

**HOUSTON  
CITY  
COUNCIL  
DISTRICT  
G**



Oliver Pennington  
Houston City Council  
District G

900 Bagby, 1st Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, TX 77251

Phone:  
(832) 393-3007

Fax:  
(832) 395-9571

Email:  
districtG@houston.tx.gov

Website:  
[houston.tx.gov/council/G/](http://houston.tx.gov/council/G/)

**facebook**



# News From District G

November-December

## To The Residents of District G:



My staff and I wish each of you a most joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!! May the joy and peace of Christmas be with you all throughout the year.

This has been an exciting and challenging year for all of us in the District G office. Constituent services has been my main priority. I am pleased to report that, in addition to all of our other responsibilities, we have successfully handled over 1,000 constituent matters during this past year. We have been able to assist constituents get potholes filled, street signs erected, turn lanes constructed, water leaks fixed, water billing issues resolved, safe sidewalks erected around schools and on major thoroughfares, dangerous buildings secured, street lights installed, attention getting devices removed, roads repaved, missed garbage pickups resolved, speed humps and other Neighborhood Traffic Management Program items considered, sound nuisance issues resolved, improvements made to parks and esplanades, residential parking permit program implemented, and protection under the Prohibited Yard Parking ordinance established. We also challenged the granting of an alcohol license by the TABC in two instances where circumstances warranted it.

We have attended the neighborhood meetings for, worked closely with, and provided assistance to, each of the District G Super Neighborhoods: Memorial #16, Eldridge/West Oaks #17, Briar Forest #18, Westchase #19, Mid-West #20 and Washington Avenue/Memorial Park #22. We have worked closely with Uptown Houston and the Upper Kirby TIRZ. We have also assisted Operation Westside Success obtain permission from local business owners to mount their security video cameras on privately owned signs and assisted in the finding a location for an antenna tower that will be part of their security system.

We have seen a number of construction projects come to fruition in the District this year. The Memorial Drive reconstruction has seen its first "Design Workshop" (a meeting between PWE and the area stakeholders) and is now in preliminary engineering. The reconstruction of the Eldridge Parkway @ Memorial Drive intersection together with the widening of Eldridge Parkway between Memorial Drive and I-10 has cleared the Technical Review Committee and was funded this year, with construction scheduled to begin in FY 2012.

(continued on Back Page) . . .

### In This Issue:

Seasons Greetings from District G.....	1	HFD's Operation Outreach Toy Drive.....	5
Out & About in District G .....	2	Save the Dates.....	5
3-1-1 Service Helpline.....	2	COH Low-Cost Prescription Plan.....	6
Welcome Westchase Super Neighborhood .....	3	New General Services Director.....	6
Operation Westside Success UPDATE.....	3	Crime Prevention—Holiday Safety .....	7
Jury Trails at HPD Westside Command .....	4		
Expansion of Automated Recycling Program .....	4		
Come Celebrate Arbor Day with District G.....	4		

## Out and About in District G



During the last couple of months, Council Member Pennington was extremely busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings held by the 9 City Council Committees he has been appointed to. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:



- TIRZ 17
- Lakeside Estates National Night Out
- Rice Military National Night Out
- West Lane Place National Night Out
- Crestwood Semi-Annual Meeting
- SNAP Workshop
- Briar Meadow Homeowners' Association, Inc. Annual Meeting
- Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20
- Washington Avenue Coalition/Memorial Park Super Neighborhood #22
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17
- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16
- Briar Forest super Neighborhood #18
- Westchase Super Neighborhood #19
- Protesting the Issuance of a TABC permit to Polekatz



- Numerous public meetings relating to Historic Preservation
- Public Hearings relating to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program
- Memorial Park Conservancy
- Women Contractors Association & Associated Builders & Contractors reception
- Tour of the HPD Training Facility
- Ashford Community Annual Meeting
- Holocaust Museum Luncheon
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans
- Bill Coats Bike Bridge Official Ground Breaking Ceremony
- Veterans' Day Ceremony
- TIRZ 17 Regional Drainage Study Community Stakeholders Coordination Meeting
- Grady Middle School Park Planning
- Kinder Institute for Urban Research Reception
- Chinese Community Center's 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Gala
- Meeting with Spring Branch ISD Superintendent
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Uptown Holiday Lighting

## 3-1-1 Service Helpline



311 Service  
Helpline

We are seeing more and more flooding and drainage decisions being made based upon self-reported 3-1-1 data. For instance, 3-1-1 data is being used in the design phase of the Memorial Drive reconstruction project to identify areas with high flooding potential and to help work out drainage models. Such data is also being used in connection with the search for an acceptable Buffalo Bayou Mitigating Detention site. And such data is being used by the SWMP (Storm Water Management Program), in connection with the creation of its Comprehensive Drainage Plan (see <http://www.swmp.org/index.asp>). The upshot is if your flooding issue has not been reported to the city, the city does not know about it. And the city can only act on what it knows.

We are encouraging constituents to continue to report any flooding concerns to 3-1-1. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, we encourage you to report flooding to 3-1-1 via email (address below) to which you may attach photos or any other materials you have that demonstrate the flooding in your neighborhoods.

To access 3-1-1, Call 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 (cell or VoIP).

Email 3-1-1 with Attachments: [311@houstontx.gov](mailto:311@houstontx.gov)

3-1-1 Web Intake Form: [https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web\\_intake/Controller](https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller) (use service type "ROW-Flooding").

## Congratulations to the Westchase Super Neighborhood #19

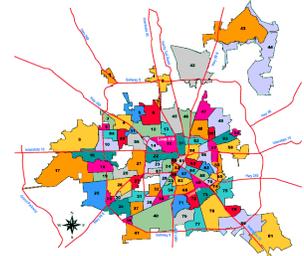
On October 12, the Westchase Super Neighborhood was officially recognized as the City's newest Super Neighborhood at a ceremony in Council Chambers at City Hall. The Westchase Super Neighborhood is bounded on the east by S. Gessner Rd., on the South by Westpark, on the west by West Houston Center Blvd., and on the north by Westheimer. It contains 2,766 acres, or 4.32 square miles, and is located exclusively in City Council District G.

The Westchase Super Neighborhood includes the following stakeholders: West Houston Kiwanis Club, Westchase Gardens Homeowners Association, Royal Oaks Residential Community Owners Association, Inc., Riverstone II Condominiums Association, Westchase Rotary Club, Royal Oaks Country Club, the Westchase Management District, Harris County MUD #372, Houston Community College, Westchase Forest Townhomes Association, King Street Patriots, Culture Center of TECO, West Houston Assistance Ministries, Inc., Quillian Recreation Center, and the American InterContinental

University.

The officers of the Westchase Super Neighborhood are:

President: Patrick Hickey  
 Vice-President: R.J. Kepke  
 Recording Secretary: Kathaleen Wall  
 Corresponding Secretary: Cecilia Hickey  
 Parliamentarian: Kirk Dixon



**Monthly Meetings:** The Westchase Super Neighborhood Council normally meets at 6:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the HCC Community College, 2811 Hayes Road, Meeting Room C101.

**Land Use Map:** [http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/SN/SN\\_LU\\_Maps/SN\\_19.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/SN/SN_LU_Maps/SN_19.pdf)

**Demographic & Income Profile:** [http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/SN/SN\\_Demog\\_2009-2014/19\\_Westchase.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/SN/SN_Demog_2009-2014/19_Westchase.pdf)

## Operation Westside Success—UPDATE

Operation Westside Success is a 501(c)(3) organized to raise private funds to place security cameras in west Houston. The program is backed by Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale and his wife, Linda.

The ultimate goal of Operation Westside Success is to put cameras throughout the area bounded approximately on the east by Beltway 8, on the south by Richmond Avenue, on the west by N. Eldridge Parkway, and on the north by I-10. These cameras will have their pictures beamed to HPD Westside Command Station, so they will act as a force multiplier for HPD, allowing several critical high crime areas to be monitored with a minimum of personnel. Networks of video security cameras are already in use in other cities, such as Chicago, Illinois, Buffalo, New York, and London, England, and even in a few District G Neighborhoods (Westmont, Westchase, and Royal Oaks). There will soon be video cameras at every intersection in Downtown Houston as well.

**UPDATE:** Operation Westside Success has received permission from private business owners to locate 6 cameras in the Briar Forest @ Wil-

crest area. Thanks to Food Town, Mercer Automotive, the Lakeside Shopping Center, and O'Reilly Auto Parts for their willingness to allow Operation Westside Success to mount their cameras on their properties.

Most of the "backbone" is already in place at HPD Westside Command Center (receivers to capture the video signal from the Back Haul Point, DVRs to record the signals, monitors to view the videos, and the associated fiber optic network). Operation Westside Success is now working on securing a suitable location for the Back Haul Point (a radio transceiver that will receive the signals from each area video camera and then simultaneously transmit those signals via radio antenna to the HPD Westside Command Station).

For more information, visit: <http://www.westsidesuccess.org>.

If you have any questions/comments, would like to donate funds for the cause or volunteer your time to their efforts, please contact Operation Westside Success at: [info@westsidesuccess.org](mailto:info@westsidesuccess.org)



Making Our Neighborhood Safer

[westsidesuccess.org](http://westsidesuccess.org)



IRON SKY®

## Jury Trials Began at Westside Court on December 2



On December 2, 2010, the City of Houston's Municipal Courts Department began holding jury trials at the court located inside the Westside Command Station at 3203 Dairy Ashford. Court 18 will add more than 60 jury trial cases to its docket on Thursdays only.

According to Director and Presiding Judge Barbara E. Hartle, this is a matter of convenience as well as improving court services. *"We have the ability to alleviate some of the overcrowding at 1400 Lubbock while offering trials closer to the place where violations were cited. This provides an excellent opportunity for us to increase customer service and court efficiency,"* Judge Hartle stated.

Currently, jury summons are sent to citizens for the Lubbock court location only. With the addition of jury trials at Westside, jurors will be summoned randomly to either location. Westside is one of the City's five satellite courts and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

The City of Houston Municipal Courts, which annually handles over 1.2 million civil and criminal cases, such as traffic offenses and city ordinance violations, is among the largest court systems in the United States. For more information regarding the Municipal Courts, please visit the website at [www.houstontx.gov/courts](http://www.houstontx.gov/courts).

## Expansion of Automated Single Stream Recycling Program



The Solid Waste Management Department is currently in the process of expanding the automated single stream recycling program (those with 96 gallon carts, where all recyclable materials can be placed in the same container without the need for sorting) to 30,131 additional homes. The new carts will be delivered to neighborhoods during the weeks of November 29 and December 6, with the first collections being conducted during the weeks of December 6 and December 13. It is the goal of Solid Waste to expand the program to all solid waste customers within the next couple of years.

In District G, the following neighborhoods will be added to the automated recycling program:

April Village  
Oak Estates  
Parkway Plaza  
Tanglewilde  
Tanglewilde II  
West Lane Place  
Westmont

## Come Celebrate Arbor Day 2011 with District G:



Come out on Saturday, January 22, 2011 and celebrate Arbor Day by helping plant 25,000 trees to add to Houston's forest canopy, while providing for cleaner air, shade, and a more beautiful landscape. The District G location is at the 610/I-10 Interchange. Free parking is available at Houston Community College (Northeast) located at 555 Community College Drive. You are asked to arrive at 7:00 a.m. to allow enough time to park, register, and be shuttled to your planting location, with tree planting beginning at 8:00 a.m. and should conclude by 12:00 noon.

In addition, you are invited to join us for food, fellowship & live music at the 25th Anniversary

Celebration Party at Hermann Brown Park immediately following the planting event.

Pre-registration is required to participate in this event. To register for this event, please click on the "Parks and Recreation Department" link at <http://www.houstontx.gov/volunteer/volunteernow.html> and then select "25th Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting & Anniversary Celebration".

## HFD's Operation Outreach Stocking Stuffer Annual Toy Drive

Please help the Houston Fire Department (HFD) provide holiday joy this year to hundreds of children by donating a new or gently used toy to the annual Operation Outreach Stocking Stuffer Toy Drive. HFD will collect toys December 2 through December 16, 2010.

### Fire Stations:

December 2 – December 16, you can bring toy donations to any HFD fire station. A list of District G Fire stations is included below.

For information on the 2010 Toy Drive, visit [www.houstontx.gov/fire](http://www.houstontx.gov/fire), [www.click2houston.com](http://www.click2houston.com) or contact the HFD Public Affairs Office at 713-495-7900.

### Great Toy Giveaway:

The toys collected by HFD will be distributed at the Annual Community Outreach Inc. Great Toy Giveaway on December 23, 2010. The Great Toy Giveaway will be held this year at New Light Christian Church located at 7317 E. Houston Road, 77028, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or **while supplies last**. Toys will be distributed on a first-come/first-served basis. You must bring a valid State of Texas I.D. card and your children's Social Security cards or birth certificates. For more information on the Great Toy Giveaway, call 281-454-4840. The toys will be distributed based on a limit of 5 children per family. Please no early birds or overnight campers.



Station #	Address
2	5880 Woodway, 77057
78	15100 Memorial, 77079
75	1995 Dairy Ashford, 77077
60	2925 Jeanetta, 77063
57	13602 Memorial, 77079
83	3350 Breezewood, 77082
86	14300 Briar Forest, 77024
69	1102 West Belt South, 77042



## Save The Dates—March 6, 2011 & March 26, 2011

### March 6, 2011—Children's Museum:

Sunday, March 6, 2011, is District G day at The Children's Museum of Houston, located at 1500 Binz. Gather your family and friends and come join Council Member Pennington for a free afternoon at the museum. The doors open at noon and will be open until 6:00 p.m. For more information on the Children's Museum of Houston, please visit: <http://www.cmhouston.org/>

### March 26, 2011—Trash Bash 2011:

Once a year thousands of volunteers gather along the Texas waterways to do their part in cleaning up the environment and participate in the largest statewide event to educate the public about the important of our water resources.

Trash Bash occurs rain or shine, unless there are severe weather conditions.

For the 2011 Trash Bash, Council Member Pennington is putting together a District G clean-up team. Come out Saturday, March 26, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and enjoy time with other residents working to keep District G the beautiful place we call home. The District G team will be working at the Terry Hershey Park (upper Buffalo Bayou) site sponsored by the Bayou Preservation Association.

If you are interested in joining the team, please click on the City Council District G link at <http://www.houstontx.gov/volunteer/volunteernow.html>





## City of Houston Introduces Low-Cost Prescription Drug Program



The City of Houston has introduced a new discount prescription drug card program that will be available to all Houstonians regardless of income, age or health status. The Coast2Coast Rx card is part of a public/private partnership involving the City of Houston, the Heinz Foundation and Financial Marketing Concepts Inc. (FMC) of Ponte Verde Beach, Florida, the issuer of the card.

Similar programs in other cities have already saved cardholders an average of 45 percent this year on the cost of prescriptions. The card will be distributed free of charge and may be used at all pharmacy chains and most independent pharmacies in Houston and around the country. The card also provides discounts of 50 to 80 percent for lab and imaging tests.

There is no cost to the City of Houston. In fact, the city will receive a \$1 donation from FMC for

every prescription filled. The donation will go to the Houston Health Department Health and Human Services Foundation, a nonprofit that supports special public health and human service programs that have no other dedicated source of funding. The foundation's support helps provide eyeglasses and dental care to Houston schoolchildren. The donation from FMC will not impact the cost of the prescriptions.

The free cards will be available at city health clinics, multi-service centers and libraries as well as hospitals, urgent care centers and pharmacies. Cardholders simply take the card with them to any of the 59,000+ participating pharmacies or get the card at the pharmacy when they have a prescription to fill. In our area, participating pharmacies include CVS, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Kroger, Sam's Club, Costco, HEB, Target, and Randalls.

There is no registration process other than what the pharmacies need to process a prescription. Residents can print and download a card at [www.coast2coastrx.com](http://www.coast2coastrx.com). Go to the "print free card" menu, select "cities" and print the City of Houston card from there. The only information you need to provide is your name.

## Mayor Parker Appoints New Director of General Services

Mayor Annise Parker recently announced Scott Minnix as the new Director of the City of Houston General Services Department (GSD).

For the past five years Mr. Minnix held executive positions at the City of Seattle, most recently as a director of facility operations in the Fleet and Facility Department. His responsibilities included oversight of property management and maintenance for three million square feet of city-owned properties, as well as 140 employees; administration of an \$80 million budget; construction and janitorial services; and operational support for city services including parking, security, warehousing, surplus property disposal and mail distribution.

Minnix, 45, an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, received a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration/Management from the University of Puget Sound.

He obtained various certifications and is affiliated with various national organizations as well as involved in the Seattle community through a variety of local organizations.

In 2000, the GSD was established to construct and maintain the City's building portfolio, representing 7.7 million square feet of occupied space. As a full service department, GSD assists in identifying the appropriate real estate solutions and provides design and construction services for the development of a facility. Once a facility is ready for occupation, GSD provides energy, property and security management services to ensure the lights come on and the facility is clean, well-maintained and secure. To further enhance the operation of its facilities, GSD established the Sustainable Growth division. This division is responsible for implementing green and sustainable property and energy management solutions with the intent of reducing operating costs and improving client satisfaction. Mr. Minnix was confirmed by City Council on December 1.

## Crime Prevention—Holiday Safety Hints & Tips from HPD

### While Shopping:

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit, or debit card.
- If possible, carry only your driver's license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. You could risk injury from a would-be purse snatcher. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.
- Do not carry wallets in a back pocket. It should be placed in a front pocket for safety.
- Be alert, criminals look for the "high dollar store" shopping bags with your purchases. When possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain nondescript bag.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags as well as purses can easily be switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost as well as what to do if a "stranger" should try and take them.
- Don't overburden yourself with too many packages. This jeopardizes your safety while walking to your vehicle. Either make multiple trips to your vehicle or have your packages sent to package pick-up where you may retrieve them in a well-lit and heavily populated area.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store. They also make a great weapon, should you need to defend yourself.
- If you do return to your vehicle to unload packages and continue shopping, place your purchases in the trunk. Be observant of anyone watching, and if possible, move the vehicle to another parking space to deter a burglary of your vehicle.
- Try not to shop late at night as fewer people are present at this time.

### In Parking Lots:

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during the hours of darkness.
- DO NOT park next to a vehicle with dark

tinted windows. Waiting assailants can be obscured from view upon your return.

- Before shopping, lock all your valuables in the trunk prior to parking in the parking lot.
- Leave the store with a group of people, not alone. Ask a Security Officer to escort you to your vehicle if you are uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out flyers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside the store. If you suspect that you are being followed, report it immediately to the store or mall Security.

### At Home:

- Keep the outside of your home well-lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Don't display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors. After the holidays, don't advertise gifts received by the boxes left for trash collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear bag.

### If You Are Traveling:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, collect mail and newspapers, park in the driveway, etc.
- Remember to have the mail and newspaper deliveries stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.

### Take an Inventory:

- Make good use of your holiday time. Take an inventory of your property. This is especially good for insurance purposes in case of burglary or fire.
- Make a video or take photos of your items and make a list of these valuable items on the official HPD "Operation I.D." brochure. On this brochure you should list such things as TV's, DVD players, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, jewelry, silver, power tools, home-office equipment, sporting equipment, and computers.
- Also, make sure you follow the instructions in the "Operation I.D." brochure to properly mark these items with your Texas driver's license or Texas identification number. Keep a copy of the videos, pictures, and your "Operation I.D." list in a fireproof safe or safety deposit box.



If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet



3-1-1

Cell phone or VoIP:  
713-837-0311

#### **District G Staff:**

John Moss  
Chief of Staff  
(832) 393-3271

Mark F. Kirschke  
Director of Communications  
(832) 393-3267

Mary Harmon  
Director of Constituent  
Services  
(832) 393-3272

Christina F. Manero  
Volunteer Coordinator  
(832) 393-3270

Carol Dillon  
Council Intern  
(832) 393-3266



... (continued from Front Page)

We are working with residents in the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood in facilitating the location of mitigating detention sites along Buffalo Bayou between Wilcrest and Beltway 8. While it remains subject to Council Approval early next year, the overlay of Dairy Ashford from I-10 to Westpark is currently being evaluated and designed—this work was requested by three (3) super neighborhoods so it is a very important project to the District. Westheimer was overlaid this past spring using stimulus funds. In 2011, Shepherd/Durham from Memorial Drive to I-10, Wesleyan from San Felipe to Hwy. 59 and Washington Avenue from Westcott to I-45 will also be overlaid. A number of District G neighborhoods have seen their streets overlaid, including Tanglewilde, Piney Point Civic Club, and several Memorial area streets. The Shepherd Curve has finally been reconstructed. A number of street and sewer projects were also recently completed in River Oaks.

One of my proudest accomplishments is approving a balanced city budget without raising taxes. Just as citizens have been watching their finances during these trying economic times, the city must continue to tighten its belt and scrutinize its budget. Council and the Administration continue to discuss and take action to maintain a balanced budget without raising taxes. Even during these challenging fiscal times, I continue to fight for worthwhile District G projects.

Another one of my top priorities is crime prevention. As we all know, the number one function of the city is to provide a safe environment for its citizens. As I have throughout the year, I continue to urge the Mayor and the Police Chief to provide additional police resources to District G. Furthermore, we continue to create innovative ways for additional crime prevention measures without an additional cost to the taxpayers. For example, we have been working with Operation Westside Success to have security cameras mounted in hot spots such as the Briar Forest @ Wilcrest area. We believe this is another tool to fight crime. Another example is a successful budget amendment I added this summer which states: *"The [Police] Department shall commit to increase and sustain coordination and communication with super neighborhoods, neighborhood security, off-duty HPD, constables, and other relevant security personnel to maximize efficiency, communication, and increase productivity."* By working and communicating with one another, especially during this time of electronic technology such as cell phones and email, we can be more effective with limited resources.

The holiday season is a wonderful time for us to remember our friends and constituents who help make our jobs a pleasure all year long. We'd like to take this moment to say thank you and send our best wishes to you and your families. May your new year be filled with all the success and happiness you deserve. Thank you for allowing me to serve you at City Hall—it is truly an honor and a privilege.

**Merry Christmas**

**Feliz Navidad**

**Joyeux Noël**

**Buon Natale**

**Frohe Weihnachten**