

**HOUSTON  
CITY  
COUNCIL  
DISTRICT  
G**



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# News From District G

December 2014

## To The Residents of District G:

**Merry Christmas, Happy New Year,  
Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays!!!**

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

It has been an exciting and challenging year for all of us in the District office. Constituent services continues to be my top priority. We have been able to assist constituents get potholes filled, street signs erected, turn lanes constructed, water leaks fixed, sewage backups repaired, water billing issues resolved, safe sidewalks erected around schools and on major thoroughfares, dangerous buildings secured, street lights installed, attention getting devices removed, SPARK Parks constructed, roads repaved or concrete panels replaced, missed garbage pickups resolved, speed humps and other Neighborhood Traffic Management Program items considered, sound nuisance issues resolved, improvements made to parks and esplanades, residential parking permit programs implemented, protections under the Prohibited Yard Parking ordinance established, and establishment of several special minimum lot size blocks under Chapter 42 of the Houston Code of Ordinances.

We have worked closely with, and provided assistance to, many of the District G Super Neighborhoods: Memorial #16, Eldridge/West Oaks #17, Briar Forest #18, and Mid-West #20. We have worked closely with TIRZ 17, Uptown Houston, the Upper Kirby District, the Energy Corridor, the Westchase District, and neighborhood HOAs, POAs, and Civic Groups throughout the District.

Each year, one of my proudest accomplishments is approving a balanced city budget *without raising taxes* and without the issuance of pension obligation bonds or other types of debt intended to pay on-going operating expenses. Just as citizens have been watching their finances, the city must continue to tighten its belt and scrutinize its budget. Council and the Administration must continue to discuss and look for ways to maintain a balanced budget without raising taxes.

... Continued on Page 12

### In This Issue:

<b>Holiday Greetings .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Out and About in District G .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Drainage Charge Corrections .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Upper Kirby District Projects .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>West Houston Mobility Plan .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Harris County Attorney's Office .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>HPARD Parks Master Plan II .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Infrastructure Design Manual Revisions .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Parking Tickets .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Holiday Crime Prevention Tips .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Neighborhood Matching Grants .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Woodway Repairs Coming Soon .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Public Library Holiday Closings .....</b>	<b>11</b>



## OUT AND ABOUT IN DISTRICT G



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

- Italian National Day Celebration
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood Meetings
- Dinner at Houston Fire Department Station 78
- H-GAC Meetings
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood Meetings
- Meeting with the Westchase District
- Texas Black Expo Luncheon
- Memorial Super Neighborhood Meetings
- TIRZ 17 Meetings
- ReBuild Houston Advisory Committee Meetings
- Uptown District Meeting
- Meeting with the Upper Kirby District
- Meeting regarding Gus Wortham Golf Course renovations
- Meeting Re: Memorial Park Demonstration Project
- Shepherd Drive Drainage Project Pre-Construction Meeting
- Public Meeting Re: Post Oak Corridor
- Meeting Re: Gillette Street Property
- Shepherd Drive Drainage and Paving Project Public Meeting
- Westchase District Advisory Board Meeting
- Larchmont Neighborhood Street Reconstruction Project Community Meeting
- HPD Westside Positive Interaction Program
- Meet with new PWE Director
- Meetings Re: Food Truck Ordinance Amendments
- Heroes of Faith Gala
- HEB Backpack Blast Charity Event
- Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce Elected Officials Reception

- State Representative Jim Murphy Town Hall Meeting
- TIRZ 17 Public Meeting Re: Proposed Annexation Plan
- West Houston Leadership Institute Panel Discussion
- Frost Bank Grand Opening
- Meeting Regarding Memorial Park Master Plan
- Tanglewood Park Public Meeting Re: Proposed Improvements
- Belmont Village Senior Living Center Ribbon Cutting
- Public Hearings on Proposed Tax Rates
- ACEC Reception for New PWE Director Dale Rudick
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Elected Officials Reception and Annual Awards Banquet
- National Night Out Celebrations Across the District
- Houston General Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
- Meeting with HPD Captain and Assistant Chief Re: Westside Vagrant Issues
- Community Trust Bank Open Houston
- Meeting with the Board of Directors of the Cosmopolitan
- Women Contractors Association Reception Honoring Elected Officials
- Episcopal High School Founders Day
- Houston Parks Board Annual Luncheon
- Briarcroft POA Annual Meeting
- Houston West Chamber of Commerce Annual Health & Wellness Luncheon
- Houston Realty Business Coalition Breakfast
- Department of Neighborhoods Super Neighborhood Action Plan (SNAP) Workshop at the Central Library
- Moores School Luncheon
- Mid-West Super Neighborhood Meeting

## Notification of Drainage Utility Charge Correction

Our office has been notified that Public Works & Engineering (PWE) is currently implementing a citywide update effort for determination of impervious surface data, the basis on which the Drainage Utility Fee is charged.

### Why the changes?

PWE informed our office that the first most obvious change is that the aerial imagery used in the effort is four years newer than what was used in the first year. When this was implemented as a result of Proposition 1 in 2010, the aerial imagery used in this capacity was a cutting edge technology and like most technologies, has improved. Additionally, the processing of the imagery is an ongoing learning process. Changes such as property additions or demolitions would also be a part of the amount of impervious square footage change.

The application becomes more "intelligent" as variables learned are introduced, which allows PWE to get better at refining the imagery by refining the color of the infrared based on three years of experience in relating what they know to what they see in the infrared imagery.

However, according to PWE, the most significant corrective action taken was based on a manual update. After three years of the program, PWE felt a quality check of every property would be in order. Therefore, the properties identified for change were all based on manual measurements and then those measurements were quality checked via accepted sampling techniques. This manual check was primarily needed due to the significant tree canopy in Houston that covers some impervious surface even in the winter months when the imagery is created.

According to PWE, what all of this leads to is a more accurate accounting of the actual impervious square footage on each property.

If the amount of impervious surface on your property is being adjusted upward, we are

told by PWE that you will receive a determination letter with the verification and correction forms with your water bill. One is titled "**Request for Verification of Drainage Charge**". This is the form you need to complete to challenge the numbers the City is using to calculate your Drainage Utility Charge.

Please review your water bills very carefully, especially for any changes to your Drainage Utility Charge. If your Drainage Utility Charge has been increased, and you do not agree with the new determination of the amount of square footage of impervious surface, you may use the Verification and Correction forms that will be distributed with your first revised water bill, or you may visit <http://verify.rebuildhouston.org/prod/mydrain.htm> to request a Verification and Correction.

If you are unsatisfied with the determination of the number of square feet of impervious surface on your property, there are four ways to submit your request for a Verification and Correction form to challenge the new charge:

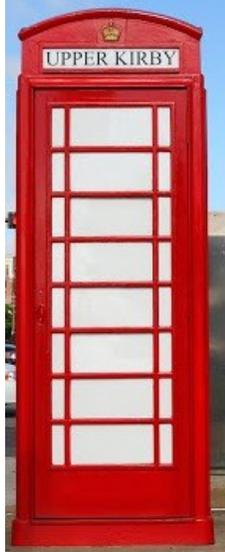
- **Website:** submit your request online at [www.houstonwater.org](http://www.houstonwater.org)
- **Email:** submit your request by emailing it to [drainage@houstontx.gov](mailto:drainage@houstontx.gov)
- **Fax:** submit your request by faxing it to 713-371-1002
- **Mail:** submit your request by mail to P.O. Box 4863, Houston, TX 77210-4863

If you have any questions regarding your request, please call the Customer Service Center at **713-371-1111**.



**REBUILD HOUSTON**  
better streets. better drainage. better future.  
thumbs up for progress

## Upper Kirby District Construction Project Updates



The Upper Kirby District, TIRZ No. 19 (“TIRZ 19”) is currently engaged in an aggressive Capital Improvement Program that seeks to reconstruct virtually all major thoroughfares within the District boundaries. With all of these vital inner-loop arterials being over 60-years old, it has become increasingly evident that the infrastructure is inadequate at all levels.

The primary focus of these improvements is storm drainage improvement and flood mitigation, the need for which was made painfully clear following Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. As storm infrastructure is brought up to adequate capacity, TIRZ 19 is upgrading water and sanitary infrastructure, traffic signal infrastructure and reconstructing the roadways.

The Upper Kirby Management District (“UKMD”) is partnering with TIRZ 19 in a parallel Capital Improvement Plan that will overlay pedestrian amenities; landscaping and overhead utility burial on top of these needed infrastructure projects. Below is a summary of several major projects.

### **Westheimer Reconstruction: Shepherd to Buffalo Speedway**

The Westheimer Reconstruction effort began last year with overhead utility burial between Shepherd and Kirby and is in the final month of utility burial efforts between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway. Once the overhead utility poles are removed, the path will be clear for storm drainage and roadway reconstruction to begin.

The storm drainage, pavement and streetscape improvements on Westheimer between Shepherd and Buffalo Speedway is the final storm lateral improvement tying into the recently reconstructed Kirby system that takes water from the area north to Buffalo Bayou and south to Braes Bayou. In combination with Upper Kirby projects on Kirby between Westheimer and US 59, and on Rich-

mond between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway, completion of this project will mark substantial completion of the Kirby drainage system and a huge relief to the area. Road width, profile and lane configuration will not change as a result of these improvements.

This project began last summer and is anticipated to last approximately 300 days. In coordination with City of Houston work on Shepherd from Westheimer to the Buffalo Bayou, Upper Kirby intends to begin the Westheimer work between Shepherd and Greenbriar under an expedited schedule to be sure that Westheimer construction is far enough west so as to not interfere with City work on Shepherd approaching from the north. Construction will then continue west to Kirby with storm, sanitary and water improvements followed by new concrete installation. The final piece of the project will be back-of-curb improvements that include pedestrian lighting, street trees, pedestrian furniture, upgraded bus shelters and widened sidewalks. The contractor will be prohibited from working on Westheimer between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day but will be allowed to work on lateral streets during this time.

The Westheimer schedule is dependent on the ongoing City of Houston project on Shepherd being far enough north of the Shepherd/Westheimer intersection that the Upper Kirby contractor can take possession of that intersection. If the City is still working there in January, this timeline will be impacted.

Once complete, similar efforts will continue west on Westheimer between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway and should also take approximately 300 days as well putting final completion of Westheimer between Shepherd and Buffalo Speedway around Summer 2016.

### **Shepherd Reconstruction: Westheimer to US 59**

Following the completion of the Upper Kirby Westheimer reconstruction project and the

City of Houston Shepherd work north of Westheimer, Upper Kirby will be ready to begin work on Shepherd south of Westheimer to US 59. A parallel drainage system to Kirby Drive, the Shepherd/Greenbriar drainage system is the second system that carries water out of the District north to Buffalo Bayou and south to Braes Bayou. It is also in competition with Westheimer for the poorest pavement condition passing through the Upper Kirby area.

The scope of this project will follow the model of other Upper Kirby work beginning with utility burial and finishing with new drainage, sanitary, water and pavement improvements and pedestrian streetscape installation.

### **Eastside Reconstruction: Westheimer to US 59**

Eastside was identified in a 2010 Livable Centers Study as an important north/south pedestrian connection for the District. Connecting new density developments, retail and restaurant destinations and educational and faith-based institutions on Westheimer with the West Alabama and Richmond arterials and Levy Park on the south end, Eastside Street is one of the most used pedestrian ways in the District with one of the worst pedestrian environments.

It also connects the two most used transit routes in the District in Westheimer and Richmond to Upper Kirby destinations. The TIRZ 19 and Upper Kirby District Foundation's massive renovation of Levy Park into a programmed public destination scheduled to begin early this fall further highlights the need for Eastside to be a safe, accessible roadway for people and for cars. Work on Eastside will include complete roadway replacement and pedestrian improvements that will connect to a newly improved Westheimer and future West Alabama and Richmond pedestrian improvements to strengthen the walkable network throughout the District. The ultimate goal is to provide residents and patrons clean, safe alternatives modes to access virtually any destination in the area.

### **Levy Park Renovation**

Levy Park sits along the cul-de-sac at the south end of Eastside Street between Richmond and US 59. Virtually the only public green-space in the Upper Kirby area, Levy Park has suffered from inactivity due to its lack of access and visibility. It hides behind buildings on Richmond on its northern edge and US 59 on its southern edge, all of which currently face away from the park.

Over the past 12 years, Upper Kirby has been planning the renaissance of Levy Park and with the help of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Upper Kirby District Foundation and private sector partners, and is finally ready to begin construction on a world-class public space and new destination for the community.

TIRZ 19 has been successful in strategically acquiring properties adjacent to the park that now allow Levy to extend from Eastside to Wakeforest opening up additional access points off of Richmond and the US 59 frontage road and expanding the size of the park from five-and-a-half acres to six acres. Recognizing that for the park to be activated it was important that there be active edges filled with complementary uses. To that end, Upper Kirby solicited proposals from local developers to plan complementary projects on parcels on both the north and south ends of the reconfigured park that will catalyze park activity and help sustain the park long-term. Upper Kirby selected Midway as a partner and entered into two, 99-year ground leases the proceeds of which will insure the park is maintained independent of the City budget for the duration of the lease.

TIRZ 19 will be partnering with the Upper Kirby District Foundation, (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on community and quality of life improvements) to fund over \$10 million in public park amenities, transforming Levy Park into a world-class urban space. At the heart of the Upper Kirby District, Levy Park will serve as a community focal point and a venue to host events and district-centered programming. The Levy Park renovation is anticipated to commence in late 2014 and will include native landscaping, amazing playscapes, interactive water features, a performance pavilion, an event lawn, a community garden and dog park. The park will feature curated, year-round programming that will feature farmer's markets, craft markets, outdoor health and wellness programs, family activities and musical and visual arts performances.

To sign up for the weekly Upper Kirby e-news or for more information on Upper Kirby projects and activities, contact Travis Younkin 713-524-8000 or [travis@upperkirby.org](mailto:travis@upperkirby.org).

**Construction Updates:** <http://www.upperkirbydistrict.org/enewsarchive.html>

## West Houston Mobility Plan: Final Public Meeting



### Final Public Meeting:

**December 18  
@ 6:00 p.m.**

### Study Area:

- North: FM529
- East: Campell/Blalock/Fondren
- South: Bellaire Blvd.
- West: SH 99, the Grand Parkway

The Houston–Galveston Area Council (H–GAC), in partnership with City of Houston, the West Houston Association, the Westchase District, the Energy Corridor, the Texas Department of Transportation and others, is conducting a study to develop long-range mobility and land use strategies for the greater west Houston area.

The fourth and final public meeting and open house which was supposed to take place on Thursday, November 6th has been rescheduled to Thursday, **December 18, 2014 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** to present findings on existing conditions, future population and employment growth scenarios, and potential infrastructure and policy strategies in the study area. Area residents, business owners, community members and local officials are invited to attend a public meeting to provide comments.

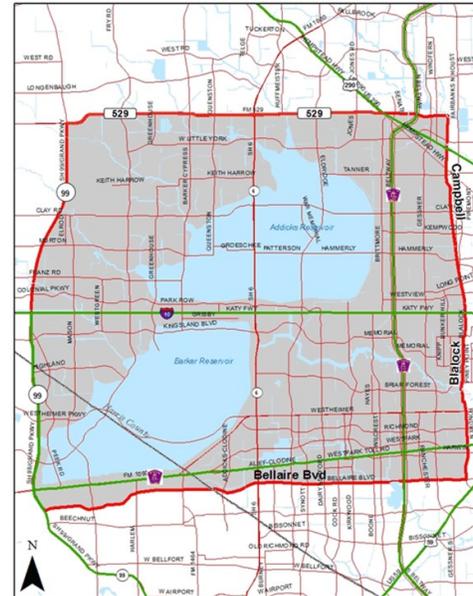
### Thursday December 18, 2014

**Wolfe Elementary School  
502 Addicks-Howell Rd, Houston, TX 77079  
6:00-8:00 PM**

6:00-6:30 PM Registration/Open House  
6:30-7:00 PM Presentation  
7:00-8:00 PM Q&A/Discussion

If you have any questions regarding this study or the final public meeting, please contact Stephan Gage at (713) 499-6692, or by email to [Stephan.Gage@h-gac.com](mailto:Stephan.Gage@h-gac.com).

More Information: <http://mywesthouston.com/>



## Speakers Available from the Harris County Attorney's Office



**VINCE RYAN**  
Harris County Attorney

The Office of Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan kindly notified our office that the County Attorney's Office has speakers who are available to address civic groups, HOAs, POAs, and Super Neighborhoods on a wide variety of topics, including:

- Adult Guardianship/Mental Health
- Bandit Signs
- Child and Adult Protective Services
- County Regulations
- Using Civil Law to Fight Crime
- Dangerous Animals/Animal Cruelty
- Deed Restrictions
- Environmental Protection
- Getting Rid of Businesses That Attract Crime
- Human Trafficking
- Introducing the County Attorney's Office

- Living Wills/Advance Directives
- Public Integrity
- When the County Needs Your Property
- Wills and Probate
- Elder Financial Exploitation

To schedule a speaker for your group, contact Debbie Tyler Dillard, Community Outreach Director at (713) 274-5109 or [debbie.dillard@cao.hctx.net](mailto:debbie.dillard@cao.hctx.net)

A community service of:

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan  
1019 Congress Avenue, 15th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 755-5101  
<http://www.co.harris.tx.us/coatty/>

## Update on the HPARD Parks Master Plan II Process

The 2007 Houston Parks & Recreation Department ("HPARD") Master Plan, last published in 2008, presented the vision of the residents of Houston and the goals, or "Big Moves", to be made by HPARD in the next 20 years. The Master Plan is revisited every 5 years to evaluate and make adjustments based on physical, social, policy and technological changes so that it remains a relevant guidance document. Since 2007, the City of Houston has been divided into 21 Park Sectors and analysis at this level is being done in this Phase II of the Master Plan to assess park needs in the community.

The next opportunity for citizen input in the HPARD Master Parks Plan II process will be at our next District G Capital Improvement Plan meeting to be held next Spring (typically, early to mid March).

Representatives from HPARD will be on hand with survey data and other information and will be available to accept additional comments or answer questions. Please continue to gather your suggestions for the future of Houston's park system.

To get involved: Email HPARD at [parksmasterplan@houstontx.gov](mailto:parksmasterplan@houstontx.gov) so they can add you to their contact list and send you updates as they become available.

To view the 2007 HPARD Master Plan (the last update was completed and adopted by Council on March 26, 2008), please visit:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/2007/2007masterplan-final.pdf>



## Revisions to the City of Houston Infrastructure Design Manual

On December 1, the Office of the City Engineer's revised Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) took effect. While the majority of the manual is for Right of Way regulation, the storm drainage requirements that govern private property will be affected by this update.

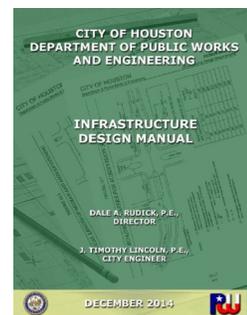
The following are some notable changes affecting private development:

- Single Family Residential lots over 15,000 square feet will be required to provide detention if the lot has over 65% impervious cover, where previously it was 75%. See Section 9.05(H)(3)(b). NOTE: Approved porous pavers can be considered as pervious for up to 10% of the lot areas defined in Chapter 13 of the IDM.
- The detention volume calculation is being updated to incorporate existing impervious areas.
- When a development contains a shared driveway, a detention calculation volume of 0.20 acre feet/area is required.
- The Stormwater Detention requirements are

contained in Section 9.05(H). Payment in lieu of on-site detention is covered in Section 9.05(H)(2)(a), and is currently only available in proximity to three city detention facilities: Inwood Forest (under construction), Parker Road (under construction), and the Myer Tract (the only currently existing facility with excess capacity).

For more information regarding these changes, please contact the City of Houston Storm Drainage Section at 832-394-8810.

To view the revised documents, visit: <http://edocs.publicworks.houstontx.gov/engineering-and-construction/design-manuals/city-of-houston-infrastructure-design-manual.html>



## Parking Tickets

We have heard from a number of constituents that they have recently received parking tickets on their neighborhood residential streets. In order to educate constituents, we would like to point out some of the more common parking violations:

- 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 the 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 on-line 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 follow the signs to the basement, 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 Crosswalk



### Parked Within 15 Feet of a Fire Hydrant



### Parking More Than 18 Inches From the Curb



## Holiday Crime Prevention & Safety Tips from HPD



The Houston Police Department Provides the Following Crime Prevention Tips Relating to the Holiday Season:

### While Shopping:

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

### In Parking Lots:

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case

you leave during the hours of darkness.

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

### At Home:

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

### If You Are Traveling:

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

### Take an Inventory:

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

More from HPD on Crime Prevention is available at this link: [http://www.houstontx.gov/police/keep\\_houston\\_safe/home](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/keep_houston_safe/home)



## Neighborhood Matching Grant Program



A budget amendment passed by Council last June brought back the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program (NMGP) with \$50,000 in funding. This program is a reimbursement matching grant for neighborhood projects between \$500 to \$5,000. The program is being administered by the Department of Neighborhoods.

The NMGP helps neighborhoods fund various beautification and improvements projects of public spaces by providing dollar-for-dollar matching grant reimbursements ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. The program is designed to cultivate the spirit of volunteerism, while at the same time beautifying our neighborhoods.

District G is proud to announce that six of its neighborhoods were chosen to participate in the program. The six neighborhoods that were selected for funding through the NMGP include:

1. **Afton Oaks Civic Club, Inc.** Afton Oaks was awarded \$2,845.13 (out of a total project cost of \$13,831.08) for a landscaping and irrigation project to be installed in the esplanade of the 3100 block of Newcastle, and the traffic triangle at the intersection of Kettering and the 3200 block of Newcastle.
2. **Nottingham Elementary PTA.** The Nottingham Elementary PTA was awarded \$2,845.16 (out of a total project cost of \$10,023.25) to assist in landscaping the new SPARK Park at Nottingham Elementary School. Plans for the park include a new walking track, benches, leveled field, trash cans and fitness equipment. NMGP funds will be used for landscaping once the park amenities are in place, and to replace sod in several muddy areas on the school playground.
3. **The Royden Oaks AOPO.** The Royden Oaks AOPO was awarded \$2,845.13 (out of a total project cost of \$34,303.00) to assist in their Willowick Esplanade Beautification Project, 2200-2500 Willowick. Each of the five esplanades on Willowick between Westheimer and San Felipe will be replanted with new shrubs and flowering plants. Dead and/or misshapen plants will be removed and replaced with healthy varieties. The current irrigation system will also be updated to accommodate the new landscaping. Also, pavers will be added to the endcaps at each of the esplanades to create a safe resting place for pedestrians trying to cross Willowick

(there is a school and a Houston Public Library branch directly across the street from this neighborhood).

4. **Tanglewood Homes Association.** Tanglewood Homes was awarded \$2,845.13 (out of a total project cost of \$11,652.50) to assist in completing the Woodway Esplanade Ground Cover Project. Several of the esplanades of Woodway in and around the 5400 Block are so severely shaded with large tree canopies that other plants underneath have completely died off and left nothing but dirt in the esplanades. Tanglewood Homes will replant these esplanades with an attractive ground cover that is shade tolerant. Irrigation for the new plantings is already in place and will be utilized by Tanglewood Homes.
5. **Lakes of Parkway HOA, Inc.** Lakes of Parkway was awarded \$2,845.13 (out of a total project cost of \$24,832.50) to complete the Briar Forest Beautification Project. Lakes of Parkway will plant nearly three dozen large trees (from 35-100 gallon) on the south side of Briar Forest, north of the Lakes of Parkway neighborhood, from Briar Home Dr. on the west to just past the neighborhood's eastern boundary.
6. **Lakeside Improvement Association.** The Lakeside Improvement Association was awarded \$2,845.13 (out of a total project cost of \$8,624.00) to assist in its Lakeside Subdivision Marker (Riverview Entrance) Project. Lakeside Improvement Association will construct a stone monument to mark the entrance to Lakeside Forest from Wilcrest and Riverview Drive. The marker will be placed in a cul-de-sac garden that is heavily landscaped and maintained by the association.

We are very proud to see the level of interest in District G for beautifying the public spaces around our neighborhoods. Not only do projects like this provide a tangible benefit by beautifying our neighborhoods for residents and the traveling public, they also create community spirit and bring out the very best in volunteers. Congratulations!!

## Woodway Concrete Panel Replacement Project to Begin in Early 2015

At long last, it looks like the City of Houston Woodway Concrete Panel Replacement Project is about to get underway. Forty-two (42) of the worst of the concrete panels making up Woodway from Voss to Chimney Rock will be replaced. The Uptown District has completed its rehabilitation work on Woodway between Chimney Rock and Memorial (just inside 610 loop), and the City is about to begin where they left off and move the work west to Voss.

Construction is planned to begin right after the first of the year (contractor mobilization on January 5, 2015) and is currently anticipated to be completed by November-December, 2015. The project contractor is Main Lane Industries, Ltd.

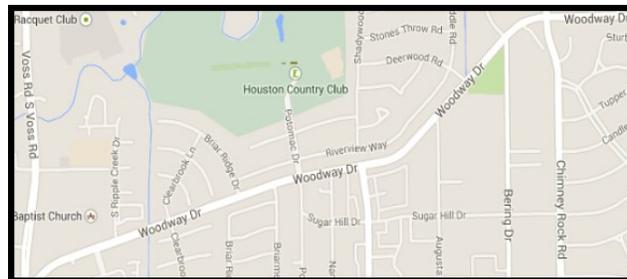
A previous notification stated that the project was scheduled to begin on September 8, 2014. Following this initial announcement, PWE decided to review the traffic and construction impacts further before starting the work, and has been working to minimize traffic-related impacts from this much needed improvement to this very busy corridor.

This project provides for the concrete panel replacement of Woodway Drive from S. Voss to Chimney Rock with the repair and improvement to curbs and accessible ramps. The project will improve road surface drivability and accessibility

while prolonging the life of the roadway. The project will include the construction of reinforced concrete pavement, base repair, and pavement markings as needed.

The work is scheduled to be performed during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Lane closures associated with this work will be phased to minimize impact to traffic with work zones generally limited to 800 feet at a time. The total project cost is \$1,600,000.

If you have any questions about this project, please call (832) 395-2090 or email [pvecip@houston.tx.gov](mailto:pvecip@houston.tx.gov).



## Houston Public Library Holiday Hours & Closings

Please be aware that all Houston Public Library branches will be closed on December 24 & 25 for observance of the Christmas holiday. All Houston Public Library branches will also be closed New Year's Day (January 1, 2015) and will be closing at 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve (December 31).

### **HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:**

#### **Christmas Holiday**

- Closed Wednesday, December 24, 2014
- Closed Thursday, December 25, 2014
- In addition, the downtown Central

Library & the Julia Ideson Building will be closed for HVAC maintenance December 26-28, 2014. Thus the Central Library and the Julia Ideson will be closed December 24-28.

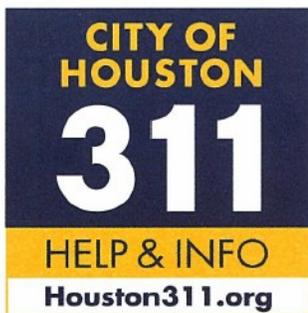
#### **New Year's Day Holiday**

- Wednesday, December 31, 2014 (all branches will close at 6 PM)
- Closed Thursday, January 1, 2015

For additional information regarding the Houston Public Library, or this Holiday schedule of closings, visit: [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org), or call 832-393-1313.



If you would like to receive periodic emails from 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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As you may be aware, last May the Parker Administration predicted the City will have a \$144 Million budget deficit in FY2016, a \$163 Million budget deficit in FY2017, a \$207 Million budget deficit in FY2018, and a \$184 Million budget deficit in FY2019. Seeing this writing on the wall, I attempted to start the difficult process of reining in spending again last summer with two budget amendments. One of my budget amendments would have reduced the proposed FY2015 General Fund Expenditures Other Than Debt Service by 3.5%, saving the City nearly \$70 Million, with the remainder being designated to the Fund Balance and used to offset budget deficits in FY2016. This would have cured nearly one half of the anticipated shortfall for FY2016. My other amendment would have made the same reduction, but only by 2.5%, saving the City nearly \$50 Million, with the remainder being designated to the Fund Balance and used to offset expected budget deficits in FY2016. Unfortunately, neither of these budget amendments passed Council.

Since the City is no longer required to make a scheduled \$50 Million payment to the Houston Police Officers' Pension System this year and next year, the anticipated budget deficits have been reduced, as of a December 9 report from the Finance Department, to \$63 Million for FY2016, \$78 Million for FY2017, \$112 Million for FY2018, and \$84 Million for FY2019. Despite these current reductions in the anticipated budget deficits over the next two fiscal years, we must continue to look for ways to cut spending in City government. We still have large deficits to tackle.

In the past, it seemed that each year Council would line up at budget time to fight over how to spend any excess revenues over projections received by the City. I have fought hard to put any excess revenue into our savings account and hold it to offset deficits in succeeding years. For the second year in a row, Council Member Martin and I offered and successfully passed an amendment that designates all General Fund revenues above approximately \$2.2 Billion to Fund Balance and prohibits, with certain limitations, the appropriation of any funds in excess of that. The net effect is that if the City raises more money this fiscal year than anticipated, it will not be spent but saved and applied against next year's anticipated deficit.

Another one of my top priorities continues to be crime prevention. As we all know, the number one function of the city is to provide a safe environment for its citizens. As I have throughout the year, I continue to urge the Mayor and the Police Chief to provide additional law enforcement resources to District G. Furthermore, we continue to create innovative ways for additional crime prevention measures. For example, we have been working again with the technical advisors to Operation Westside Success to get the west side video security system back up and running and to have additional security cameras mounted in hot spots selected by HPD. You will learn more about this great project in the coming year. We believe this is another tool to help fight crime in the District.

The holiday season is a wonderful time for us to remember our friends and constituents who help make our jobs a pleasure all year long. The District G Office would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and send our best wishes to you and your families. May your New Year be filled with all the success and happiness you deserve.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you at City Hall.

**Council Member Oliver Pennington**