

**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

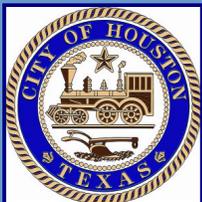
Phone:  
(832) 393-3007

Fax:  
(832) 395-9571

Email:  
[districtG@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtG@houstontx.gov)

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

**facebook**



# News From District G

July-August 2012

## To The Residents of District G:

### Public Hearings Scheduled to Discuss \$410 Million Bond Election

City Council has established three public hearings to discuss Propositions “A” through “E” on the November 6, 2012, ballot regarding the issuance of public improvement bonds. The hearings are intended to provide information to voters and allow Council to discuss the propositions (all three hearings will be conducted in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 901 Bagby, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Houston, Texas 77002):

- Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 26, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 3, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.

Voter approval would provide funding for city public improvements for the next five years. The needs range from roof and foundation repairs at city-owned buildings to entirely new police and fire stations as well as improvements to parks, libraries, health, trash and recycling facilities. There is also \$100 million included in city matching funds for the Bayou Greenways Project, a \$200 million initiative to complete a 100-year old vision of continuous public parks and trails alongside every major bayou segment in the City of Houston.

(continued on Back Page—Bond Election)

### In This Issue:

Public Hearings Re: \$410MM Bond Election .....	1
Out and About in District G .....	2
Infrastructure Design Manual Ch. 9 & 13 .....	2
Community U .....	3
Library Unveils Mobil App .....	3
Feeding the Homeless .....	4
New DWI Processing Centers Unveiled .....	5
New Heavy Trash/Tree Waste Schedules .....	6
HCFCW-129 Bridge Construction .....	6
Building Permits .....	7
Active Shooter: “Run.Hide.Fight.” .....	7

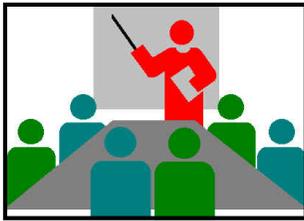


## Out and About in District G



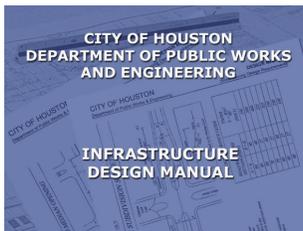
During the last couple of months, Council Member Pennington was busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:

- Friends for Life Dedication Ceremony
- Budget Workshops for each City Department
- Asian Chamber of Commerce Gala
- Meeting with the new President/CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Meeting
- METRO General Mobility Fund Meeting
- Houston Galveston Area Council Meeting
- HISD/River Oaks Elementary School Meeting
- Storm Water Enhanced Evaluation Tool Demonstration
- Meeting at Port of Houston Authority
- Memorial Super Neighborhood Meeting
- ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee Meetings
- Memorial Drive United Methodist Church Men's Group Meeting



- N. Eldridge Parkway Monthly Construction Progress Meetings
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Annual Hurricane Preparedness Meeting
- Meeting with Area Residents re: Vargo's Sale and Redevelopment
- Houston Realty Business Coalition Meeting
- Presentation re: and Tour of Street Surface Assessment Vehicle
- Meeting with the Metropolitan Organization
- Commissioners' Court Honors Ned Holmes
- Meeting re: Chapter 47 Water Conservation Proposed Amendments
- Meeting with Solid Waste Re: Heavy Trash Schedule Changes and Scrap Tires
- Skills for Life "Game of Real Life" Mentoring

If you wish Council Member Pennington to attend your HOA/POA/Civic Club meeting, please contact our office at: [Districtg@houstontx.gov](mailto:Districtg@houstontx.gov).



## Revisions to Chapter 9 & 13 of the Infrastructure Design Manual— Comments Due September 29, 2012

The Standards Review Committee (SRC), Department of Public Works and Engineering (PWE), has been established to review, revise, and update PWE's Standards and Documents. Public input and participation is requested by the submittal of proposals for suggested changes, comments, recommendations and other information.

In this year's review cycle, the SRC has reviewed Chapters 9 (Stormwater Design Requirements) & 13 (Stormwater Quality Design Requirements) of the Infrastructure Design Manual and the associated design specification/details on the basis of comments received from interested parties.

The committee's draft versions of the recommendations are posted on our website at the following link:

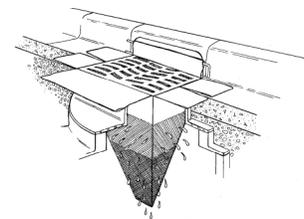
[http://documents.publicworks.houstontx.gov/document-center/cat\\_view/88-engineering-and-construction/181-standards-review-committee.html](http://documents.publicworks.houstontx.gov/document-center/cat_view/88-engineering-and-construction/181-standards-review-committee.html)

Interested parties must provide comments by no later than **September 29, 2012**.

The forms to submit comments can be found at:

[http://documents.publicworks.houstontx.gov/document-center/cat\\_view/88-engineering-and-construction/181-standards-review-committee.html](http://documents.publicworks.houstontx.gov/document-center/cat_view/88-engineering-and-construction/181-standards-review-committee.html)

For more information, contact Rajiv Arya at (832) 394-9131 or by email: [Rajiv.Arya@houstontx.gov](mailto:Rajiv.Arya@houstontx.gov)



## Registration is Open for Community U

Community U Conference is geared toward community-based organizations and individuals interested in improving their neighborhoods. It will provide Houstonians with training, resources and solutions through a combination of workshops, presentations and networking opportunities. The conference is sponsored by the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department.

Location: **United Way of Greater Houston** (50 Waugh Dr.—between Washington Ave. and Memorial Dr.)

Date: **Saturday, September 29, 2012**

Time: **8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.** (Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

Cost: **\$5 fee per person (FREE parking)**

Sample conference topics include:

- Dealing with blighted lots and structures
- How to increase youth volunteerism
- Neighborhood watch: Protecting your community
- Networking neighborhoods: using social media for your community
- Funding resources for your neighborhood

Early registration will be required to attend this half day event.

For information, contact 713-837-7801 or [CommunityU@houstontx.gov](mailto:CommunityU@houstontx.gov).

To view the 2012 Community U Neighborhood Conference brochure, or to register for this event, go to: [http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Neighborhood/CommunityU-2012\\_info.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Neighborhood/CommunityU-2012_info.html)



## Houston Public Library Unveils Mobile App

The Houston Public Library (HPL) has released a mobile app that gives customers on-the-go access to the catalog, account information and reference services.

The free app is available for smart phones (e.g., iPhones, Kindle Fire, and Android devices), as well as offering a mobile web option for all others.

Customers can download the app that best fits their devices from <http://www.houstonlibrary.org/hpl-mobile-app> or access the mobile web version at <http://hpltx.boopsie.com/m/>.

Pew Internet estimates that 69% of library customers use apps to access information. The HPL app will allow customers to obtain library information and interact with library services from their mobile devices.

With this new mobile app, customers can:

- Access the HPL catalog, including the ebook collection, place holds, search for materials and find recommendations on other books to read;
- Check their accounts to see due dates and renew materials checked out;

- Get information about HPL locations and find the location closest to them based on their mobile device's GPS;
- Interact with reference librarians via chat, email or text;
- Search or browse the calendar of events;
- Connect with HPL's social media content, including blog posts.

Download the HPL app today!

For more information about the mobile app, visit [www.houstonlibrary.org/hpl-mobile-app](http://www.houstonlibrary.org/hpl-mobile-app) and to learn more about HPL, visit [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org).



Houston Public Library  
App is Now Available.



## Homeless Feeding Operations

**How do I get permission to use city property?**

**Call Carolyn Gray at 832-393-5100 or email [Carolyn.gray@houstontx.gov](mailto:Carolyn.gray@houstontx.gov)**



The Houston Department of Health and Human Services and the Houston Homeless Coalition are working together to coordinate food services to the homeless and hungry in our community. This past spring, City Council approved an ordinance which created a voluntary system to improve the availability, safety and reliability of food from charitable sources. The program is called the Recognized Charitable Food Service Provider program. The goals of the program are to improve the quality, quantity and availability of food for those individuals who may not have the resources to provide meals for themselves. The program does not prohibit individuals from feeding the homeless, but does require you to obtain permission to feed on city property.

If you are interested in participating and would like more information please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/homeless.html>

### Voluntary Homeless Feeding Registration

- Recognized Charitable Food Service Provider Participation Form: <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Food/provider.html>
- Charitable Feeding Ordinance 2012-269: <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/2012-269.pdf>
- City owned property - for permission to use city owned property for charitable feeding, contact Carolyn Gray at 832-393-5100 or email [Carolyn.gray@houstontx.gov](mailto:Carolyn.gray@houstontx.gov)

In the spring of 2012, the Houston City Council approved an ordinance establishing a voluntary program to coordinate outdoor food service operations for the homeless. Council Member Pennington voted AGAINST this new ordinance.

The stated purpose of the ordinance was three pronged:

- to improve the quality, quantity and distribution of food provided outdoors;
- to expand the opportunities for the homeless to connect with service providers; and
- to reduce the disproportionate environmental impact of food service operations on public and private property.

The program consists of four basic steps:

- Registration of the formal or informal food service organization. Registration includes

contact information, proposed schedule, location and proposed food to be served.

- Free food handling training for one or more members of the food service group provided by the Houston Department of Health and Human Services. The training also includes information from the Coalition for the Homeless about working with the homeless and referral information for additional services needed by the homeless.
- The only mandatory step is a requirement to obtain owner consent before using either public or private property for food service of more than five people. This is required for both registered and non-registered food service operations.
- Coordination of location and times of food service to maximize the distribution of food throughout the week.

Forms, procedures, the ordinance, class schedules for food safety classes and updated registrants can be found at: <http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Charitable/index.html>

### Food Safety Classes

The Recognized Charitable Food Service Provider Program is a voluntary program whose goal is to attempt to provide coordination of operations to organizations that serve homeless individuals. The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County and the Houston Department of Health and Human Services are collaborating on this program.

To register to attend one of the food safety classes currently offered please call the Health Department at 832-393-5100. The food safety class is free of charge to food providers. Below are the food safety classes currently being offered:

**Dates:** Saturday, September 22 and Saturday, October 27

**Time:** 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Beacon, 1212 Prairie St., Houston, Texas 77002

For information on the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, and to find out what you can do to help, visit: <http://www.homelesshouston.org/hh/default.asp>

## New DWI Processing Centers Unveiled



L to R: HPD Assistant Chief Dan Perales, Harris County District Attorney Patricia R. Lykos, and HPD Chief of Police Charles A. McClelland, Jr.

Strengthening their aggressive and innovative fight against intoxicated-driving, Harris County District Attorney Patricia R. Lykos and Houston Police Department Chief of Police Charles A. McClelland, Jr. recently announced that the first of four additional intoxication-testing command centers is now active and operational at the HPD Midwest Patrol Station, 7277 Regency Square Blvd.

The DWI Testing Centers Project is vital to the comprehensive strategy to combat the scourge of intoxicated drivers in Harris County. The centers are located throughout the city in the following HPD Command Stations:

- Westside: 3202 S. Dairy Ashford
- Midwest: 7277 Regency Square Blvd.
- North: 9455 W. Montgomery
- Northeast: 8301 Ley Rd.
- Central: 61 Riesner
- Southeast: 8300 Mykawa

The new processing centers provide several key benefits:

- The proximity of the centers to the arrests is of immense importance. The closer in time to an arrest that testing is performed, the better the evidence. Should the test result reveal intoxication, the offender is booked into the command center, which quickly puts officers back on patrol. Currently, officers are out of service two to three hours transporting and booking defendants into the County jail.

- Provides digital video and audio recording of the tests and transmits them in real time to the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Currently, it takes months to convert video tape to discs and transport to the District Attorney. The trial delay clogs court dockets.
- All area law enforcement agencies benefit from this project. Any law enforcement officer can take a suspected impaired driver to the centers for testing. The Department of Public Safety supervises the Intoxilyzers, thus facilitating a cooperative and integrated approach to maximizing resources. Reciprocally, HPD can take a suspect to Bellaire Police Department or Sheriff's Office as the closest location for testing.

There is no cost to taxpayers. Criminals are funding this project. It was made possible by a \$525,148 grant from the Harris County District Attorney's Office Asset Forfeiture Fund, which is comprised of illicit assets seized from criminals and forfeited through court proceedings.

There are two other strategic initiatives in this battle against intoxicated drivers who are a threat to the safety and lives of our citizens:

1. No Refusal Weekends: Many intoxicated drivers refuse to perform breath alcohol tests. The HCDAO obtained a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation to provide every weekend a team of dedicated officers, prosecutors and nurses to work around the clock. State law provides that search warrants may be obtained to draw blood from DWI suspects who refuse the breath test. This program prevents impaired drivers from evading evidence gathering.

2. The Direct Intervention Project (i.e., "DIVERT") provides for first offender DWI drivers who pass an intensive risk assessment and screening to be placed under strict supervision and treatment. The intent is to make people accountable and prevent repeat offenders--participants pay all costs. The program began August 1, 2009, to date 2,799 defendants have successfully completed the program, of these only 1.53% have committed a new offense.



## New Heavy Trash/Tree Waste Pickup Days Announced



The Solid Waste Management Department has recently announced the establishment of new heavy trash and tree waste service dates. Effective November 1, 2012, you will have new heavy trash (Junk Waste) and tree waste service dates.

You will receive multiple direct mail pieces from the Solid Waste Management Department reminding you of this upcoming improvement in your services as well as your new service day. If you want to log on and check out the new service maps as well as find your new service day, you may do so by going to Solid Waste Management Department's website at [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org)

The alternating months for tree waste and junk waste WILL NOT CHANGE. Only your monthly service day will change. Solid Waste personnel will visit your area on the same day each month for either your regularly scheduled tree waste or junk waste collection.

To find your pickup day, enter your address in this web tool and your new collection day will be displayed on your screen: <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/swd/>. Should you need further assistance, please call at 3-1-1 (713-837-0311).

Current Heavy Trash (Junk Waste) Map: [http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/HT\\_existing.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/HT_existing.pdf)

New Heavy Trash (Junk Waste) Map: [http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/HT\\_PROPOSED.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/HT_PROPOSED.pdf)

In alternating months, residents may dispose of their Tree Waste and Junk Waste at their curbside. This new method of collecting your large waste comes with the benefits of diverting materials that can be recycled from landfills, saving landfill space and your valuable tax dollars.

Tree Waste months are January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Junk Waste months are February, April, June, August, October and December.

"Tree Waste" is defined as "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps (lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted).

"Junk Waste" is defined as items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material. Junk Waste may not be placed for collection during a Tree Waste Month. A maximum of four cubic yards of building material (not including brick, plaster or concrete) generated by the resident in connection with the maintenance of the resident's property and four (4) tires will be collected on your Junk Waste collection date.

### UPDATE: Harris County Flood Control District W-129—Bridge Construction

As our area constituents are hopefully now well aware, Bridges at San Felipe Street and Westheimer Road that cross a drainage ditch formally identified as W129-00-00 are expected to be completely or partially closed temporarily to facilitate the construction of new bridges to replace the 50+ year old wooden bridges where Westheimer and San Felipe cross the drainage ditch.

The two bridges will be reconstructed as part of the Flood Control District's W129-00-00 Conveyance Improvements Project. The bridge reconstruction projects will require all lanes on the San Felipe bridge to be closed for up to two weeks and traffic flow on the Westheimer bridge to be limited to one lane in each direction for up to a month.

**The work at Westheimer is expected to begin in the fall of 2012 and the work at San Felipe is expected to begin in the spring of 2013. EXPECT MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND DELAYS WHILE THE WESTHEIMER AND SAN FELIPE BRIDGE WORK IS ONGOING!!!**

For more information about the project, visit the W129-00-00 Conveyance Improvements Project webpage at [www.hcfd.org/W129](http://www.hcfd.org/W129).

If you have questions or comments, please call the Flood Control District's Project and Study Information Line, which is monitored daily, at 713-684-4040.



**More  
Information**

[www.hcfd.org  
/W129](http://www.hcfd.org/W129)

## Searching for Issued Building Permits

Here is the link to sign up for the weekly “sold permits” e-newsletter which is issued by the Planning and Development Department. There are two avenues to reach the subscription webpage, one through each of the two departments - PD and PWE. Please note the permits listed in the report are building permits only which are of most interest to neighborhoods, and so it does not include the various single trade permits sold each week.

[http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/planning/subscribe\\_permit.html](http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/planning/subscribe_permit.html)

[http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Publications/listsrv/subscribe\\_eneletters.htm](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Publications/listsrv/subscribe_eneletters.htm)

To search the City’s database for permits sold in the last three years, visit: [http://www.cohtora.houstontx.gov/ibi\\_html/sldpmts1.htm](http://www.cohtora.houstontx.gov/ibi_html/sldpmts1.htm)

You can search by Project Number, Job Address, Applicant Name, Permit Type, Buyer’s Name, Buyer’s Address, Owner Occupant, Building Use, Zip Code, Commercial (Category B), Residential (Category 3), and Multi Family.

For information regarding permits older than 3 years old, contact the Open Records Section at 832-394-8800.

For questions, contact: [Veronica.Cirilo@houstontx.gov](mailto:Veronica.Cirilo@houstontx.gov)

HOUSTON  
PERMITTING  
center



## After Recent Shooting, City Officials Reinforce “Run.Hide.Fight.”

In the aftermath of the mass shooting event in Aurora, Colorado, the City of Houston Mayor’s Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security announces the release of a video that provides key steps individuals should take if they encounter an active shooter.

Although active shooter events are unpredictable, motives are different, and warning signs may vary, there are three things citizens can do to increase chances of safety and survival:

**Run. Hide. Fight.** (this has taken the place of the old “Avoid-Deny-Defend”)

The City of Houston Mayor’s Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security produced the informational video [Run.Hide.Fight. Surviving an Active Shooter Event](#) for citizens in the Houston Region, funded with Homeland Security Grant funds, which reenacts various Run.Hide.Fight. scenarios. The video encourages citizens to evaluate the situation and:

- **Run if a safe path is available. Always try and escape or evacuate even if others insist on staying. Encourage others to leave with you but don’t let the indecision of others slow down your own effort to escape. Once you are out of the line of fire, try to prevent others from walking into the danger zone and call 9-1-1.**
- **If you can’t get out safely, find a place to hide. When hiding, turn out lights,**

**remember to lock doors and silence your ringer and vibration mode on your cell phone.**

- **As a last resort, working together or alone, act with aggression, use improvised weapons and fight.**

For more information on how to be prepared for an active shooter and to view or order a copy of the Are You Ready? DVD, which includes the Run.Hide.Fight. video, visit [www.ReadyHoustonTX.gov](http://www.ReadyHoustonTX.gov)

The video in English and Spanish can also be viewed at [www.iwatchhouston.org](http://www.iwatchhouston.org)

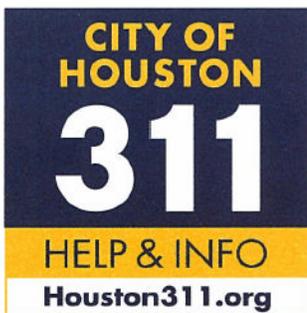
Citizens are always encouraged to report suspicious behavior. **If you see something, say something** by dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency or call 1-855-i-WATCH4 (855-492-8244).

For information on programs available from the Houston Police Department or to schedule a program for your organization, contact Stephen Daniel:

Stephen Daniel  
Houston Police Department  
Public Affairs  
Senior Community Liaison  
1200 Travis, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Cell: 713-206-3178  
Office: 713-308-3246



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



#### District G Staff:

John Moss  
Chief of Staff  
(832) 393-3271

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

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

Kristen Sandvig  
Assistant Director of Constituent Services  
(832) 393-3266

#### (Bond Election—Continued from Front Page)

The proposed bond package includes:

#### **PROPOSITION A:** \$144 million for public safety needs, including:

- Improvements at neighborhood police stations citywide
- Expansion of Fire Station 55, City Council District D
- New fire station to serve Pine Brook area, City Council District E
- Expansion of Fire Station 22, City Council District I
- Fire station maintenance/improvements citywide
- Facility security improvements
- Other building repairs]

#### **PROPOSITION B:** \$166 million for parks, including the Bayou Greenways Project and Improvements at:

- Haden (A), Busby (B), Judson Robinson Sr. (B), Jaycee (C), Wright-Bembry (C), Hermann (D), Alief (F), Nieto (H), Squatty Lyons (H), Gragg (B), Braeburn Glen (J), and Wildheather (K) parks
- Pavilion replacements
- Swimming pool upgrades and replacements
- Ball field lighting upgrades
- Trail replacement and overlays

#### **PROPOSITION C:** \$57 million for health, sanitation/recycling, and general government improvements at city facilities not included in the other categories:

- Renovation of the Westpark recycling facility, City Council District J
- Renovation of the Central Depository, City Council District I
- Possible repair of Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, City Council District D
- Repairs to City Hall and City Hall Annex
- Environmental Remediation

#### **PROPOSITION D:** \$28 million for libraries, including:

- Renovation of the Montrose Library, City Council District D
- Replacement of the Moody Library, City Council District H
- Replacement of the Meyer Library, City Council District K
- Renovation of Robinson-Westchase Library, City Council District F

#### **PROPOSITION E:** \$15 million for affordable housing:

- These dollars will be used for demolition of blighted properties to make way for new affordable housing.

More Information: <http://www.houstontx.gov/2012bondreferendum.html>