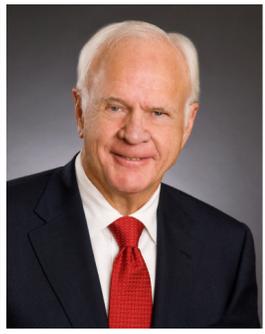


**HOUSTON
CITY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT
G**



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

Website:
houstontx.gov/council/G/

facebook



News From District G

September-October 2012

To The Residents of District G:

Happy Autumn!

To my fellow District G residents, it appears fall may finally be upon us. It is November and the cooler weather has finally arrived. School is in full swing, the holidays are just around the corner, and the election is Tuesday. Oh and how 'bout them Texans? Houston is overdue for another winning football season.

We've had a busy couple of months here in District G and want to give you a snapshot of what we have been doing. We've included an update on ReBuild Houston, a review of the METRO proposition on the November 6 ballot, and have also addressed some parking guidelines and concerns.

We've also included a few tips for Thanksgiving Day safety along with some information regarding the City's Veteran's Day celebration. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you would like to have your neighborhood or organization's events featured in the newsletter. In future issues we want to let residents know about more events taking place throughout District G.

Oliver Pennington

In This Issue:

Happy Autumn	1
Out and About in District G	2
District G Construction Project Updates	2
Save The Date: January 26, 2013	3
METRO Proposition on Ballot 11-6-12	3
Parking Tickets	4
Veterans' Day Sunday 11-11-12	5
ReBuild Houston: A Year in Review	6
Thanksgiving Safety Tips	8



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:

- Memorial Super Neighborhood Meetings
- Rebuild Houston Oversight Committee Meetings
- N. Eldridge Parkway Monthly Construction Progress Meetings
- Planning Commission Meeting
- Run.Hide.Fight Active Shooter Presentation
- Meeting with City Forester re: Dairy Ashford Esplanade
- Meeting re: Memorial Drive Paving & Drainage Project
- Washington Avenue Parking District Meeting
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Meeting
- Houston Realty Business Coalition Break-

fast

- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood Meeting
- HPD District 18 Midwest Division Positive Interaction Program
- Meeting with residents of Larchmont
- Center for Houston's Future Presentation
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Wellness Luncheon
- Briarbend Semi-Annual Neighborhood Meeting
- Public Hearing to Discuss Bond Issuance on November 6 Ballot
- Huma Guidance Center Grand Opening
- Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Annual Elected Official Reception
- Town Hall meeting held by Texas State Representative Jim Murphy

If you wish Council Member Pennington to attend your HOA/POA/Civic Club meeting, please contact our office at:

Districtg@houstontx.gov.

District G Construction Project Updates



N-000795-0001-4 North Eldridge Parkway Paving and Drainage (from Memorial to I-10)

This project provides for the design and construction of a six-lane divided concrete roadway with storm drainage, curbs, sidewalks, driveways, street lighting, traffic control, and necessary underground utilities. Project will add capacity with an additional lane in the existing right-of-way.

Update: Construction began on June 4, 2012. Substantial Completion is expected by December 1, 2012. All three southbound lanes are now open, one northbound lane remains open while they reconstruct the outer most lane, and work will be ongoing at the Memorial intersection. The project is now more than 2/3rds complete and should be finished in the next month.

N-001037-0065-4 Rehabilitation Project Dairy Ashford Road (from Westheimer Road to Buffalo Bayou)

This project consists of targeted concrete panel replacement, base repair, pavement markings, and the repair and improvement of curbs and accessible ramps.

Update: The construction contract with Total Contracting Limited was approved by City Council on June 20, 2012 (total = \$1,657,816.57). The pre-construction meeting was held October 2. The project began on October 22 and will go through April 20, 2013.

N-000780-0002-3 Hayes Street Paving and Drainage (Sub-Project II = Briar Forest to Wilcrest)

This project includes right-of-way acquisition, design and construction of a four-lane undivided concrete roadway with storm drainage, curbs, gutters, sidewalks on both sides of the street, street lighting, improved drainage storm sewer system on Hayes Road and Wilcrest Drive and upgraded necessary underground utilities.

Update: The utility contractors have now relocated their infrastructure, and the project is slated to begin soon. Since these sidewalks are used by children walking to Askew Elementary School, we ask that if you observe any unsafe behavior (kids walking in the street, kids playing in a construction area), please alert 3-1-1 or call our office.

SAVE THE DATE: Francklow Park January 26, 2013

The Friends of Mary Ann Francklow Park, a can-do group of volunteers from nearby neighborhoods and communities, is working hard to restore the natural beauty of the Mary Ann Francklow Park at 1300 Seagard Rd. (77042).

The park lost over 400 mature trees in the drought of 2011. Please save the date of the **morning of January 26, 2013**, as a tree planting day in Francklow Park. The trees are being donated to the Park, but your help is needed to plant the trees. This park is one of the few outside of the 610 Loop earning the opportunity to be a part of Houston Arbor Day. They badly need your help to make this event a success and to help begin restoring the park.

For more information, email briarforestsni8@sbcglobal.net or phone 281-813-5920. You can also register with the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood website to receive future Friends of Mary Ann Francklow Park updates (www.briarforestsni.org).

More information can be found at the Friends section of this website: <http://briarforestsni.org/main.cfm?link=201>



METRO Proposition on November 6 Ballot

METRO's Board voted and approved a proposition regarding the future of the General Mobility Program (GMP) which will be on the November 6, 2012, ballot.

METRO's Board voted to put forth a new proposal which would continue the GMP in its current form, allocating a quarter of its one-cent sales tax to its 16 member jurisdictions. However, allocations will be fixed (capped) at the 2014 levels and any growth in revenues beyond this capped level will be split 50-50 between METRO and the other jurisdictions from October 2014 through December 2025. This allocation change is targeted to result in an additional \$400 million for METRO.

The incremental growth portion allocated to METRO will be used for the following purposes:

- Increase bus service hours and the purchase of up to 200 buses;
- Construction of up to 1,000 additional bus shelters;
- Commercial paper debt payments up to \$200 million;
- Operation and maintenance costs associated with additional service, bus shelters, Park and Ride facilities, bus transit centers and bus operating facilities.

The proposition also calls for another election to be held prior to December 31, 2025 regarding METRO's continuing support of the General

Mobility Program.

A YES vote continues the payment to the cities of 25% of the 1 cent, and any gains after September 2014 go 50% to METRO, 50% to the cities.

A NO vote ends the General Mobility Fund and all of the 1% goes to METRO and may be spent at the discretion of METRO's board.

Ballot Language:

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

FOR
AGAINST

THE CONTINUED DEDICATION OF UP TO 25% OF METRO'S SALES AND USE TAX REVENUES FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED PROJECTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025 AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW AND WITH NO INCREASE IN THE CURRENT RATE OF METRO'S SALES AND USE TAX.





**Parking
Management**

**Parking Management
Homepage:**

<http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/index.htm>

**A List of all City of
Houston Parking
Violations:**

<http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/violationcodes.htm>

**To Contest a Citation
in Person:**

Parking Adjudication Office
Municipal Courts, Basement
1400 Lubbock
Houston, TX 77002

**To Contest a Citation
Online:**

<https://houstonparking.t2hosted.com/app/index.aspx>

Parking Tickets

We have heard from a number of constituents that they have recently received parking tickets. If the tickets are in a green envelope, it is Parking Management (and not HPD) that has written the ticket.

Some of the more common parking violations in neighborhoods:

- APK-4 Parked on the Wrong Side of the Street
- APK-5 Parked on a public street for more than 24 hours
- APK-11 Parked blocking a private driveway
- APK-12 Parked within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- APK-13 Blocking or Parking on Sidewalk
- APK-14 Parked within 20 feet of a crosswalk or intersection
- APK-20 Parked more than 18 inches from the right-hand curb

Contesting Parking Citations:

You have 30 days from the date the citation was issued to contest your citation in person. You may contest your citation online within seven (7) days from the date the citation is issued.

You can contest your citation online at: <https://houstonparking.t2hosted.com/app/index.aspx>

An online hearing is an official hearing and the hearing results are binding. All testimony and evidence is required to be submitted at the time the hearing is entered. There will not be another opportunity to submit further evidence.

You may also contest a parking citation in person at the Parking Adjudication Office, 1400 Lubbock, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., or Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Appointments are NOT necessary—you may simply walk in and sign up for a hearing. All hearings are held on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are dissatisfied with the hearing officer's decision, you can appeal to the Municipal Court by filing a petition no later than the 30th day after the filing of the hearing officer's order.

The petition must be filed with the Parking Management Cashier at the Municipal Court, 1400 Lubbock. You must also post a cash bond and an administrative fee for each parking citation appealed. If your appeal is successful, these fees are refunded to you.

Blocking a Sidewalk:



Parking on the Wrong Side of the Street:



Parked Too Close to a Cross Walk:



Parked Within 15 Feet of a Fire Hydrant:



Parking More than 18 Inches from the Curb:



Veterans' Day Sunday, November 11, 2012

THE CITY OF HOUSTON'S ANNUAL "HOUSTON SALUTES AMERICAN HEROES" VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION will be held Sunday, November 11, 2012 in downtown Houston.

On Sunday, November 11, 2012, the City of Houston will show support for our Armed Forces and celebrate the annual "Houston Salutes American Heroes" Veterans Day Celebration.

The annual festivities will kick off on the steps of City Hall at 10:00 a.m. with the third annual AT&T Veterans Job Fair and second annual Walgreens Veterans Health Fair, which is open until 2:00 p.m. A moment of silence will be observed at 11:00 a.m., followed by the 11th hour ceremony in memory of the WWI signing of the Armistice. The American Heroes parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. at Lamar and Bagby, proceeding north on Smith, east on Walker, south on Louisiana, and ending at Dallas.

Many returning veterans find themselves unemployed or underemployed while trying to effectively translate their extensive military skills into the current job market. "Approximately 300,000 Veterans live in the Houston metropolitan area with 22,000 of those Vets having returned since 9/11," said E. A. "Buddy" Grantham, Director, City of Houston Office of Veterans' Affairs. "They offer a tremendous resource to expanding companies."

Bill Balleza, USMC Veteran and television anchor, will emcee the 11:00 a.m. ceremony. Colonel John Daniel, commander of the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, Texas Air National Guard, stationed at Ellington Joint Reserve Base, will serve as the parade's Grand Marshal.

Commissioner Jerry Patterson, with the Texas General Land Office and Texas Veteran's Land Board, will serve as the keynote speaker for the event's opening ceremony. Commissioner Patterson was born in Houston and graduated from Texas A&M University, Class of 1969. After volunteering for duty in Vietnam, Patterson was later designated as a Naval Flight Officer and served in Marine fighter squadrons until his retirement from the Marine Corps Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1993. Five consecutive generations of Patterson's family have served our nation in time of war.

Schedule:

- 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. AT&T Veterans Job Fair
- 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Walgreens Veterans Health Fair
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Ceremony (The moment of silence will kick off the ceremony)
- 12:30 p.m. American Heroes Parade

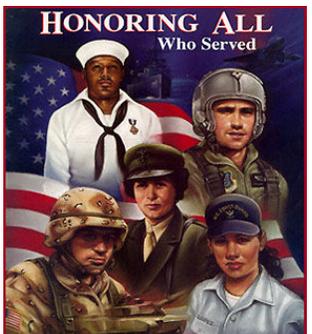
There will be FREE Parking from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Tranquility Garage (entrances #2 & #5 only).

For More Information:

Mayor's Office of Special Events
Houston City Hall
901 Bagby, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77002
PHONE: (832) 393-0868
E-MAIL: veteransday@houstontx.gov



VETERANS DAY



WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV/NOV11

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2012

<p>11A.M. CEREMONY CITY HALL 901 BAGBY Moment of silence followed by the 11th hour ceremony in memory of the WWI signing of the Armistice</p>	<p>10A.M.-2P.M. CITY HALL AT&T VETERANS JOB FAIR Recruiting on site by top companies WALGREENS VETERANS HEALTH FAIR FREE health screenings on site please see website for details</p>	<p>12:30P.M. PARADE Start Lamar at Bagby, Smith north, Walker east, Louisiana south, end on Dallas. FREE parking, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Theater District Parking, Tranquility Garage, entrances #2 & #5 only.</p>
--	--	---

ReBuild Houston—A Year in Review:

REBUILD HOUSTON

thumbs up  for progress

better streets. better drainage. better future.

ReBuild Houston (Renew Houston/Proposition 1) has just completed its first full Fiscal Year in operation. A few highlights:

There is a **ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee (RHOC)** that was created by one of Council Member Pennington's amendments to the ordinance that enacted ReBuild Houston. RHOC was created so we could have independent citizen oversight of the entire process of selection of projects and funding. Tax payers, whether they support the program or not, want to know there is accountability in the way their money is being spent. Council Member Pennington sits on the RHOC as an Ex-Officio Member. The basic charge to RHOC was to advise the city on drainage project priorities and process and to review and approve a 10-year plan for drainage and street projects (called the "5+5" Plan). Other duties of the RHOC:

- Review the criteria established by Public Works and Engineering to prioritize street and drainage projects and recommend any changes.
- Review the data collected by the SSAV and the SWEET model and make appropriate recommendations to Public Works.
- Create a forum that ensures citizens are informed of project priorities and have an opportunity to input their views.
- Monitor the appeals process and, if necessary, suggest procedural changes generally applicable to the process.
- Review community communications of all projects and recommend improvements to Public Works and Engineering.
- Evaluate the execution of projects and recommend changes to the process and priorities.
- Review the initial 10 year Rebuild Houston plan and recommend any changes.
- Participate in the creation of a mentoring program (similar to the Greater Houston Wastewater Program).
- Participate in the creation of a job training/apprenticeship/internship program in partnership with education, business, non-profit and labor organizations.
- Review and recommend changes to the W.A.T.E.R. fund usage criteria.
- Provide quarterly reports to the appropriate Council Committee.

5+5 Plan:

The first 5 years of the 5+5 plan is the current FY2013-2017 CIP (capital improvement projects) plan. Many of those pro-

jects have been on the books for years and years but were never funded. Funds received from ReBuild Houston have allowed the City to finally fund all drainage and street projects currently on the CIP.

For an overview of the 5+5 Plan, visit: http://www.rebuildhouston.org/downloads/plan/overview_5_5plan_fy13_22.pdf

For a list of the Storm Drainage and Street & Traffic Projects on the FY 2013-2017 CIP, visit: <http://www.rebuildhouston.org/home/projects/5-5-year-plan-documents.html>.

Funds from ReBuild Houston are identified as "DDSFR" (Dedicated Drainage & Street Renewal Fund).

The city has a van called the **Street Surface Assessment Vehicle (SSAV)** that has driven every street in the city (and is on its second pass of all streets). It has a number of different high-tech measuring instruments that have recorded the condition of every street in the city. A ranking was then done to compare the quality of all of our city streets—the basic mantra of ReBuild Houston is WORST FIRST—the City is trying to take the politics out of how we fund our street and drainage projects and determine an objective way to rank the needed projects. The City will fund the very worst projects first.

The city also has developed a computer model called the **SWEET (Storm Water Enhanced Evaluation Tool)** that takes all available data and models the storm drainage conditions in the city. It also ranks the areas that have drainage issues so we can objectively determine the worst areas in the city. Some of the data used includes 3-1-1 reports of structural flooding and street ponding, so if your home floods or your street becomes impassible after a rain, please make sure you report it to 3-1-1. The unit of measure that is evaluated by the SWEET is called a Lambert Tile, which is a ¼ mile by ¼ mile square. When the SWEET model performs its evaluation, what we learn is the location of the most problematic Lambert Tiles (we call that a "Needs Area"), but not the specific location, or the specific issue(s) in that area, or the solution(s) to that issue.

For a listing of the **Storm Drainage** Identified Needs Area for FY 2018-2022, visit: http://www.rebuildhouston.org/downloads/plan/storm_drainage_needs.pdf (the needs areas shaded on the list are being Pre-Engineered in FY2013)

For a listing of the **Major Road** Identified Needs Area for FY 2018-2022, visit: http://www.rebuildhouston.org/downloads/plan/major_road_needs.pdf (the needs areas shaded on the list are being Pre-Engineered in FY2013)

For a listing of the **Local Street** Identified Needs Area for FY 2018-2022, visit: http://www.rebuildhouston.org/downloads/plan/local_street_needs.pdf (the needs areas shaded on the list are being Pre-Engineered in FY2013).

That is where the “+5” comes in; each year the City will perform “**Pre-Engineering**” on a number of the worst needs areas to determine:

- the issue
- the solution
- the cost of the solution
- how that project ranks with other similarly situated projects (cost/benefit analysis).

The current CIP (M-000100) allocates \$17,466,000 from ReBuild Houston over the next 5 years to pre-engineer Storm Drainage projects from the Storm Drainage Identified Needs Area.

The current CIP (N-000100) allocates \$8,444,000 from ReBuild Houston over the next 5 years to pre-engineer Street & Traffic Control projects from the Major Road Identified Needs Area and the Local Street Identified Needs Area.

Each year, a number of the most worthy of the pre-engineered projects will be added to the CIP and will go through the normal process of engineering, design and construction.

One of the most important aspects of ReBuild Houston is that it is moving the City toward a **pay-as-you-go funding system** for street and drainage projects. Rather than relying on the issuance of bonds, 11.9¢ of the 63.875¢ per \$100 value we pay to the City in ad valorem taxes goes to pay down the current bond indebtedness associated with street and drainage projects. In FY2012, that resulted in the City paying down \$150 Million of the \$1.7 Billion in debt currently outstanding for streets and drainage.

Funding for ReBuild Houston Comes from Four Different Sources:

(1) **Drainage Utility Fee:** this is the fee we are all paying with our water bill; it is based on the number of square feet of impervious surface on our individual properties; the more surface you have that contributes to run-off of rain water (rather than absorption), the more you place demands upon the storm drainage system, thus the more you pay.

- In FY2012, \$117,628,000 was collected in this category
- These funds may be used for:
 - Drainage projects
 - Street projects that include drainage improvements
 - Operation & maintenance for drainage infrastructure (ditch cleaning, re-grading, etc.)
 - Expenses for administering the fee

(2) **Developer Impact Fee:** the city is in the process of studying the creation of a developer impact fee for storm water drainage, so at current no funds are being collected in this category.

- NO funds were collected in FY2012
- These funds may be used for:
 - Drainage projects providing capacity to offset future development
 - Street projects providing added capacity for future development

(3) **Ad Valorem Taxes:** as stated above, 11.9¢ of the 63.875¢ per \$100 value we pay the City in ad valorem taxes goes to pay down the current bond indebtedness associated with street and drainage projects.

- In FY2012, \$159,193,000 was collected in this category; the City paid down the street and drainage bonds by \$150 Million, and had just over \$9 Million left for projects
- These funds may be used for:
 - Paying off bond indebtedness (\$150 Million/year)
 - Street projects with or without drainage improvements
 - Drainage projects
 - Traffic signalization projects
 - Sidewalk projects
 - Operation & maintenance for streets, traffic & drainage

(4) **Third-Party Funds:** the city receives a number of third-party funds for transportation and mobility projects (from METRO, TxDOT, the Federal Government, TIRZs, Management Districts, etc.)

- In FY2012, \$147,310,000 was collected in this category
- These funds may be used for:
 - Street projects
 - Drainage projects
 - Operation & maintenance for streets & traffic
 - Sidewalk projects
 - Hike & bike trails
 - Traffic signalization projects
 - Whatever strings are attached to the funds that come in (we often receive grants or funds for a particular purpose).

To view the July 18, 2012, draft of the City’s Capital Improvement Plan Process Manual for Infrastructure Programs (Storm Drainage and Street & Traffic Control) visit: http://www.rebuildhouston.org/downloads/cip_process_manual_2012_07_18_version_3.pdf

For more information, visit: www.RebuildHouston.org

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

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Cooking fires nearly double on Thanksgiving Day, occurring more than twice as often than on any other day, and Thanksgiving Day home fires cause more property damage and claim more lives than home fires on any other day. With a few basic safety tips in mind, you and your family and guests can have a happy (and safe) Thanksgiving Day Holiday:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, boiling, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains—away from your stove top and oven or any other appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.
- If you must use a turkey fryer, make sure it is outdoors and in an open area away from all walls, fences or other structures that could catch on fire and away from moisture that can cause serious burns from steam or splattering hot oil. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen and use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least twice a year.
- After your Thanksgiving guests leave, ask a family member to perform a home safety check to ensure that all candles and smoking materials are extinguished.

Additional Safety Hints and Tips:

Thanksgiving Safety Tips from the National Fire Protection Association:

<http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=2117&itemID=49664&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Holidays/Thanksgiving%20safety>

Thanksgiving Cooking Tips from the Underwriters Laboratory:

<http://www.safetyathome.com/seasonal-safety/holiday-safety-articles/thanksgiving-cooking-tips-serving-up-a-side-of-safety/>

Seasonal Food Safety Tips from the U.S.D.A.:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FACTSheets/Seasonal_Food_Safety_Fact_Sheets/index.asp

Thanksgiving Fast Facts and Preparedness Tips from the American Red Cross:

<http://www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov/docs/FireSafetyFactSheet.pdf>

