

**HOUSTON
CITY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT
G**



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News From District G

April-May 2011

To The Residents of District G:

Council Member Pennington Named Chairman of the Flooding & Drainage Committee

On April 19, District G Houston City Council Member Oliver Pennington was appointed by Mayor Annise Parker as the Chairman of the Flooding & Drainage Committee. Mayor Parker stated that "Council Member Pennington has shown great interest in and concern for drainage issues and projects in District G and is eager to expand that role city wide."

Council Member Pennington's experience in municipal finance, municipal utility districts, as well as with water, sanitary sewage, and drainage projects uniquely qualify him to chair this Committee.

Council Member Pennington stated that "I am honored that the Mayor has appointed me to this important position and appreciate her putting her trust in me. I look forward to receiving input from the public and working with the Mayor and her administration and my fellow Council Members towards improving our city's infrastructure."

As Chairman of the Flooding & Drainage Committee, Council Member Pennington will also serve as an Ex-Officio Member of the Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee. The Committee is an Independent Advisory Committee whose role is to advise the City on project priorities and process. The Committee will review criteria established by Public Works and Engineering to prioritize street and drainage projects; create a forum that ensures citizens are informed of project priorities and have an opportunity to input their views; ensure fair application of the appeals process; review community communications of all projects; evaluate the execution of projects and recommend changes to the process and priorities; review the initial ten year Rebuild Houston plan and recommend any changes; participate in the creation of a mentoring program; participate in the creation of job training, apprenticeship and internship programs in partnership with education, business, non-profit and labor organizations; review and recommend changes to the W.A.T.E.R. fund usage criteria; and provide quarterly reports to the appropriate Council Committee.

On May 11, City Council confirmed the five members of the Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee appointed by Council. Congratulations to Ms. Frances Castañeda Dyess, Mr. Dwight Boykins, Mr. Edward Taravella, Mr. C.P. "Chip" Bryan, and the Honorable Bert Keller on their selection. In addition, Mayor Parker has appointed Mr. Theldon Rudolph Branch, III, Mr. Gilbert A. Herrera, Ms. Ann Lents, and Mr. Jeff E. Ross to the Oversight Committee. Mr. Branch will be the Chairman of the Committee.

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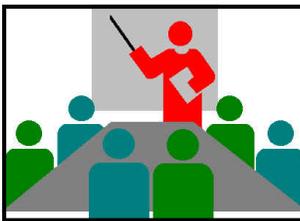
Out and About in District G



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 on which he serves. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:



- Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20 Annual Meeting
- Historic District Tour
- Children's Museum of Houston, District G Day
- Public Hearings on Redistricting
- Bayou Preservation Association
- Rodeo Houston Parade
- Houston Technology Forum
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Committee Meeting
- Meeting with HFD re: Day Care Center Fire
- NCAA Men's Final Four Tree Planting At Weiss Park
- Making It Better Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- District G Redistricting Town Hall Meeting
- Meetings Regarding Grady Park Improvements
- BARC Foundation
- Trash Bash 2011 at Terry Hershey Park
- Meeting with Greenstar
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood



#17

- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16
- Guest Speaker, Adult Learning Program Seminar
- TABC Liquor License Renewal Protest Hearing
- BARC Reception
- Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon & Business Expo
- Meeting with Harris County Flood Control District Re: Improvements to W-129
- National Black Police Association Prayer Breakfast & Opening Ceremonies for Education and Training Conference
- Midwest Division Civic PIP Meeting
- Village Republican Women Luncheon
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood #18
- Rice Military Civic Club Meeting
- Westchase Super Neighborhood #19
- Greater Houston Partnership State of the City
- Tejas Republican Women Meeting
- City Jail Tour
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee Meeting
- International Festival Mayor's Gala
- Memorial Hermann Circle of Life Gala
- Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services Drive-Through Medical POD Training

METRO Community Workshops Scheduled



In order to achieve its priorities to deliver first-class transit services, build great transit infrastructure, and become a trusted community partner, METRO is in the process of updating its long-range plan. In connection with this update, METRO wishes to enlist the guidance, collaboration and support of people within their service area. To accomplish this goal, METRO will hold twenty-five community workshops throughout the city to learn from the public what should be part of the region's transit future. METRO will be exploring options for transit including streetcars, commuter rail, light rail, improved bus service, Bus Rapid Transit, and HOV/HOT Lanes. Public Workshops will be held in our area at:

Courtyard by Marriott—Katy Freeway
Thursday, June 16, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

12401 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Tracy Gee Community Center
Tuesday, June 21, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
3599 Westcenter Dr.
Houston, TX 77042

Hedwig Village City Hall
Thursday, June 23, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
955 Piney Point Rd.
Hedwig Village, TX 77024

For more information on the workshops and how you can play a role, contact Larry Badon at 713-739-6092 or email him at metrovision@ridemetro.org. For a list of all 25 community workshops, please visit: <http://www.ridemetro.org/metrovision/>

W-129 Drainage Ditch and San Felipe and Westheimer Bridge Construction: EXPECT MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND DELAYS

The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) is moving forward with a \$13.16 million project that will repair erosion and improve the flow of storm water in a drainage channel, formally identified by the HCFCD as W129-00-00, which runs adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks just inside West Loop 610. The work will span from San Felipe Street south to Richmond Avenue.

The project includes the demolition and reconstruction of 50-year-old bridges that cross the drainage channel at San Felipe St. and Westheimer Road. In order to press forward with bridge construction, **all lanes on the San Felipe bridge will be closed for up to two weeks, and traffic flow on the Westheimer bridge will be limited to one lane in each direction for up to a month.** We understand that during this construction project there will be **MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND DELAYS** in this area. Construction on the project will begin this summer (2011). It is planned that both bridges will be replaced during the summer months of 2011 and 2012, but the exact closure dates have not yet been determined. Work will not be performed on both bridges at the same time. At present, we anticipate that San Felipe St. will be closed for two week this August, and Westheimer Rd. will be limited to one lane in each direction during the summer of 2012, but this schedule is not yet firmed up and is subject to change.

The HCFCD is committed to communicating information about the project to affected individuals and organizations so that citizens can

make informed decisions to minimize inconvenience during construction. Signs detailing street detours and alternative routes will be installed in the area. In addition, HCFCD employees will meet with local homeowners' and civic associations, churches, schools, businesses, and transportation and emergency services providers in advance of construction to provide information about the project and traffic detour plans and to answer questions. The HCFCD also will distribute traffic detour information to the media (internet, print, radio and television) on an on-going basis.

This is the second phase of an anticipated three-phase project on W129-00-00, which was constructed in the 1950s. The drainage channel's side slopes have eroded, and repairs have been difficult to make because of a very limited (35-foot) drainage easement on property owned by CenterPoint Energy and the Railroad.

The first phase consisted of repairing eroded sections of W129-00-00 from Buffalo Bayou to San Felipe. The project added depth and capacity to the drainage channel by enclosing it in two Reinforced Concrete Boxes that are 12 feet by 10 feet. The second phase will consist of the same work. Upon the completion of all three phases, it is expected that water surface elevation levels in the channel will be lowered by approximately 3.5 feet – reducing flooding risks.

For more information about the project, please contact the Project Hotline, which is monitored daily, at 713-684-4040. Or, visit the HCFCD website at www.hcfcd.org



Questions About Your Water Bill?

If you have questions regarding your water/wastewater account, please contact a Utility Customer Service Representative at 713-371-1400 or by e-mail at cus-tomer.service@houstontx.gov

If you are not satisfied with the resolution offered, you may request an Administrative Review of your account. You have 90 days from the date of the first disputed bill to request the review. A representative of the Quality Review Section will thoroughly review the account to ensure that your bill is accurate. If you are still not satisfied with the resolution, you may re-

quest an Administrative Hearing. You must request the hearing within ten days of the close of the review process.

For more information on water and wastewater bills, water and sewer rates, online services, answers to frequently asked questions, information on electronic billing and payments, and water conservation tips, visit: <https://www.houstonwaterbills.org>





A LOOK at the BUDGET

City Council Budget Workshop Schedule

Below is the schedule for the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee meetings that will be held from May 31 to June 9 to review the City's FY 2012 Budget. These workshops are open to the public and the opportunity for public comment will be available at each presentation. No action will be taken on any item. This schedule is subject to change, so you are encouraged to call Chairman Costello's Office at 832-393-3014 to receive an updated status as you prepare to at-

tend a meeting. All meetings will be held at City Hall Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor, Houston, TX 77002. On Wednesday, May 18, City Council will set a Public Hearing for consideration of the FY2012 Budget.

The final budget will be then considered at three consecutive City Council Meetings—on Wednesdays June 15, 22 & 29 at 9:00 a.m. in City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, 2nd Floor.

Day	Date	Time	Department
Tues	May 31	9:00	Budget & Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting—5 Year Plan
		10:30	Planning and Development
		11:00	Public Works and Engineering
		1:00	Police
Wed	June 1	9:00	Consolidated Council Meeting
		3:00	Controller
		3:30	Health and Human Services
Thurs	June 2	1:30	Human Resources
		2:00	Municipal Courts
		2:30	City Council
		3:00	Convention and Entertainment Facilities
Tues	June 7	10:00	Solid Waste Management
		10:30	Library
		11:00-1:00	Fire
		1:30	Council Meeting-Public Hearing on FY12 Proposed Budget
Wed	June 8	9:00	City Council Meeting
		1:30	Information Technology
		2:00	Finance
		2:30	Administration and Regulatory Affairs
		3:00	Mayor's Office / HEC / Affirmative Action
Thurs	June 9	10:00	Aviation
		1:30	Legal
		2:00	Parks & Recreation
		2:30	General Services
		3:00	Fleet Management
Wed	June 15	9:00	Council Meeting — Consideration of FY12 Proposed Budget
Wed	June 22	9:00	Council Meeting — Consideration of FY12 Proposed Budget
Wed	June 29	9:00	Council Meeting — Consideration of FY12 Proposed Budget

District G Honors James B. Sales



On May 3, Council Member Pennington presented a Mayoral Proclamation to honor James B. Sales on a remarkable legal career.

Mr. Sales graduated from the University of Texas Law School with honors in 1960, where he was an associate editor of the *Texas Law Review* and a member of the Order of the Coif. After graduation, he joined Fulbright & Jaworski. In 1979, he took over as head of the firm's Litigation Department and remained in that position for over 20 years until his retirement.

In 1980, Mr. Sales was elected President of the Houston Bar Association. While serving as President of the Houston Bar Association, he envisioned a program that would provide delivery of legal services to the working poor in the greater Houston area who otherwise would be denied access to the justice system. These were the large group of people whose wages exceeded the federal poverty guidelines, but who could not afford an attorney. With support of the Houston Bar Association's Board of Directors, Mr. Sales launched the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program.

In 1988, Mr. Sales was elected President of the State Bar of Texas. As President, he led the State Bar in adopting a mass disaster plan to prohibit improper solicitation and harassment of victims in disaster situations. He also led a drive to restructure and approve a new Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. He also acted to establish and implement the Texas Lawyer Assistance Program which today is a network of lawyer intervention programs designed to assist and help rehabilitate

substance-impaired attorneys in the state.

In 2004, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed him to Chair the Texas Access to Justice Commission which the Court had established in 2001 to coordinate the delivery of legal services to poor and low-income Texans. As Chair, he was responsible for promoting and coordinating delivery of legal services to poor and low-income citizens throughout the state of Texas.

In addition to authoring numerous law review and journal articles, he is co-author of *Texas Tort & Remedies*, a 6 volume treatise, co-author of the treatise *The Law of Strict Tort Liability in Texas*, and is the author of the treatise *Product Liability Law in Texas*.

In short, Mr. Sales' legal career and dedicated service to the public have spanned nearly fifty years. During that time, he has brought great honor and integrity to the legal profession throughout the state leaving us with a remarkable legacy of service and professionalism.

On hand and speaking on Mr. Sales' behalf at the ceremony were Terry O. Tottenham, the current President of the State Bar of Texas, Harry Reasoner, former managing partner of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Wayne Fisher, former President of the State Bar of Texas and named "Houston Personal Injury Lawyer of the Year" for 2011 by Best Lawyers, and Shauna Johnson-Clark, Partner-in-Charge of Fulbright & Jaworski's flagship Houston office.

City of Houston Revised Redistricting Plan

Mayor Parker's administration recently unveiled a revised redistricting map, which is contained below. A large PDF, suitable for printing on 11" x 17" paper, can be found here: http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/docs_pdfs/redistrict_map_revised.pdf

Under this revised map, a significant portion of District G would be moved to District F (rather than District C as proposed by the administration in its April 6 map). On the following pages are the boundary maps of the Revised Council Districts G, F and C. To view the District G and District F maps turned 90 degrees clockwise, simply press the SHIFT key, the CTRL key, and the + sign all at the same time.

Remaining Timeline:

May 18, 2011: City Council will consider for final adoption an ordinance establishing Council District boundaries for the November 8, 2011, general election.

June 1, 2011: Target date to submit the redistricting plan to the Department of Justice for Preclearance (allows for a 60-day DOJ review prior to the deadline for setting the boundaries and completion of extended review, if necessary, prior to the election date).

August 3, 2011: Deadline for Redistricting Plan ordinance establishing boundaries of single member districts (more than 3 months before election day, as required by the Texas Election Code Sec. 276.006).

August 8, 2011: First date to file for a place on the November 8, 2011, general election ballot.

September 7, 2011: Last date to file for a place on the November 8, 2011, general election ballot.

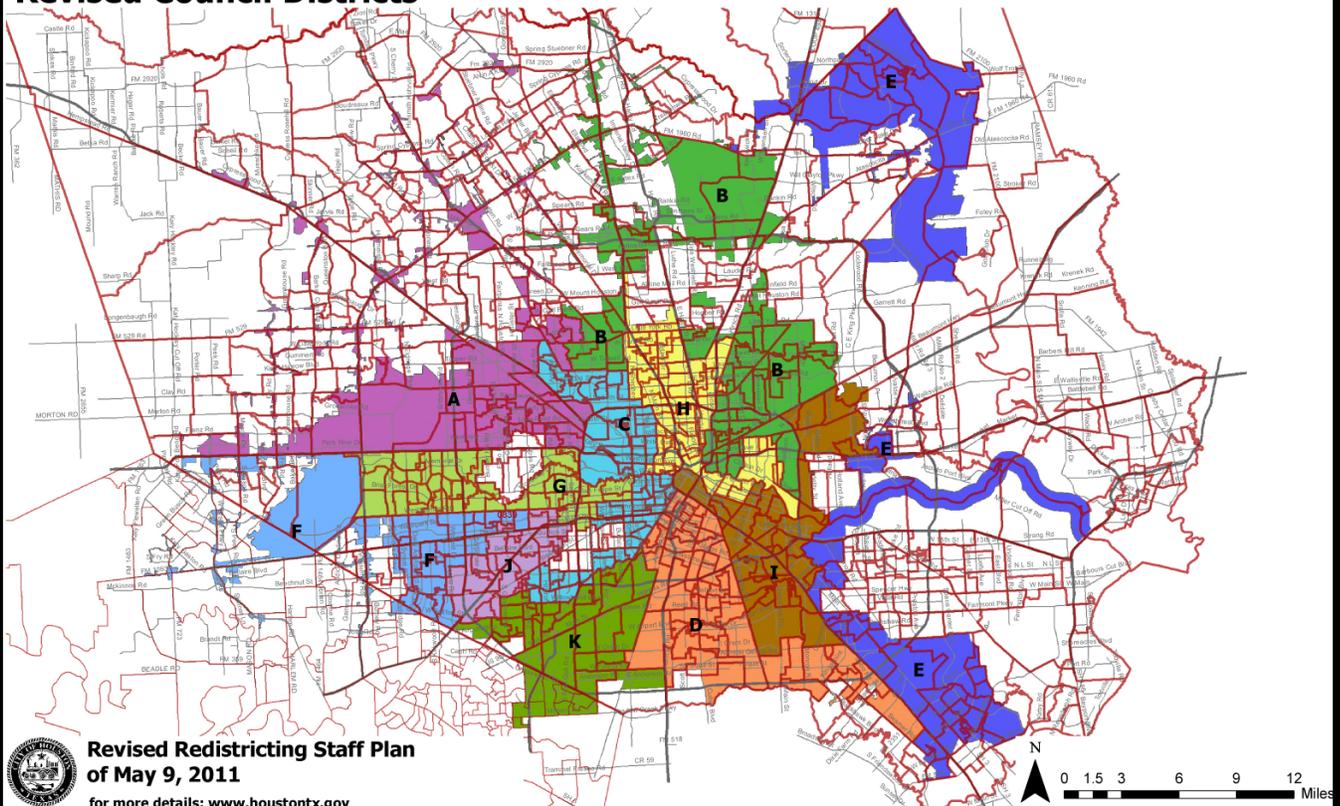
November 8, 2011: Election Day.

To view Jerry Wood's May 9, 2011, Report to City Council on the Revised Redistricting Staff Plan, visit: http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/docs_pdfs/redistrict_demog_20110509.pdf

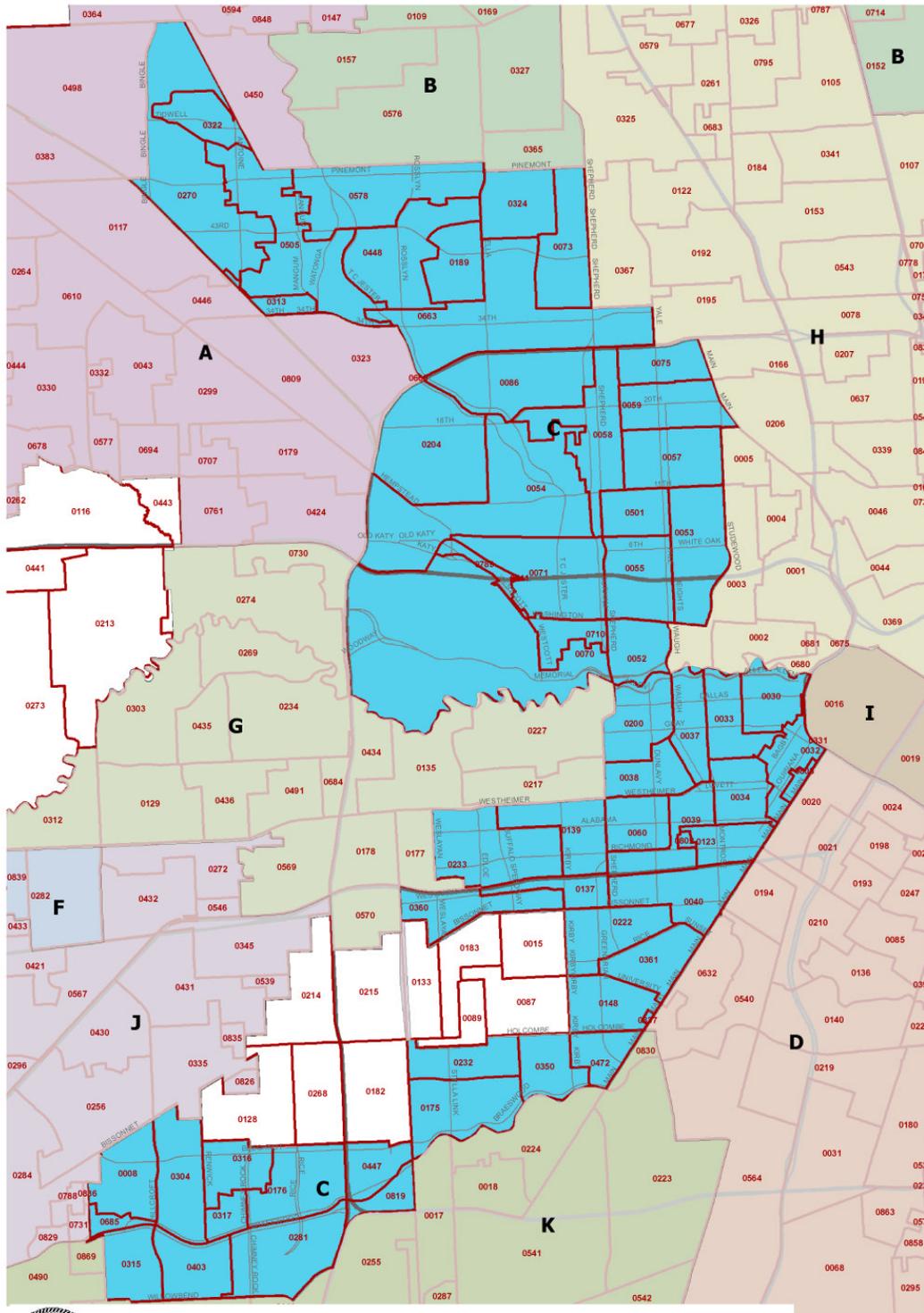
To see the Total and Voting Age Population by District broken down by Ethnicity, visit: http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/docs_pdfs/redistrict_demog_20110509.pdf

For more information, please visit the City of Houston's Redistricting website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/2011/index.html>

Revised Council Districts



Revised Council District C



**Revised Redistricting Staff Plan
of May 9, 2011**
for more details: www.houstontx.gov



District G Honors the Terry Foundation



On March 22, District G City Council Member Oliver Pennington honored Houston Philanthropists Howard L. and Nancy Terry. In 1986, out of a desire to help young people help themselves, Howard and Nancy Terry established The Terry Foundation. The Foundation's goal is to strengthen the State of Texas by identifying Texas high school graduates who have leadership potential and assist them in developing their future.

Each year, the Terry Foundation selects an outstanding group of Terry Scholars who are awarded collegiate scholarships for attendance at the University of Texas (Austin), Texas A&M University, the University of Houston, Texas State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Dallas, the University of North Texas, and Texas Tech University. From its first group of 17 Terry Scholars in 1987, the scholarship program has grown dramatically, and currently sponsors **678** Terry Scholars enrolled at these seven Texas universities. Since its

inception, it has awarded scholarships to over 2,400 students. The Terry Foundation is now the state's largest private source of university scholarships.

In attendance on the 22nd were Mr. Terry, family members, Foundation Directors, Foundation staff, and a number of grateful Terry Scholars.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.terryfoundation.org/> or contact the Foundation directly:

THE TERRY FOUNDATION

3104 Edloe, Suite 205
Houston, TX 77027
Phone: 713-552-0002
Toll Free: 800-941-1911
Fax: 713-650-8729
Contact: Ms. Beth Freeman
beth.freeman@terryfoundation.org

NCAA Final Four Tree Planting at Weiss Park



On March 19, Council Member Pennington joined the Houston Local Organizing Committee for the NCAA Men's Final Four, Waste Management, CenterPoint Energy, Apache Corporation, Trees for Houston, LG, the Houston Parks Board, HISD, SPARK, the Uptown District, SWA Group, and a large number of students from Grady Middle School in planting 68 trees at Weiss Park (68 is the number of basketball teams that participated in the NCAA Men's basketball tournament). This was part of "The Right Tree in the Right Place Program" which focuses on planting power line-friendly trees.

ReBuild Houston/Drainage Utility Charge Update

There have recently been significant updates to the ReBuild Houston website: www.rebuildhouston.org.

If you click on "C.I.P. Project Map Viewer", you will be able to see all the immediate past, present, and contemplated future CIP projects in the city, including street overlays, drainage projects, street reconstruction projects, and stormwater line, wastewater line, and water line construction projects.

One of the most important features is the "My Drainage Utility Charge". To determine your own drainage charge, click this link. At the box at the top where it says "Enter address or Parcel ID", type your address and press enter. This will pop up a satellite view of your home. Click on the blue house Logo and it will pop up a box that gives the total amount of impervious surface area and the amount of your annual and monthly drainage utility charge. If you want to see what the city is counting as impervious cover on your property, click the box "Impervious Surfaces" and they will be shown in orange. You can also click "Parcel Boundaries" to see what property

you actually own (and what is the city's right-of-way). If you dispute the city's determination, you can click the "Measure" box at the top and use the tool to measure your impervious surfaces.

Please note that Initial Notification Letters are being mailed to residents throughout the month of May, and many in the District have already reported receiving their Notice. The letter will contain the city's initial determination of the amount of your impervious surface. **YOU MUST OBJECT WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE LETTER AND SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING THE REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF IMPERVIOUS SURFACE OR YOU ARE BARRED FROM CHALLENGING THIS DETERMINATION.** The change must result in a minimum annual reduction of the greater of 2% or \$3.00.

More details on Verification of your drainage utility charge: <http://rebuildhouston.org/rebuild-houston/verification-of-drainage-utility-charge.html>



Spring 2011 Business Workshop Series

All One Stop Business Center Workshops are FREE of charge. For further details, or to pre-register, call 832-393-0954 or email: onestop-businesscenter@houstontx.gov

- **Wednesday, May 25, 2011:** 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm: Permits and Licenses for Houston Area Business, to be held at the University of Houston Small Business Development Center, 2302 Fannin St., Suite 200, 77002 / 713-752-8488 (Pre-registration Req.) Parking is FREE
- **Wednesday, June 8, 2011:** 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm: Permits and Licenses for Houston Area Business, to be held at the University

of Houston Small Business Development Center, 2302 Fannin St., Suite 200, 77002 / 713-752-8488 (Pre-registration Req.) Parking is FREE

- **Thursday, June 23, 2011:** 9:00 am- 11:00 am: Permits and Licenses for Houston Area Business, to be held at the University of Houston Small Business Development Center, 2302 Fannin St., Suite 200, 77002 / 713-752-8488 (Pre-registration Req.) Parking is FREE

More Information, visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/onestop/index.html>



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

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(832) 393-3267

Mary Harmon
Director of Constituent
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On March 21, 2011, Council Member Pennington was on hand to help cut the ribbon at the new *Making It Better* facility, which is housed in space generously donated by The Tenney School. *Making It Better* is dedicated to positively impacting the future of at-risk, low income, disadvantaged children in west Houston, by tapping into their unrealized potential and shaping them into tomorrow's leaders.

Making It Better is now in its 4th year of operation. The 501(c)(3) was founded in 2006 by Mr. Jerry V. Davis, a former Westside High School Dean of Students, who is now the CEO and Executive Director of *Making it Better*. Mr. Davis founded *Making it Better* to address the severe disadvantages faced by low income children in Houston.

Making it Better began with less than 50 children at Walnut Bend Elementary School and is now expecting to serve over 700 at-risk children and their families from 7 different HISD schools during this year, including Paul Revere Middle School, Askew Elementary, Frost Elementary, Piney Point Elementary, Shearn Elementary, Shadowbriar Elementary, and Walnut Bend Elementary.

Council Member Pennington applauds the mission of *Making it Better* to improve the quality of life for low income, at-risk children by offering them academic intervention, positive activities and role models. *Making it Better* offers a variety of programs that are tailored to meet the needs of each campus (such as Literacy Programs, Leadership Programs,

Lifetime Fitness Programs, After School Programs, and Parent Partnership Programs). Whether the program is academic or enrichment, delivered during or after school, on a school campus or in an apartment-based program, *Making it Better's* goal is always the same: to develop relationships and improving self-esteem by sparking creativity, fostering the desire to succeed, developing social skills, and expanding life experiences.

We congratulate *Making it Better*, Mr. Davis, and his dedicated staff for their work in our west Houston communities and wish them continued success at their new facility. With the current budget issues faced by area school districts, the central theme we are hearing at the City, the County, the State, and our school districts is that we must all do more with less. It is organizations like *Making it Better* that are picking up the slack and making sure low income at-risk children do not fall through the cracks.

Thanks to Kelly Bukolt, Director of Marketing & Special Events at *Making it Better*, for honoring us with an invitation to this Ribbon Cutting.

For more information, or to donate to *Making it Better*, contact:

Making it Better
2055 S. Gessner, Suite 280
Houston, TX 77063
713-952-9162
Email: kbukolt@mibt.org
<http://www.mibt.org>