

**HOUSTON
CITY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT
G**



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News From District G

January-February 2013

To The Residents of District G:

It's hard to believe that 2012 is over. We are now well into 2013, and it looks like we're off to a good start. Go Texan Day is Friday, February 22 and marks the start to one of Houston's great pastimes: the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. So grab your boots and cowboy hats and get ready to join in the fun. The rodeo is just one of the exciting family-oriented events our residents will be able to enjoy this spring.

The beginning of the year always seems to be a busy time for everyone. We want to give you an update regarding some of the hot topics on which we've been working these past couple of months. We've included information about the annual District G CIP Meeting, the proposed revisions to Chapter 42 of the City's Code of Ordinances on land development, and an update on a couple of District G construction projects.

I'm also honored to announce my recent involvement in Shape Up Houston, a simple weight loss program rooted in making healthy lifestyle choices. Spring is in the air, and it is the perfect time of year to stick with your New Year's resolutions and get in shape by taking advantage of the beautiful District G parks. I've included more information about this great program inside the issue.

For those who live in the vicinity of Westheimer or San Felipe and the W-129 ditch, or who regularly drive this route, please note that Westheimer will be limited to one lane in each direction coming very soon (and will be limited to one lane only for up to one month). After the Westheimer bridge over W-129 is completed, San Felipe will be completely closed at W-129 for up to two weeks. Please refer to Page 6 and check the HCFCD's website.

We want to continue to include information about events taking place in the District. Please let our office know if you would like to have your organization's events featured in future newsletters.

In This Issue:

Message from Council Member Pennington..... 1	Proposed Ordinance Feedback Webpage 7
Out and About in District G 2	Library to Restore Service Hours..... 8
Annual District G CIP Meeting February 26 3	Hire Houston First—A Year in Review 8
New 3-1-1 Smartphone App 3	Shape Up Houston 9
Chapter 42 Land Development Rules 4	Civic Association Registration 9
Construction Project Updates 5	Tree Planting in Francklow Park..... 10
New Water Bill Site & App Launched 5	Teens in the Drivers Seat 11
W-129 Bridge Work To Begin Spring 2013 6	3-1-1 Service Requests 12
ReBuild Houston—Developer Impact Fees 6	
Jury Service in Harris County 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:

- Grand Opening of the new office of TMK-IPSCO (major international pipeline company)
- Pre-Construction Meeting for Dairy Ashford Concrete Panel Replacement Project
- National Night Out (West Lane Place)
- Crime Stoppers Gala
- Meeting with Firefighters' Union Representatives
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Meeting (October)
- Upper Kirby Management District Meeting
- Comcast Newsmakers Interview
- Rice Centennial Celebration Luncheon
- Houston-Galveston Area Council Meeting
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood Meeting (October)
- West Houston Association Impact Awards
- Scenic Houston Annual Benefit Dinner
- Combined ReBuild Houston Oversight Committee and City Council Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure Committee Meeting
- Magic Circle Women's Republican Club Meeting
- Memorial Super Neighborhood Meeting (October)
- Meeting Regarding Development at 945 Gaylord
- Helping A Hero Gala
- Meeting with Houston Building Owners and Managers Association
- Meeting Regarding Water Utility Billing Process
- Meeting with Prospective New TIRZ 17 Board Members
- Meeting regarding Development in Lynn Park
- Meeting with the CEO of the Houston Area Women's Center
- Mayor's Proud Partners Luncheon
- Briarcroft Property Owners' Association Annual Meeting
- TIRZ 17 Meeting
- Meeting Regarding Proposed Washington Avenue Parking Benefits District
- Construction Progress Meeting re: N. Eldridge Parkway Reconstruction
- Shell Houston Open Charity Announcement Celebration
- Boy Scout Tour of City Council Chambers
- Shape Up Houston Wellness Announcement
- Grady Park Meeting with HPARD
- Habitat for Humanity Gala
- Food Bank Recipe for Hope Luncheon
- Meeting to Discuss Economic Development Tools
- City of Houston Veterans Day Event
- Lakeside Neighborhood Veterans Day Celebration
- Mid-West Super Neighborhood Meeting
- Chief's City-Wide PIP 29th Anniversary and Holiday Celebration
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood (November)
- Clean Fleet Technologies Conference
- Westside PIP Meeting
- Meeting re: 1801 Dairy Ashford
- Meeting with Fondren Safety Society
- Uptown Holiday Lighting Ceremony
- Memorial Super Neighborhood Meeting (November)
- Greater Houston Restaurant Association Luncheon
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood Meeting (November)
- Mayor's Holiday Celebration & Tree Lighting

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

Districtg@houstontx.gov.

Annual District G CIP Meeting Scheduled for February 26:

The annual District G CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Briargrove Elementary School, 6145 San Felipe, 77057. For security reasons, the front doors of the school will not be open. You need to enter through the "Park Entrance" which is on the south side of the building. There is some parking in front along San Felipe and more on the south side of the building, with the entrances to the rear parking lot being located off of Briar-mead Dr. and Briar Ridge Dr.

Capital Improvement Plan meetings are held every year to inform citizens of upcoming projects scheduled in their respective communities. The meetings afford citizens an opportunity to learn, voice their concerns and address their respective City Council Members and City of Houston officials regarding project planning & delivery. An update on the city's implementation of ReBuild Houston will be provided again this year as well.

As in past years, any CIP requests should be requested through the 3-1-1 system (www.houston311.org). To make any CIP request (Streets, Drainage, Library, Park, Police, Fire, Water, Sanitary Sewer, etc.), select "Traffic Streets & Drainage", then, under "Capital Improvement Projects, Streets and Drainage", select "New Capital Improvement Project Request". **Please send a copy of your request to our office.**

To view the current FY 2013-2017 Adopted Capital Improvement Plan (or any of the CIPs from the last 5 years), visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/cip/index.html>

The City of Houston will provide reasonable accommodations to citizens with disabilities/special needs upon request in advance of the meeting. Citizens are encouraged to call 832-393-0955 for arrangements. Please call our office if you need any assistance in making a presentation.



Annual District G CIP Meeting:
February 26, 2013
6:30- 8:30 p.m.

All-New 3-1-1 Help and Info Smartphone App:

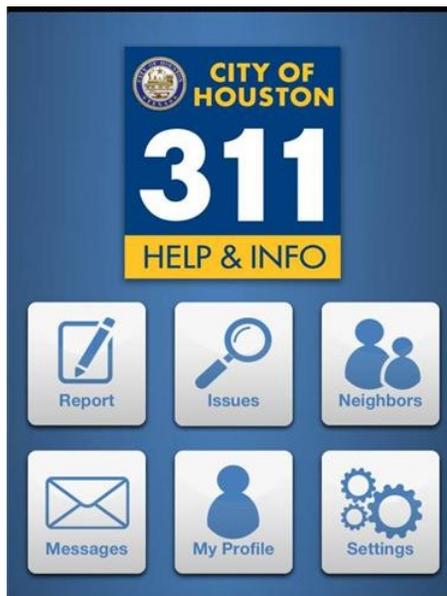
To make contact between Houstonians and the City of Houston even more flexible, convenient, efficient and customer-focused, 311 Help and Info users are now able to submit service requests via the new Smartphone app, the redesigned website, email or by calling the 24/7 call center.

In addition to expanded call-center hours and the new Smartphone app, 311's redesigned website, www.Houston311.org, enables Houstonians to easily submit a request for service online. Additionally, 311 has launched a new [interactive mapping tool](#) that allows Houstonians to track the progress of their request and view the status of other requests made by neighbors.

The City's 311 Help and Info leaders work constantly to expand and improve 311 functions to better meet Houston's needs. In addition to other future plans for 311, including the launch of a call-back assist program and SMS texting service requests, the next versions of the Smartphone app and website map tracking tool are already being designed.

The Houston 311 Smartphone app is available for iPhone and Android users in the App Store

and Google Play market. Links to each, and a QR code that will trigger a download to your device, are provided at www.houstontx.gov at the bottom of the page or directly at <http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php>. The city has also created an app resource page at <http://www.houstontx.gov/311/smartphonefaq.html>.



District G Construction Project Updates:

Two District G Road Construction Projects funded by ReBuild Houston Drainage Fees were recently commenced.

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. Total Contracting Limited is the contractor. The project commenced on October 22, 2012 and is currently scheduled to go through April 20, 2013. Motorists are advised to seek an alternative route unless they live or work in the immediate area.

N-000780-0002-4 Hayes Street Paving and Drainage (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. This project commenced December 3, 2012, and is currently scheduled to go through January 7, 2014. Since the sidewalks on this roadway 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, or unsafe construction practices), please call 3-1-1 or our office.

Please note that areas where two-way divided traffic is required to cross over and become two-way traffic on one side of the median are marked 20 MPH. These are areas where in the

past we have seen the most accidents and complaints. Please slow down and obey all traffic control devices.

Traffic lanes on Wilcrest Road will be reduced during this project. Motorists are advised to avoid Wilcrest Road between Briar Forest and Lakeside Place during this project. The early stages of this project required significant lane closures on Wilcrest from Lakeside Place to Hayes Road. The remainder of the project will affect Hayes Road to Briar Forest, however construction mobilization taking place on Wilcrest will adversely affect traffic in the area.



Water Bills—New Customer Service Site & App Launched:

The City of Houston Utility Customer Service recently launched a new site that allows water customers to sign up for alerts via text or email, to monitor their water usage online, and to download an app to their smart phone that allows them to monitor water usage and receive high consumption alerts from the City.

You can visit the new page here: <https://www.houstonwaterbills.houstontx.gov/>

As part of a new Consumption Awareness Program, customers can sign up to receive High Consumption Alerts. This will allow customers to be notified via their preferred contact meth-

od (email, cell phone, home phone) regarding higher than normal water consumption. Once alerted, customers will be able to respond quickly to eliminate potential water leaks or unusually large water bills.

This new site also allows customers to make an online payment, to start or stop service, to view their daily consumption, to seek assistance with a high water bill, to request a bill adjustment, and to receive help in understanding their water and sewer bills. Customers can also provide feedback to help the City make this the best possible customer experience.





UPDATE: Harris County Flood Control District W-129— Bridge Construction to Begin During March 2013:

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 work at Westheimer is expected to begin in early March. The work at San Felipe is expected to be during the summer of 2013. As soon as we learn more specific dates, we will provide another update. These dates are subject to change.

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.

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 Channel Enclosure Project webpage at 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.



ReBuild Houston Update—Developer Impact Fees:



On November 2, 2010, the voters of Houston passed Proposition 1 that established a dedicated pay-as-you-go funding source to renew Houston's drainage and street infrastructure. This Proposition, now known as "ReBuild Houston", required the City to create a dedicated fund composed of the following funding sources:

- Developer Impact Fees
- Drainage Fees
- \$0.118 of the City's ad valorem tax levy minus existing debt service
- Third party contracts, grants and payments (e.g., METRO general mobility fund payments)

The Department of Public Works and Engineering is in the process of recommending drainage impact fees. State law allows cities to

charge drainage impact fees for new development projects. This revenue helps offset the city's cost to provide drainage infrastructure. Pursuant to Chapter 395 of the Texas Local Government Code, the process of adopting a drainage impact fee requires the city to perform an engineering study on the program and approve the findings of the report. The report includes Land Use Assumptions, the Capital Improvement Plan applicable to impact fees, and impact fee calculations. The Houston Planning Commission, acting as the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee, reviewed the report and voted on January 3, 2013, to recommend it to City Council.

You can view the City of Houston Drainage Impact Fee Study, dated December 7, 2012, by visiting: http://www.rebuildhouston.org/downloads/oversight/drainage_impact_fee_study_report.pdf

Making it Easy to Attend Jury Service:

By Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel (reprinted, in part, with permission).

The founding fathers wisely understood that questions of liberty ought to rest with a group of citizens, not the government or just one official.

They deemed access to a jury trial so important that they declared it a right of those facing criminal accusation and enshrined this guarantee in our Constitution. But defendants cannot exercise their right to jury trials unless citizens honor requests for jury service.

The more people who take part in jury service, the better the system works. With more people of diverse backgrounds appearing, the better the chances there will be that juries will more closely resemble the demographics of our county, instilling confidence in the judicial process.

The District Clerk's Office tries to make it easy for people to serve:

- **Rescheduling:** If you have a conflict that prevents you from coming, just reschedule! You can reschedule jury service three times at www.hcdistrictclerk.com. Or you can reschedule by calling 713-755-6392. Service needs to be performed within six months of the original request.
- **Free Metro Rides:** You can ride the bus or train for free by showing your jury summons.
- **Free Wi-Fi:** With free WIFI and tables and counters for laptops and reading materials,

the new, award-winning Harris County Jury Assembly Room is equipped with amenities that allow people to stay abreast of ongoing tasks at work, school and home. Cell phone low on juice? Just plug it in at a recharging station. Vending machines and a snack shop cater to those who run out without breakfast or are looking for lunch. Assembly rooms are spacious and feature stadium-style theater seating.

Seeking Grand Jurors

Harris County is seeking volunteers to serve on grand juries. Grand jurors typically meet twice a week for a set period. They are paid \$30 a day and receive lunch.

Those interested in serving as grand jurors may find an application at www.justex.net/GrandJuryInfo/GrandJuryInfo.aspx. Or they can call the Harris County Grand Jury office at 713-755-5880 or fill out an application at the office: Harris County Criminal Justice Center, Grand Jury, Third Floor, 1201 Franklin St., Houston, TX 77002.

Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel would love to come speak about jury service to your group. Please contact Bill Murphy, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Harris County District Clerk's Office, at 713-755-5109 or wiliam.murphy@hcdistrictclerk.com.



Proposed Ordinance Feedback Webpage Launched:

The City of Houston recently launched a new webpage that highlights city ordinances which are currently in the process of being amended. By visiting the new webpage, residents can provide written feedback to the administration concerning proposed amendments.

To view those city ordinances which are in the process of being amended, visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/ordinancefeedback.html>

Clicking any of the Hyperlinks (i.e., "Payday Loans (Chapter 28)") will take you to a page where you can enter your comments. Of course, you are always welcome and encouraged to contact our

office if you have suggestions or comments regarding any proposed amendments to city ordinances.

Presently, you are able to read about and comment on the following:

- Payday Loans
- Mobile Food Units
- Chapter 42 Amendments
- Off Street Parking





City Plans to Restore Library Hours:

The City of Houston recently announced the extension of service hours at Houston Public Library (HPL) locations throughout the city. The extended hours will restore Saturday service to 14 neighborhood libraries, bringing the total number of libraries open on Saturdays to 41. In addition, hours are being restored to the Central Library, returning it to a seven day a week schedule.

The restored service hours are made possible by \$3.1 million added to the HPL budget. A portion of the additional funding is expected in the current budget year from a General Appropriation request in April 2013, and a request for full funding will be included in the HPL FY2014 budget. These funds will be allocated to the hiring of new staff members at HPL,

making the restored service hours possible. The restoration of service hours will take place in phases, as new staff is hired, beginning April 1, 2013.

District G is happy to announce that Looscan Neighborhood Library, located at 2510 Willowick (77027), is one of the libraries that is slated to get Saturday service hours.

For further information, visit the Houston Public Library at www.houstonlibrary.org or call 832-393-1313.

Please feel free to contact our office with any feedback you have regarding our Public Libraries, hours of operation, services provided, parking, etc.

Hire Houston First Update: Keeping City Business Local



Hire Houston First

First year results for the city's Hire Houston First (HHF) program are now available. As of September 30, 2012, more than \$139 million of city business had been awarded to designated Hire Houston First firms, sustaining more than 6,000 jobs. This encompassed 895 formal bid contracts for construction and purchasing contracts as well as informal non-contract purchase orders. 81 percent of the time, HHF companies won the formal bid contracts because they submitted the lowest bids. The other 19 percent of the time the city utilized the local preference component of HHF to award the work to the local firm. The majority of these formal bid contracts were for construction work.

HHF allows the city to consider a vendor's principal place of business and to grant preference to local businesses in awarding certain city contracts. For contracts under \$100,000, the city may select the local firm's price if it is within five percent of the lowest bid from an out-of-town company. For contracts exceeding \$100,000, there can be no more than a three percent difference between the out-of-town low bid and the next highest offer from a local vendor.

The total number of HHF designated firms is 617, an average of 51 new approvals each month. 322 of these companies have never

been awarded contracts by the city. The remaining 295 have had at least one city contract. Out of 68 prime contracts awarded to HHF firms, 61 went to firms that had previously been awarded city contracts. The remaining seven contracts went to HHF firms that have never worked for the city prior to their HHF designation. Their contracts totaled \$2.7 million. 532 of the 617 approved applications are in Harris County. The numbers are expected to grow as the city's Office of Business Opportunity steps up outreach to get more companies registered in the second year of the program.

To qualify for designation, businesses must meet at least one of two requirements:

Be headquartered in the incorporated city limits or the eight local counties of Harris, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller, or

Have 20 percent or more of the entity's workforce and a substantial part of its operations regularly based within the city limits or the eight counties.

For more information about HHF, contact Neil Polansky at neil.polansky@houstontx.gov or 832-393-0951.

To learn more about the city's Office of Business Opportunity, visit www.houstontx.gov/obo.

Council Member Pennington Kicks Off Shape Up Houston:



L to R: Felicia Gann, American Heart Association; Council Member Oliver Pennington; and Nicole Sweeney, American Heart Association

Council Member Pennington recently had the honor of kicking off a program with Shape Up Houston. Council Member Oliver Pennington stated the benefits of maintaining a healthier lifestyle: “Obesity is the number one health crisis in our country today, and we have to do something about it. Losing weight, eating a healthier diet and exercising can greatly improve your health and thus lessen the amount of trips to the doctor” said Pennington.

The City of Houston’s employees and Shape Up Houston have created a partnership to combat obesity. Shape Up Houston’s weight loss programs are pretty direct and simple – eat right and exercise, but sometimes we need help to do this. Shape Up Houston offers a variety of pro-

grams and assistance to help get people eating right and exercising.

Joining Council Member Pennington were City of Houston Human Resources Director Omar Reid, Shape Up Houston founder Lan Bentsen, and representatives from the American Heart Association. Pennington disclosed, “Several months ago, I saw an ad that began “Can We Talk?” and it addressed the obesity issue we currently face. I noticed my friend, Lan, had initiated the ad on behalf of a non-profit organization he founded in 2011 called Shape Up Houston, which is dedicated to improving the health of Houstonians by reducing obesity. I subsequently called Lan and told him I’d like to help in his crusade to improve the health of Houstonians.”



L to R: Lan Bentsen, Founder, Shape Up Houston; and Council Member Oliver Pennington



Civic Association Registration:

If your Homeowners’ Association, Property Owners’ Association, or Civic Group officially registered with the City of Houston Planning and Development Department? Planning keeps a list of all such civic associations and uses the information for mailing notices, such as requests for variances and notice of special events and street closures in the area. The list is also used by developers to give notice of their intention to build a Housing Tax Credit Project in the City.

Please check the list and see if your civic association is registered, and that your information is current: <http://www.houstontx.gov/cao/civicclubs.pdf>

If you need to register your civic association, or change any of the information currently on file, fill out the interactive PDF and submit it as directed: <http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Forms/complan/CivicAssocForm20110907R.pdf>



Arbor Day Tree Planting in Francklow Park:

Submitted by Greg Daniel, President, Briar Forest Super Neighborhood

Mary Ann Francklow Park, like many city parks, was devastated by the Summer of 2011 drought. Over 419 mature trees were lost. The 7 acres at 1300 Seagler Lane in the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood were originally set aside for a school, but were given to the City of Houston for a park during the 1980s. During its early days, invasive plants were removed and nature trails were cut through the Yaupon Thickets. Those original trails were designed by Don Gray, the same trail director responsible for many of the trails in the Houston Arboretum and the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary.

Friends of Mary Ann Francklow Park (FFP) was organized in 2012 with the goal of revitalizing and restoring the natural park after the drought. FFP is now working with the Houston Parks Department and Houston Parks Board and greatly appreciates the support received from City Forester Victor Cordova and Parks Superintendent Jed Aplaca.

Over 50 volunteers turned out for FFP's first project in late October. This project, called "Pick Up Sticks" was the initial step taken toward being able to participate in the Houston Arbor Day event. Volunteers cleared large branches from the grounds, left after the park's dead trees were culled. The debris hampered the Parks Department's ability to mow and maintain the grounds. After the project's completion, the Parks Department was able to prepare the beds for the first tree planting.

Over 100 volunteers turned out for the first Houston Arbor Day event in Mary Ann Francklow Park on January 26, 2013. Parks Department Division Manager Dave DeMaster and Field Supervisor Michael Driggers arrived early and spaced out the trees on the three beds prepared by Michael in earlier weeks. Students from the Westside High School Ecology Club and the Village School joined with area residents and even a scout troop from as far away as Katy, to plant the 100 trees donated by the City of Houston. All of the trees were planted within 15 minutes!

Friends of Mary Ann Francklow Park will be working with other area groups to bring back the nature trails in the Yaupon Thickets, estab-

lish a pocket prairie, and reforest the 7 acre park. The organization is calling for support, both from the excellent volunteers whom have already given and will continue giving their time, and from donors.

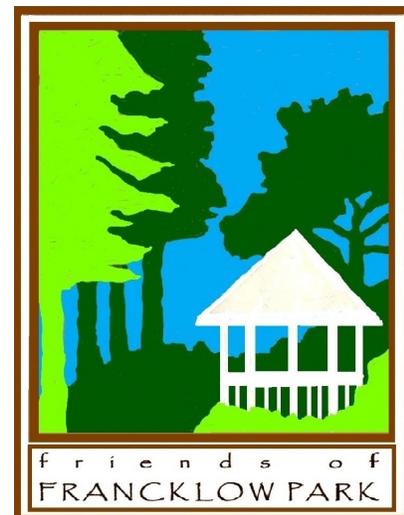
We would like to begin planting many large native species on the interior of the park and prepare for a much larger tree planting. To do so, we will need money for an irrigation system, trees and trail building materials. If you and/or your business are able to help with materials or specialized labor, please contact briarforests18@sbcglobal.net. In addition, if you would like to help fund Mary Ann Francklow Park's restoration, you may make a direct contribution to the Mary Ann Francklow Park account through the Houston Parks Board (please designate MAFP as the recipient).

DONATIONS may be sent to:

Houston Parks Board
300 North Post Oak Lane
Houston, Texas 77024

Please indicate that the donation is for the Mary Ann Francklow Park, Account Number 30288. Or you can donate online. On the Parks Board website, click on "Get Involved", drop down to "Online Donations", select method of payment (credit card, personal or business check), and complete the required information. Under "Donation For", drop down to Mary Ann Francklow Park. <http://www.houstonparksboard.org/root/index.php>

For information regarding Mary Ann Francklow Park and the Friends Board, please see the web page on the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood website (www.briarforests18.org).



Teens in the Driver Seat®:

Submitted by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Too Many Teens are Dying.

Car crashes kill more young people than any other cause, accounting for nearly half of all teen deaths in America each year. Over 3,000 U.S. teens die each year in car crashes; that's the equivalent of a commercial jet loaded with teenagers crashing once every other week for an entire year.

On a per-mile driven basis, teens are far more likely to die in a car crash than experienced drivers. The majority of teen passenger deaths happen when another teenager is driving. For every American teen killed in a car crash, about 100 more are injured. Every 15 minutes, another teenager becomes a statistic. Car crashes involving teenage drivers cost our nation about \$40 billion every year; the annual cost in Texas is more than \$3.5 billion.

Most People Don't Know Why.

The most common causes of teen driving crashes are the ones that young drivers (and their parents) know the least about. Combined with a lack of driving experience, the top five dangers are:

- Driving at night
- Speeding and street racing
- Distractions, such as cell phones / texting and too many teen passengers
- Low seat belt use
- Alcohol use

Alcohol is a factor in only 13 percent of the crashes involving the youngest drivers on the road. Most teens are unaware of the driving restrictions imposed on them by the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws. Serious crashes are more frequent for teens learning through parent-taught driver education.

Teens are a Key Part of the Solution.

Started in 2002, Teens in the Driver Seat® is the first peer-to-peer program for teens that focuses solely on traffic safety and addresses all major risks for this age group.

Teens help shape the program and are responsible for implementing it; TTI provides the science, guidance and project resources. Teens in the

Driver Seat® is available to schools and youth groups at no cost in Texas.

Teens in the Driver Seat® Works.

Teens in the Driver Seat® program assessments show risk awareness levels increasing by up to 200 percent. Cell phone use at Teens in the Driver Seat® program schools has been shown to drop by 30 percent, and seat belt use has gone up by over 14 percent. In Texas, the number of teen drivers involved in fatal crashes has dropped 40 percent and is the only state where fatal crashes involving teen drivers has decreased every year since Teens in the Driver Seat® began. By comparison, fatal crashes involving drivers 20 years of age and older has only dropped 14 percent in Texas.

The city of Garland, Texas experienced 12 teen traffic fatalities in the four years before launching a Teens in the Driver Seat® program; the same city has seen only one teen traffic death in the four years since launching Teens in the Driver Seat®. Before Teens in the Driver Seat®, teen involvement in all crashes was 28 percent; after Teens in the Driver Seat® the teen involvement in crashes dropped to 16 percent.

More than 500 schools now have implemented Teens in the Driver Seat® programs, reaching more than 500,000 teens per year. The program has also been deployed in states outside Texas, including California, Connecticut, Georgia and North Carolina.

The impressive growth of Teens in the Driver Seat®, coupled with the rapid growth of social networking among teens, creates the potential for a "safety culture" among young people and the prospect of saving hundreds of lives each year.

We're Kicking Off Our Teens in the Driver Seat Program!

Car crashes kill more teens than any other cause, accounting for about 3,500 teen deaths per year. Along with inexperience, the top five dangers teens face are ones that young drivers and their parents know the least about: driving at night, speeding and street racing, distractions, low seat belt use, and alcohol use.

Throughout the school year, the Teens in the Driver Seat team will focus on spreading safety messages that focus solely on traffic safety and the top five dangers.



You may visit the Teens in the Driver Seat website at www.t-driver.com for more information about the program.

For a direct link on how students, teachers and/or parents can start the program, visit:

<http://www.t-driver.com/whatyoucando/get-started/>

For additional information from the local representative of the program, contact:

Robert Benz
Regional Coordinator
Teens in the Driver Seat
(713) 686-2971
R-Benz@tamu.edu

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



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Services Available Via 3-1-1

Are you aware that you can request a large number of services from the City of Houston via 3-1-1? To do so, you can call 3-1-1 (or 713-837-0311) or go online at www.houston311.org. Below is just a sample of the types of services that may be requested:

- Obtain Birth and Death Certificates
- Graffiti Removal (on City property or property belonging to ATT, CenterPoint, Harris County Flood Control District, METRO, a railroad, HISD, Toll Road Authority, or TxDOT, City Park, private property, bridge, street or curb)
- Recycling (request new container, report missed collection, repair or replace recycling cart)
- Trash (report missed garbage pickup, apply for backdoor collection due to physical limitation, complaint regarding driver or vehicle, property damage caused by Solid Waste employee, pick up trash dumped on city property or illegal dumpsite, request litter to be picked up on an esplanade, heavy trash violations)
- Esplanade, Right of Way & Median Maintenance (litter removal from esplanade/median, request grass moved on esplanade, request grinding of tree stump in city park, esplanade or right of way, request trimming of trees or shrubs in the Right of way, esplanade or city park, remove tree limbs from right of way)
- Park Maintenance (repairs needed on playground equipment in a city park, request a new amenity in city park, request repair of an amenity in city park, maintenance of ball field in city park, report damage or leaking sprinkler or irrigation system in city park, repairs needed on a trail in a city park, report broken or burned out lights in a city park, request grass mowed in city park)
- Park Safety issues
- Public Pools & Water Parks
- Tree & Tree Planting (report illegal tree removals and damage to city trees on right of way, contact forestry to request a tree to plant in the right of way, esplanade or city park, grinding tree stump in right of way)
- Potholes
- Drainage Inlet Cleaning
- Evaluate Roadside Ditch for Poor Drainage
- Leaking Fire Hydrant
- Broken Parking Meter
- Water Standing on Street, Will Not Drain
- Install New Traffic Signal
- Traffic Signal Maintenance
- New Traffic Signs
- Traffic Signal Timing Synchronization
- Air & Water Quality
- Neighborhood Protection (dangerous buildings, graffiti on private property, heavy trash violation, junk vehicle, neighborhood danger or nuisance)
- Fire Hydrants (leaking, missing cap, leaning or damaged, open running, missing or damaged reflectors)
- Water Meter Leak
- Sewer (investigate sewer odors, sewer stoppage overflow, blockage)
- Water (water line break, missing meter lid, missing valve cover, leaking water valve, cannot turn off water, water line out of water, flooding, clean drain inlet, raised round manhole cover, bad taste in drinking water, debris and particles in drinking water, color reported in drinking water, investigate and test water quality for odors, water/wastewater billing inquiry)