The Heights Park Neighborhood Association Newsletter April 2013

Wildflower is an award-winning, multi-day arts and music festival featuring six performance stages, the Wild! Marketplace, the Taste of Texas Food Garden, the family friendly Kidz Korner, and a whole lot more! See the attached flyer for details on WildFlower! tickets. Go to www.wildflowerfestival.com to get updates on artists and events during the festival. BUY YOUR TICKETS FROM HPNA to get a free pizza lunch on Sunday, May 19th and take advantage of our reserved patio space.

THE HEIGHTS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

TWO, TWO, TWO EVENTS, NOT ONE!

For the second year in a row, your neighborhood association is excited to present, The Heights of Summer! Last year we helped many kick off their summer with what turned out to be a rockin’ neighborhood street shindig with a turnout that made ya feel like dancin’. Don’t believe us? Check out this highlights video to become a believer: http://www.heightspark.com/page/2/ When you go to this link, scroll down until you see the video and you’ll be dancin’ again!

It’s summer, so how about coolin’ off in our newest attraction? A dunking booth! Take down your temperature and your temper by dunkin’ a friend or two! Rather flick someone off? How ‘bout a chicken? Challenge last year’s winner of the Flickin’ Chicken Game. And don’t miss your chance to win one of several fabulous free prizes by just attending and being a member. Can’t wait to see you there.

OUR 2ND ANNUAL STREET PARTY
Celebrating Neighbors, Summer, and Fun!
Saturday, June 3rd, 2-5p.m. 800 Block Ridgedale

Our 2nd Annual Street Party
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ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR SPEAKERS IS BACK AGAIN TO CONJURE UP GHOSTS FROM THE PAST. NO, THIS IS NOT A SEANCE. IT’S A HISTORY LESSON! AND ONE THAT WILL RAISE THE HAIR ON YOUR NECK WITH FASCINATING IMAGES AND FUN FACTS. STACEY HAS BEEN A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN AT THE RICHARDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR 22 YEARS AND IS IN CHARGE OF THE COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS, BOOKS, DOCUMENTS AND MAPS DEALING WITH RICHARDSON HISTORY. EVER WONDER WHERE THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE CITY IS OR WHAT DOWNTOWN USED TO LOOK LIKE? HOW ABOUT HEARING WHERE THERE MIGHT BE LOST BURIED TREASURE SOMEWHERE IN HEIGHTS PARK? ARE WE JUST PULLING YOUR LEG? THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO COME TO THE MEETING. TO FURTHER ENTICE YOU, WE’LL HAVE FUN VINTAGE SNACKS TO TIE INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE NIGHT. TO MAKE YOUR SPIRITS SOAR, WHY NOT BRING ALONG YOUR OWN PAST HAUNTS...YOUR OLD PHOTOS FROM HEIGHTS. YOU MARK THEM, WE’LL POST THEM (AND RETURN THEM AT MEETINGS END).
We broke stride and galloped at a different pace for our last HPNA General Meeting held on February 4th. If you missed it, you might want to think twice about missing the next one, because you missed out on a little bit of Hollywood and a lot of laughs.

Besides our usual line of business we always briefly conduct, we brought in a celebrity guest. How often do you get to hear the back story behind such an iconic classic movie as “Blazing Saddles” and the inside scoop about the genius of Mel Brooks? There is no one quite like the talented, very entertaining, and very inspirational Burton Gilliam to tell it all. He shared decades of stories from his long and still kicking career and told them like only a vastly experienced actor can. He not only told it like it was, he told it like it is, and roped it in with an inspirational message to boot.

The board also collected donations and made a contribution on his behalf to his favorite and very worthwhile charity, “The Sunshine Kids.”

“I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree.”

One of Heights Park’s most precious assets is our full, mature trees. They not only reflect the rich history and age of our unique neighborhood, they are an asset for the earth, home for our birds, beautiful to see, swing from, cool off and picnic under. They enhance the look of the neighborhood and raise your property value while making Heights one of the most desirable places to live. Wow, that’s quite the resume. And that’s why trees were chosen as the neighborhood holiday decor standard. It’s an illuminative honor AND tribute to them!

To protect this precious commodity, consider several things in caring for this irreplaceable natural resource.

Think, not once, not twice, but three times before taking one down, especially a large one. Depending on the size, it’s not something that can be replaced in your or even your children’s lifetime. Seek counsel from more than one. Ask an arborist. Unfortunately there are folks out there just to make a buck and may sell you a story that sheds light on your home but not on the truth about whether it’s really necessary to remove the tree. Do the opposite. ‘Leaf’ behind your legacy by planting one (or two or three) for the generations to come.

Trim sparingly and correctly. Don’t lion tail it (stripped with just a poof at the end.) Incorrect trimming can severely damage your truck and branches of gold. Trees hold value if you don’t steal too much from them. Here is a great resource for trimming and much, much more on trees and natural gardening.

Don’t choke your tree’s base with rocks, ivy, etc. nor plant too deep. If possible, expose its natural trunk flare. Not many know about this so you have the inside scoop to vastly improve the health of your trees. Here is a link to one of many articles on this site that talk about root flare and how to go about exposing yours!

Now let’s ALL go natural!
Hello Heights Park Neighbors!

Normally I don’t include a President’s Letter in our HPNA Newsletters, but this issue is an exception. As I announced at our February 4, 2017 meeting, I have decided to turn over the Presidential reins to someone else. I’ve been a part of the Heights Park N.A. since its inception back in 2005 – first as Membership Chair and then later as President. I’ll continue to serve the neighborhood in other to-be-determined ways, but it’s time for someone else to take the helm.

Last year the HPNA Board instituted some new programs into the activity schedule – The Heights of Summer Street Party, which was so much fun; the Christmas Caroling activity in early December which turned out to be a bigger affair than any of us expected, and finally the Spiral Trees that we hope will continue to sprout throughout the neighborhood this winter holiday season. (We are planning to continue all of these activities again this year with more information forthcoming.)

We are working on our transition plan for board members and Erika Usie has offered to step in as President for 2018. She was instrumental in planning the Street Party last year and she’s excited to get more involved in neighborhood activities. We do have a couple of other members possibly cycling off next year, but we are confident that others will step forward to help.

Our next election will be in January /February of 2018 so hopefully all board positions will be filled at that time. We’ll keep you informed of opportunities, but please send us an email if you’d like to serve in a special capacity contact@heightspark.com

So if you’re new to the neighborhood, we all welcome you with a BIG HOWDY! We hope you meet your neighbors, take advantage of our park, shop and dine at our local establishments and join us in the HPNA activities throughout the year, become an HPNA Member (just $20/year), and help make our neighborhood even better than it already is. You’ll get out of it what you put into it.

I’ve included a separate article in this newsletter on some of the accomplishments the neighborhood association, with resident help, has realized and how those pursuits have helped our neighborhood move to the right side of the tipping point.

You’ll be hearing more from us via all of our communication avenues: email, HPNA website, Facebook, NextDoor.com, and through our twice yearly Newsletters. Hey, there’s one in your hand right now. What a perfect opportunity to get reading, get informed, and get involved!

Janet DePuy
President, HPNA
jdepuy@tx.rr.com
www.heightspark.com
I think you can be proud of what the Heights Park Neighborhood Association board and our great Heights Park neighbors (past and present) have done since the inception of our neighborhood association in 2005.

All of them have worked hard to make our neighborhood a welcoming and vibrant place to live. We have a diverse resident population – with original residents still an important part of our neighborhood fabric; but with lots of young singles, couples, and families moving in almost every day. It’s sometimes challenging to accommodate all of our residents’ needs; but we’ve found over the years that our residents like to mix it up – young and old alike. That’s one of the things that makes our neighborhood so popular.

But just imagine if we didn’t have an organized Neighborhood Association. Here are some of the things we might not have today.

- A strong voice at City Hall. We have a well-organized and active association and the City listens to us.
- Interesting & informative Newsletters
- Block Representatives
- Crime Patrollers who help keep our crime down
- A strong Crime Watch Program with many blocks participating each year
- Yard of the Month Program
- HPNA Website
- Email updates to over 850 Residents
- Facebook Group Page and participation in NextDoor.com
- Flag Lease Program
- Sign Toppers – we were the first neighborhood in Richardson to have sign toppers!
- Neighborhood Vitality Projects: the bridges at Floyd/Opal and Newberry/Thompson are the result of neighborhood input
- The revitalization of the Heights Shopping Center: Because of very strong neighborhood participation with the City of Richardson, the Chamber of Commerce, and developers of the Heights Shopping Center, we now have a very popular shopping destination – so popular it’s hard to find a place to park sometimes!
- Quik Trip: See bullet above!
- OctoberFest
- Street Party in the Summer
- Two General Meetings/year with speakers
- A beautiful entry sign at Floyd and Arapaho
- Christmas Caroling and Spiral Trees (new in 2016)

These activities have helped our neighborhood realize some of the highest property values in the city. So thanks to all of those who’ve participated in these events through the years and helped us get to where we are today.

And if you’ve ever wondered what your $20/year membership fee buys you, review this list again. Then ask yourself, where am I today without H.P.N.A. ... and why am I not a member?
Charles R. McBeth
Attorney & Counselor at Law
Chase Bank Building, Belt Line at Central
972/235-0096  Charles@McBethEsq.com

Business Matters  Litigation
Wills & Probate

Call me about Wills and other documents.
In most cases I can e-mail drafts, we can
discuss it by phone and you need to come
to my office only once – for signing.
CITY OF RICHARDSON 2017
POOL SCHEDULE

http://www.cor.net/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=18542

Some Highlights for Heights Park:
Heights Family Aquatic Center will be open from NOON to 8PM EVERY DAY! No closures!

Heights Family Aquatic Center
Season pass appreciation event
May 26
5-8 p.m.

Heights Family Aquatic Center opens for Memorial Day
May 27-29

Heights Family Aquatic Center opens for the season
June 1

Dads get in FREE at all pools
June 18

Heights Family Aquatic Center
Dive-In Movie featuring Moana, additional cost
July 14

Food Truck Friday
at Heights Family Aquatic Center
Aug. 11

Fees are unchanged:

Heights Family Aquatic Center Fees

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<td>Not Available</td>
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<td>(may use any pool)</td>
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Our neighborhood Yard of the Month starts again in May. Please nominate your own or any yard in the neighborhood.

To nominate a yard, go to HPNA website www.heightspark.com, click on Yard of the Month and place your nomination or you can vote on nextdoor. We need nominations by the 20th of the preceding month. After nominations are received, a YOM committee drives by to view all nominated yards to vote on the final decision by the end of the month. A Yard of the Month sign is placed in the recognized yard. Homes that won the previous year cannot win in the present year. A list of previous winners is on the website.

If you are interested in being on the committee which drives the neighborhood to vote on the yards, please sign up at our HPNA meetings or contact Lynda Leverett, lyndajol@swbell.net

Heights Park Book Club was formed in 2004 shortly after we had our first Neighborhood Association Meeting. Our first book was the Richardson Reads One Book (2004) Pay it Forward. We have continued to read all the Richardson Reads One Books, as well as attend the lectures by the authors. We usually meet the 4th Monday of each month at 7 pm. There are 2 exceptions - November, when we don’t meet at all, and December, when we meet on the 2nd Monday. We had to adjust meetings these months because of the holidays. There is no theme. One of the members chooses the book for the month, has the meeting at their home and leads the discussion. We’ve read all types, fiction and non fiction. We started with 5 members and currently have around 15 members. Usually between 8 and 12 members attend our meetings. We are always open to new members and welcome anyone who enjoys reading and having a good time. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lynda Leverett at lyndajol@swbell.net
PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE
WHEN TRAVELING

We must be vigilant and attentive to our surroundings. Richardson Police representatives stress the need for community assistance to deter crime. Always call the police emergency line (911) to report any suspicious persons or activity in the neighborhood. Richardson police warn us not to become complacent. Criminals look for opportunity and times when your guard is down. Keeping your cars locked and personal items out of sight whether at home, church, shopping or work will lessen the chance of a car burglary. Protect cars by utilizing the VIN etching program offered by the police department for your vehicles. For your home, keep doors and windows locked and keep your garage door shut. If you have an alarm system, use it and display your alarm company’s signs and decals. Keep interior and exterior lights on timers so your home is lit and appears occupied at all times. The crime prevention specialist in the Richardson Police Department will provide a personal safety assessment of your home free of charge. Contact the Crime Prevention Department at RPD to schedule a home visit.

With summer just around the corner, many families will be planning their vacations. Remember that the Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) provide home checks while you’re gone. Contact the police department or go on line to sign up. Stop your newspapers and mail or have someone pick up daily. Leave your contact information with a neighbor in case of an emergency. Besides taking extra precautions while you are gone, here are a few precautions to take while traveling. Unload your car when you stop each night. Thieves look for opportunity. During the holidays and summer months, hotel parking lots are a prime source for criminal activity. If you’re pulling a trailer, make sure it has sturdy padlocks and an alarm. Park in a well lit area and near your room if possible. Don’t leave valuables unattended while you play at the pool or beach. Take only the things you’ll need for the days outing. Leave jewelry, extra cash, and credit-cards at home or locked in the hotel safe. Cash can be carried in a waterproof pouch or container that can be worn while swimming. Keep your valuables locked in the hotel safe when you’re not in your room. Always use the locks on your hotel room doors and follow any posted safety precautions. Use care and caution when answering the door. Always use the door viewer and don’t open your door to strangers. Call the front desk to verify service personnel if you are in doubt. Discuss with your children what to do in case of an emergency or in case they get lost from you. It is important to remember that criminals don’t take a vacation.

Several patrollers have resigned due to personal and family issues. Additional patrollers are needed to ensure that our crime watch patrol continues. Anyone interested in taking a brief tour with one of the active patrollers may contact Marsha Mayo at mmayo01@sprynet.com or 972/437-1166. If you are interested in becoming a patroller, it is simple. After completing the application and background check through the police department, applicants will be scheduled for training. After classroom training is complete, new patrollers will take a training ride with an active patroller. You are asked to patrol a minimum of one hour per month but most patrollers averages two and four hours per month. You will be providing a great service to your neighbors and the neighborhood. Please consider joining our neighborhood patrol.

Thank you to Judi Hoefle hard at work on duty here. We salute her, her husband Mark and all the dedicated Crime Patrol Volunteers who are quietly at work protecting your home and property. Next time you see one, thank them!
Periodically – about once a month – we send a neighborhood email to our HPNA residents. This email contains brief neighborhood news, Yard of the Month info, maybe some City of Richardson information, or perhaps crime information or the latest scam making the rounds. It’s news that would be important for you to know about. We need your email address, however, to send these updates to you. We don’t distribute or sell your email address to anyone. It is strictly used to communicate neighborhood news to you. And no one can see your email because we send communications via Constant Contact, a secure site that keeps email information private.

Many of you are already on NextDoor.com or our FaceBook group, but the monthly updates are just one more means of communication that we use to get information out to you. Please send an email to contact@heightspark.com with a request to be added to the email update, or visit our HPNA website www.heightspark.com and sign up there.

Because it’s costly and sometimes difficult to provide a printed newsletter more than twice a year, electronic communications can be a very cost effective and timely method of bringing neighborhood and city news to you.

The Heights Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) is an organization created by the residents of the Heights Park area of Richardson, Texas, to promote communication and cohesiveness throughout the neighborhood. HPNA brings together neighbors to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our community.

We promote safety, an attractive appearance, a family atmosphere and community pride. Our neighborhood is located in the northwest area of Richardson, bordered on the north and south by Arapaho Road and Beltline Road and on the east and west by Custer Road and Thompson Road.

The City Council approved a special development plan and special permit for the northeast corner of Central Expwy. & W. Main Street.

The approved 14.5 acre special development plan includes:

- Existing Chase Bank Office Tower and drive through
- 332 urban “flat” units wrapping a four-level parking garage
- 83 townhouses
- 15,000 square feet of retail facing W. Main Street
- 6,500 square feet of freestanding retail facing Central Expwy., south of the existing Spring Creek BBQ.

This is a partnership between Richardson, the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Dallas Water Utilities, and the No. Ctrl. Texas Council of Governments.

Pre-construction tasks and construction scheduled to begin in May.

Improvements planned for West Spring Valley Road (between Coit and just east of Weatherred Road) include:

- Pavement repair to streets, curbs, approaches, and sidewalks Enhancements to the Cottonwood Creek and Hunt Branch Culvert
- “Z” pedestrian crossings
- Street light upgrades
- Traffic signal and intersection improvements at Weatherred Rd
HPNA can't continue its programs without your support!
Membership is open to all residents of Heights Park for $20 per year per household

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

HPNA MEMBERSHIP
☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL

FLAG PROGRAM
☐ SIGN ME UP!

HPNA Members, join our Flag Program to have an American flag planted in your front yard for five occasions a year (Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, September 11, Veteran’s Day). Flags usually stay up for several days. You must be an HPNA member to join, and you must join the program before May 1. Membership is $20 and the Flag Program is $40—a total of $60

Please return this form, with membership dues, to:
HPNA, P.O. Box 833537, Richardson, TX 75080
Membership questions? Contact: Janet DePuy, President jdepuy@tx.rr.com or 214 282 6921
Other questions/comments, visit our website at www.heightspark.com