking digs, this may very well be the place to recommend.

— submitted by Kathy Schipper

## Neals volunteer to handle newsletter distribution

Divine creatures live among us in Hyde Park. Brenda and Matt Neal of Jackson Street have kindly volunteered to be the newsletter distribution crew. Both are real go-getters accustomed to thinking on their feet. Can you hear the harps? Thank you!

**WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER?** Our newsletter is distributed to 1,200 households and businesses. A business card-size ad costs \$150 a year. The deadline is the third Wednesday of the month. E-mail [treasurer@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:treasurer@hydeparkunited.org) or call 713-520-7017.



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# HPU asks City to replace concrete with trees

Each January, the 17 civic associations within Neartown are invited to submit a Super Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) which compiles a list of projects we would like to see take place in our neighborhood. These projects are typically less than \$350,000 per project. Projects that exceed this amount are deemed to be Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) i.e., street reconstruc-

tions, etc — with a much less likely chance of being realized.

There is an esplanade in the 1600 block of Waugh Drive that is completely covered by concrete and is a total eyesore. HPU has asked the City of Houston to remove the concrete and plant two to three hardwood trees in its place along with dense mulching to prevent weed growth. We have promised to water and

feed the trees for a period of five years or longer if necessary. We tried to find a project that is inexpensive and doesn't require too much in the way of intelligence to complete. Unless the concrete is covering an underground missile silo or something, I don't see why they would refuse. But, we're dealing with the City of Houston — ask and ye shall not receive. — *submitted by Kathy Schipper*

# Montrose Boulevard Conservancy plans to create 'walkable corridor'

As reported in *The Houston Chronicle* Sept. 10 \*, a grassroots effort could change the look of a major thoroughfare in our neighborhood. The Montrose Boulevard Conservancy was formed in the summer of 2006 with the goal of creating a walkable corridor on the 2.7-mile stretch of Montrose Boulevard from Buffalo Bayou to Hermann Park. White Oak Studio Landscape Architecture is currently drawing plans for

the street, which will include landscaping the esplanades, widening the sidewalks, and creating more crosswalks. A sign was erected in the esplanade near the corner of Montrose and Westheimer.

The project should take about three years to complete and will be paid for through Conservancy fundraising. So far the effort seems to be supported by area businesses with several on the Conservancy board. Developer Claude E. Wynn.,

the Conservancy Board's President, said the project is something area residents and business owners have been talking about since the 1980s. This is a good time for Montrose to tie in with other efforts such as the Buffalo Bayou Partnership's revitalization of the bayou and Metro's new rail lines, he added.

\* Search [www.chron.com](http://www.chron.com) for "Montrose Boulevard Conservancy"

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# Citizen 'tips' led to arrest of five on Vermont

## PIP Report NOV 2007

The November meeting (there was no business meeting in December) featured a presentation by Adel

Gottman from the Houston Emergency Center (HEC). This center has been discussed previously; it's a large, unmarked facility on North Shepherd.

The Houston Emergency Center is the fourth largest in the nation with 50 call-take police stations and 17 fire and EMS call-take positions with dispatchers for both services. The facility has 22 radio communications, 104 total work stations and can facilitate in excess of 500 emergency personnel at the same time, and for up to three successive days. At the present time, the facilities' call volume averages 10,000 police, fire and EMS calls per day.

The presentation was followed by a talk by Sergeant Richard Wilson of the HPD Storefront at 802 Westheimer. He let us know that they had received 14 Differential Response Team (DRT) complaints from dispatch this past month. He wanted us all to know these tips, which come from us, the citizens, are invaluable to HPD. He added that these "tips" last month led to the arrest of five people on Vermont in one drug bust.

Also, HPD District 1A20, of which our civic association is a large part, has the highest theft beat in the city, all due to crack cocaine. Sgt. Wilson said also that HPD will use some of their overtime funding to work on the homeless encampments.

We were also reminded about the P.I.P. Central One Holiday Party which was held

at the Police Officers Union Building on Dec. 3 at 7:00 pm.

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 the HPD Storefront: (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, which meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Police Officers Union Bldg, 1602 State St. The next regularly scheduled PIP meeting will be held January 23, 2008.

— Reported by Tom Greer

## NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME STATS: OCTOBER 2007

Activity	Street/Block	Premises	Date/Time
Murder	None Reported		
Rape	None Reported		
Robbery	1100 W. Drew St.	Road/Street/Sidewalk	10/03 - 0430 am
Assaults	1300 Westheimer	Road/Street/Sidewalk	10/11 - 03:00 am
	1400 California	Road/Street/Sidewalk	10/21 - 09:00 pm
Burglary	1200 Willard	Residence/House	10/08 - 08:00 am
	2400 Montrose	Restaurant	10/19 - 04:32 am
Burglary of Mtr. Vehicle	1200 Westheimer	Restaurant	10/18 - 11:30 pm
	1100 California	Bar/Night Club	10/26 - 11:30 pm
	1400 Maryland	Apartment Parking Lot	10/10 - 11:30 pm
Auto theft	1800 Commonwealth	Apartment Parking Lot	10/26 - 07:00 pm
	1000 Westheimer	Strip Center Park. Lot	10/14 - 04:02 pm
Narcotics	1400 Vermont	Apartment Parking Lot	10/13 - 01:35 am
	1100 Hyde Park	Road/Street/Sidewalk	10/19 - 12:25 am
	1400 Vermont	Condominium	10/12 - 02:30 pm
DWI	1400 Vermont	Condominium	10/12 - 02:30 pm
	1400 Vermont	Apartment	10/29 - 03:04 pm
	2500 Montrose	Road/Street/Sidewalk	10/01 - 02:00 am

## TRASH PICKUP AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

**Garbage & Yard Trimming Collection:** Every Monday (except holidays) **Recycle:** Every other Tuesday (except as noted\*).

January 2007	
Tuesday	Jan. 15
Tuesday	Jan. 29

February 2008	
Tuesday	Feb. 12
Tuesday	Feb. 26

**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.**

**Heavy Trash:** Second Tuesdays. **Dec. 11, Jan. 8 and Feb. 12**



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## City ordinance restricts visibility of dumpsters

The City of Houston is attempting to solve complaints regarding the health hazards and unsightliness of dumpsters located within the view and residences of law-abiding and taxpaying citizens. As of October 22, 2007, dumpsters of bars, restaurants, apartment complexes, and other businesses must be concealed. The new City ordinance should decrease the dumpster-diving expeditions carried out by vagrants, winos, and thieves “working” the area. The City of Houston dumpster screening ordinance (2207-615) requires:

An owner or lessee of a property shall place or maintain a bulk container so that it is not visible from the street right-of-way (ROW) on the address side of the property. A bulk container located on a service drive behind a building on said property shall not be deemed visible from the street ROW.

A bulk container shall be deemed visible only if it can be seen by a person who is standing at grade level on any part of the ROW of public street having a ROW width of 40 feet or more that adjoins the address side of the property on which the bulk container is located.

An owner or lessee of property may utilize a berm, building, fence, wall, gate, shrubbery, or a combination thereof, to accomplish the screening of a bulk container from view. — *submitted by Kathy Schipper*

# Clip & Save List



through June 2008

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### Recycling Pickup Dates

Jan. 2, 15, 29; Feb. 12, 26; March 11, 25;  
April 8, 22; May 6, 20; June 3, 17

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### Heavy Trash Pickup Dates

(2nd Tuesday of the month)

Jan 8, Feb. 12, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 19

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### Regular garbage pickup:

Monday (except holidays\*)

Put out your trash no earlier than 6 PM Sunday night

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### Garbage, heavy trash and recycling schedule online at

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/77006.html>

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### \*Changes in trash pickup schedule due to holidays

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/holiday.html>

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### HPU General Meetings

On the first Monday of the month, usually at 7:15 PM  
at Grace Lutheran Church, 2525 Waugh Dr. @ Missouri  
**Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, April 7, May 5 & June 2**




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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.

# Our bayous flush with fecal bacteria

Remember, all material in local drainage gutters leads to Buffalo Bayou — and quite possibly to these vials held by Hyde Park resident Mary Ellen Whitworth. Whitworth, executive director of the Bayou Preservation Association, collects liquid from Buffalo Bayou every month to test for oxygen and bacteria levels. For more on our bayous,



Hyde Park resident Mary Ellen Whitworth, executive director of the Bayou Preservation Association, collects liquid from Buffalo Bayou every month to test for oxygen and bacteria levels.

here's an excerpt from an article published in *The Houston Chronicle* Dec. 19, 2007 and written by Carolyn Feibel.

*You may want to put down your coffee for this one. Houston's most underreported environmental problem? Toilet bacteria in the bayous. Fecal pathogens are thriving in the regional waterways.*

*Buffalo and White Oak bayous have bacterial counts that rank among the highest in Texas. The causes are many. Treatment plant overflows, leaking sewage pipes, suburban sprawl and fertilizer runoff are contributing to excessive bacteria in places where people fish, boat, even swim.*

*These facts, while unappetizing, are important to publicize if Houstonians want to improve their environmental image, as well as their lived reality, according to a new report due*

*today from the nonprofit Center for Houston's Future. "Counting on Quality of Life: an Environment Indicator Report" is the first attempt to gather in one place all the known data about the Houston metropolitan area's environment: not only well-known measures of pollutants like ozone, but also harder-to-collect data on abandoned lots, tree planting and litter collection.*

*"Most people realize that we have a ways to go in air quality," said the center's president and CEO Ann Lents. "I think there's probably less recognition that we have a water quality problem, as well." Fecal bacteria can sicken children who play in streams and pose a threat to boaters and other recreational users, she added. "It's a pretty substantial bacteria problem, and one that is receiving increasing attention from our public officials," Lents said.*

To see the complete article, please visit The Houston Chronicle's website:

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/front/5389411.html>

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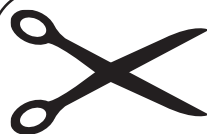
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# Hyde Park Jan. 2008 Yard of the Month

## 1225 JACKSON

Congratulations to Steven Jarnigan

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E-mail nominees for Yard of the Month to [beautification@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:beautification@hydeparkunited.org)  
Help us honor the efforts of those working to keep Hyde Park beautiful.

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## ARTS CALENDAR

Submit news to [artscalendar@hydeparkunited.org](mailto:artscalendar@hydeparkunited.org)

### Borell's jewelry featured at Peel Gallery

For the jewelry aficionados, go see Melissa Borell's exciting new jewelry show at Peel Gallery located at 4411 Montrose Blvd. Melissa's specialty is metalwork and she creates fantastic one-of-a-kind pieces.

### Please leave your phone number

This is just a reminder to everyone that if you call and leave a message for me (Kathy Schipper, your hard-working President) and expect a response, you must leave your phone number so I can return your call. For the person wondering if I know the name and phone number of a Family Law attorney who lives on Commonwealth, the answer is no. Sorry.

## 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

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

**Thank you  
for joining!**

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.