



The Green Gazette...

Your District K News

January- February 2012

To the Residents of District K:

Welcome to the Green Gazette. My staff and I are thrilled to serve the citizens of the newly formed District K.

District K stretches from the edge of the Texas Medical Center to the portion of Houston within Fort Bend County. The District also includes the Reliant/Astrodome complex, two management districts, and two school districts -- Houston ISD and Fort Bend ISD.

As the District office continues to work diligently to solve many constituent issues in a timely manner, we strongly encourage you to continue to access the City of Houston's 311 system (via phone or online: 311@houstontx.gov). Please feel free to contact the District K office as a follow-up to your 311 request. The District K contact number is 832-393-3016.

I hope you will find the Green Gazette an informative and helpful publication. This is our first issue and we enthusiastically welcome your feedback on how to improve the quality of life and broaden economic development in District K. Please forward your ideas and comments by email to districtk@houstontx.gov.

Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve.

Sincerely,

Houston Council Member Larry V. Green, Esq.

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT K

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District K Strategy Meetings

Over the past two months, Council Member Green hosted six (6) strategy meetings within the District, three (3) of which took place in December of 2011 prior to taking office. strategy meetings were designed to get a viewpoint from community leaders per their immediate community challenges facing their respective neighborhood.

This action has allowed Council Member Green to have a jump-start while meeting with department heads relative to each community's specific need. The participating communities involved in these meetings include Brays Oaks, Westbury, Hiram Clark, Fort Bend Houston, Willow Meadows/Willowbend/Westwood, and South Braeswood.

Our office would like to thank those communities for taking the time to meet and discuss all their community challenges and concerns.

District K Satellite Office



District K is excited to announce a satellite office at the Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center, 3810 West Fuqua (between Hiram Clarke & Buffalo Speedway). The hours are 8:30 AM-5:30 PM on Tuesday's, Thursday's, and Friday's. The only exception is the fourth Thursday of every month.

One of our staff members, Vivian Harris, will be available to assist you with your community concerns. You may also contact Mrs. Harris Vivian at 832-393-4203 or Vivian.harris@houstontx.gov.

District K Deed Restriction Workshop

District K will host a Deed Restriction Workshop at the Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center, 3810 West Fuqua St., on Saturday, February 25 from 10:30 AM -1:30 PM. Be informed and learn of the new

Scheduler

Vivian Harris
Special Projects

Office Contact Number:
(832) 393-3016

Keep up with Green
Online



DONATE TODAY!

If you cannot volunteer, please make a contribution today to help fund our victory. Your contributions will have a serious impact on this race. To help make a difference you can click the link below.

Log on to www.greenfordistrictk.com or click the Piryx link below:



developments the Texas State Laws have changed regarding deed restrictions.

This workshop will consist of experts who will be able to provide answers to many questions regarding these new laws that may affect your existing deed restrictions. Learn what your community's restrictions are in order to ensure a neighborhood's stability and further enhance compatible development. Bring your current deed restrictions for review by our attorney.

Contact our District K office at 832-393-3016 to RSVP for the Workshop. Deadline date to RSVP is Thursday, February 23rd.

District K FY 2013-2017 CIP Meeting Scheduled

The annual District K Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Westbury High School Auditorium, 11911 Chimney Rock Rd., 77035.

The City's CIP is a 5-year plan that lists the projects the City intends to construct. The plan, approved annually by City Council as part of the City's budget process, organizes projects by priority and identifies funding sources for anticipated projects.

You may make any CIP request at the meeting, whether for streets or drainage, or for parks, libraries, etc.

We anticipate Mayor Parker and Public Works & Engineering Dept., Director Daniel Krueger will attend the CIP meeting and give an update on Rebuild Houston, which is the street and drainage rebuilding program.

The CIP meeting will also include a presentation of the 2012 Annual Consolidated Plan via the Housing and Community Development Dept.

These meetings provide citizens the opportunity to participate in the budget process by contributing comments and suggestions about CIP-related need, services and improvements.

All operational maintenance items should be forwarded to 3-1-1 or via e-mail at 311@houstontx.gov.



Willow Pool Lease Extension

Representatives with the Friends of Willow Pool and Council Member Green have been in constant communication toward working on a solution to extend the existing lease for the Willow Pool. We will save our pool!

Willow Pool is one of the last neighborhood pools in the Houston city limits. Thanks to the adjacent neighborhoods that came together near Willow Park, a swimming pool was built to provide recreation for those in proximity to those neighborhoods. In essence, the Willow Pool has become a focal point and recreational green space for this community.

"We have received numerous e-mails regarding the interest and sincere affection in keeping Willow Pool open," said Council Member Green.

Chapter 42 Land Developments Ordinance Amendments

Public meetings to discuss amendments to Chapter 42 of the Houston Code of Ordinances governing land development (i.e., extending the "Urban Area" land development regulations from Loop 610 out to Beltway 8, etc.) have now been scheduled. Anyone may attend any meeting(s) at any location(s):

Thursday, **February 23** 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Northeast Multi-Service Center
9720 Spaulding
Houston, TX 77016

Thursday, **March 1** 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sharpstown Community Center
6600 Harbor Town Drive
Houston, TX 77036

Thursday, **March 8** 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Trini Mendenhall SOSA Community Center
1414 Wirt
Houston, TX 77055

The Chapter 42 Amendments will address the following topics:

- Average lot size/lot width in new subdivision plats
- Creation of guest parking for certain single-family residential units
- Redefining the width and length of shared driveway developments
- Requiring sign posting in residential subdivisions which contain certain reserves
- Establishing a protocol for naming partial replats
- Extending the "Urban Area" beyond Loop 610 to the Beltway
- Allowing building line overhang encroachments of 30 inches and allowing a five foot building line encroachment for outside stairs

- or wheelchair ramps
- Surveyed site plans for single-family residential plats
- Resolving the conflict between Chapter 42 and the Design Manual for Lift Station Sites

These ordinance amendments will also result in changes to the Building Code and the Public Works & Engineering Department's Infrastructure Design Manual. The primary reasons to expand the Urban Area out to the Beltway are to allow for obsolete commercial and multi-family areas to be redeveloped and to provide a variety of housing styles and prices for close-in housing.

With areas outside the city limits continuing to develop and build middle income housing, there is a concern for the loss of middle income families and neighborhoods in the city.

The new "Urban Area" regulations will not apply in any subdivision with valid deed restrictions that: prohibit the subdivision of lots, set minimum lot sizes, restrict land use to single family residential use, and provide for building setbacks (either in the deed restrictions themselves or by reference to a recorded plat showing the building setback lines).

A Summary of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 42 (including additional proposed amendments to Minimum Lot Size and Building Lines can be found on the Planning Dept.'s website:
http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs_pdfs/Chapter42_Proposed-Summary.pdf

Among the proposed amendments are the following:

Expanding the Urban Area: this amendment would expand the "Urban Area" to include all areas in the City limits that are within Beltway 8. This designation allows for reduced building line requirements for certain developments along major thoroughfares with a designated width of less than 80 feet. It would also allow for reduced compensating open space requirements and the use of shared driveways. The amendments would also expand the area eligible to seek Special Minimum Lot Size and Special Minimum Building Line status.

Guest Parking: the proposed amendments would require one guest parking space for every six dwelling units. Existing on-street parking in front of the development would count toward fulfilling the total parking requirements.

Building Line Encroachments: the amendment would allow an encroachment into a platted building setback line of 10 feet or greater of up to 30 inches for roof eaves, bay windows, balconies, fireplace chimneys or decorative features that are cantilevered into the setback line. The amendment would also allow for building setback line encroachment of up to five feet for open stairways or wheelchair ramps.

Average Lot Size/Average Lot Width: the amendments would allow greater flexibility for a mix of housing prices within a subdivision by allowing for lots of less than 1400 square feet if the average area in the

block face is at least 1400 square feet, and allowing for a minimum lot width of 15 feet if the average width in the block face is at least 18 feet.

Linwood Park Activity

The Parks and Recreation Department made strides with maintenance up-keep in Linkwood Park after contacting the District K council office. Six (6) trucks from the Parks and Recreation Department arrived at the park armed with paint, new playground equipment, and maintenance tools. playground has a fresh coat of paint which includes the replacement of the bridge and swing bar, new seats added to the swing-set, and fresh mulch will be delivered to the playgrounds. "Be sure to bring your kids and furry friends on leashes out to the park during the weekend to see the renovations. this "spring" weather in February, it's sure to be a great time to spend some time at the park" said Jenna Arnold, one of the founders of Families of South Braeswood.

"Many thanks to Larry Green and the Dream Team...for prompting this needed attention to Linkwood Park.It's wonderful to know we have a partner in our neighborhood improvement efforts."

Houston Chinese Church Update

The Houston Chinese Church approached the City of Houston last year in reference to purchasing the adjacent property between their church and the newly constructed West Belfort Ave. at US 90A (South Main St.) because the adjoining property is City-owned, the Church feared the land would be sold via a closed bid process. Administrators of the Church contacted the District K council office to facilitate a meeting with the General Services Department to seek how the Church can bid for the surplus land. The City has agreed to negotiate solely with the Chinese Church on the purchase of the land.

Economic Development for Reliant/Astrodome Area

Council Member Green has an economic development vision for the vicinity surrounding the Reliant/Astrodome complex and the adjoining areas. With the support of the residential communities west of South Main St., Council Member Green is seeking the possibility of a management district which will further entice positive economic development to an area that has been overlooked for so long. The council office will keep you posted.

No Tax-Credit Apartments in Bray Oaks Community

With the strong support of the constituents in Brays Oaks, Council Member Green was able to persuade a developer not to build anymore tax-credit apartments in the Brays Oaks community. This community has its fair-share of apartments complexes. With a number of tax-credit apartment complexes in the regional vicinity, Council Member Green doesn't see a need for another tax-credit apartment complex in the Brays Oaks community.

Council Member Green heard from the constituents of Brays Oaks and made his judgment based on the will of the people. Thanks Brays Oaks Management District, Brays Oaks Super Neighborhood Council, Southwest Houston 2000, Inc. and other civic organizations for supporting Council Member Green in this decision.

Chasewood Community Water Supply

Last year, the Chasewood community, along with other adjacent communities, contacted the City of Houston in reference to a concern about the capped water wells. As an ongoing effort to convert groundwater to surface water to meet Harris Galveston Subsidence District' s requirements, a surface water transmission line project was completed in 2010 which afforded the City to take the Chasewood facility out of service and it has not been used since. The City completed the physical plugging of all three wells associated with this facility in early 2011. The neighborhoods around the Chasewood area now receive surface water treated at the City's East Water Purification Plant and re-pumped through the Sims Bayou facility. District K will continue to monitor this issue.

Northfield I & II HOA Meetings

Last month, after a few weeks in office, Council Member Green was cordially invited to speak before the Northfield I & II annual homeowners association meeting. Council Member Green had the opportunity to introduce the assigned Constituent Liaison for the Brays Oaks area, Barbara Hite. Barbara was the constituent liaison assigned to the Brays Oaks during the Council Member Anne Clutterbuck's tenure.

"This year's annual meeting attendance was overwhelmingly positive and both Council Member Green and Barbara Hite were well-received," states Vincent Sanders, President of the Northfield I & II HOA.

New City Council Committees Announced



The numerous City Council Committees have been consolidated and streamlined into just 6 committees by Mayor Parker. The Mayor has appointed Council Member Green to four (4) of the six Council Committees. The appointed assignments are:



BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

Chair: Costello

Vice Chair: Bradford

Members: Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Laster, Green, Burks, Noriega, Christie

Will Review: Finance, Human Resources, Office of Business Opportunity and Fleet Management Departments, TIRZ budgets. Houston Airport and Houston First projects will be reviewed by Chair Costello and Vice Chair Bradford and presented on an as needed basis.

ETHICS, ELECTIONS AND COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

Chair: Bradford

Members: Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Pennington, Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Laster, Green, Costello, Burks, Noriega, Christie

Ad Hoc Committee to Review: Chapter 18, Chapter 2 and any issues related to the conduct of local elections on an as needed basis.

HOUSING, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Adams

Vice Chair: Laster

Members: Davis, Sullivan, Pennington, Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Green, Costello, Burks, Noriega, Christie

Will Review: Administration & Regulatory Affairs, Solid Waste Management, Housing & Community Development, Planning & Development Departments, Homeless Initiatives, Veteran's Affairs and items related to both domestic and international economic development.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Chair: Rodriguez

Vice Chair: Hoang

Members: Brown, Davis, Cohen, Adams, Sullivan, Pennington, Gonzalez, Green, Costello, Burks

Will Review: Department of Neighborhoods, Parks and Recreation Department, Houston Public Library, Health and Human Services and items related to Houston's local International Community and Cultural

Affairs.

TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Chair: Noriega

Vice Chair: Pennington

Members: Davis, Adams, Sullivan, Hoang, Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Laster, Green, Costello, Christie

Will Review: Information Technology, General Services, and Public Works & Engineering Departments, Rebuild Houston Water & Sewer, Rebuild Houston Streets & Drainage, and water resources and conservation.

Additionally, Council Member Green has also been appointed to the City of Houston Legislative Ad-hoc subcommittee and the Transportation Policy Council as an alternate for Council Member Melissa Noriega.

The council committee meetings are open to the public and can be found on the City's website:
<http://www.houstontx.gov/citysec/committee/index.html>.

Council Member Green Presented the First Prayer Before City Council

January 10, 2012, marked first public session for the year. Council Member Green invited Imam Mustafa Yigit to lead City Council in prayer prior to the commencement of the council meeting. Yigit has served the Turkish- American community for 6 years and is now an Imam for the Houston Blue Mosque, 9301 W. Belfort Ave. in the Brays Oaks community of District K.



The Houston Blue Mosque was established in 2001 as a non-profit religious organization by a group of Muslims from Turkey to serve the Turkish -American community.

The Houston Blue Mosque is strongly associated with The Raindrop Turkish House (RTH). RTH is a non-profit organization with 17 branch locations across 8 states, dedicated to introducing Turkish culture to American society and cultivating friendship and understanding throughout its diverse community. more information on The Raindrop Turkish House, visit their website at <http://www.raindropturkevi.org/>.

Houston-Galveston Regional Plan Sustainable

Development Workshop held in District K



The City of Houston along with regional partners and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) are kicking off an ambitious two-year project to develop a regional plan for sustainable development.

One of the sustainability regional workshops was held within District K at the Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center, 3810 West Fuqua St. on February 11. Council Member Green welcomed the attendees and emphasized how important our input is to this regional plan. "This is a tremendous opportunity for Houstonians to help mold the future of our region so that we can all coexist in an area rich in people and resources." There is still an opportunity to participate and share your ideas about what you would like your community and our region to look like for future generations. Please attend one of the following meetings:

Saturday, February 18th

10:00 am - noon

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Center

717 Sage Road
Houston, TX 77056

Saturday, February 25th

10:00 am - noon

Ripley House Neighborhood

4410 Navigation
Houston, TX 77011

Why Now? The 13-county region is expected to see 4 million new residents in the next 30 years.

Where will those residents live? How will this change affect quality of life? How will people move around the region? The Houston Galveston Regional Plan is an important chance to look forward and find ways to keep our communities prosperous, healthy, and attractive for generations to come.

Plan Focus: The plan explores opportunities to improve the region's most significant resources:

* clean air and water * good jobs * safe and attractive neighborhoods * affordable housing * transportation choices * open spaces and parks

Learn more about the plan, share your ideas, and sign up for updates at www.ourregion.org or send an email to <mailto:ourregion@h-gac.com>.

Temporary Burn & Smoking Ban Lifted

Mayor Annise Parker, the Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD), and the Houston Fire Department have lifted the temporary grilling and smoking ban enacted in September of this year in response to unprecedented drought conditions.



Enough progress has been made on the removal of dead trees in the 12 City parks where the ban had remained in effect for a long time. The City of Houston ("COH") supports that Houstonians have given as we faced the effects of last year's drought.

While the temporary BBQ pit and smoking ban has been lifted for all COH parks, the drought still continues in the region and our area's rainfall count is still far below normal.

For more information, visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/index.html>, email askparks@houstontx.gov or call 3-1-1.

For fire safety tips visit www.houstonfire.org.

3-1-1 Service Request

A reminder that the City has launched a redesigned Houston 311 Help & Info website, www.Houston311.org. The new customer-friendly website is easy to use-finding important information and submitting requests for service is just a click away. Users can place more than 100 Service Requests online, and more are being added every day.

While citizens may still call Houston 311, submitting requests online is much faster and can be done anytime: day or night, weekday or weekend, whereas the call center now has limited staffing hours.

-reported flooding data, both structural and street flooding, is a significant factor under the Needs analysis of Rebuild Houston. Residents are therefore encouraged to report any type of flooding via the 3-1-1 system.

To report flooding, visit www.Houston311.org, select "Traffic, Streets and Drainage" then, under "Maintenance & Repairs", select "Report Flooding".

Please feel free to call our office if you do not receive help in the estimated time span or if you have an unusual issue.

"My City Maps & Apps" Site Launched



The City of Houston Planning & Development Department is pleased to announce that through its Enterprise Geographic Information System ("GIS"), a new dynamic online city service directory and map request site, "My City Maps & Apps", is now available.

My City can be found online at <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/home/> or can now be accessed from the City of Houston main webpage at www.houstontx.gov (look for the "My City Houston Maps & Apps" logo).

"This new site will provide citizens with a great tool to efficiently find any of the City's mapped information and locational data through a single portal," said Marlene Gafrick, Director of the Planning & Development Department.

My City provides a virtual Houston, an online access to mapped information about where activities and projects are occurring. It can provide insight into patterns of development, planned improvements, building permits, land use, flood information, evacuation routes, and patterns of crime. Residents can access mapped information such as street maps, aerial imagery, utility services, permitting, parcel addresses, solid waste services, tax data, political boundaries and much more.

Included are links to information regarding:

My City Map Viewer: an interactive mapping web site that provides Houston residents a means to access the most current GIS data and aerial imagery through a variety of search and identify tools.

Consolidated Transportation Planning: an interactive mapping web site that provides access to transportation and related data developed and hosted by multiple agencies within our region.

Address Information: address search capability in the City's Full and Limited Purpose Annexation Areas, and in the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction ("ETJ") by Address, Street Ranges or Zip Codes.

Houston Airport System: the Airspace Map is a web-based GIS application that provides ground and airspace elevation information to facilitate permitting within airport hazard areas.

Health Mapping Services: the Community Health Statistics interactive map service is a resource for information on health in Houston communities.



Electronic Development Review Cycle: the eDRC Beta site is dedicated to customers and area agencies that take part in the subdivision platting of property within Houston's ETJ.

HPD Crime Site: the Houston Police Department provides an interactive crime map showing the location of various crimes and includes corresponding data tables with lists of dates, locations, and types of crimes for the current period being reported.

City Services Locator: view information about city services such as garbage and recycling pickup, and the location of the nearest library, community center or police station by entering your address.

Public Utilities: City of Houston Public Works, Water, Sewer, Electric, and Gas maintenance information.

Fire Hydrants: the Houston Fire Department's hydrants application presents an interactive map that includes search tools to retrieve locations and estimate addresses of fire hydrants.

Transportation Assistance Registry: This tool uses GIS to find your true location on the map. Like 2-1-1, residents can request transportation assistance from the Office of Emergency Management during times of need or during hurricane evacuations.

Houston Hope: Find neighborhoods in the Houston HOPE homes program initiative to reinvest in some of Houston's historic neighborhoods.

Mandatory Stage Two Water Conservation Measures Lifted

Mayor Annise Parker and the Public Works & Engineering Department announce the City of Houston is lifting the mandatory water conservation measures imposed last summer. The move follows recent rains and cooler temperatures, which have increased lake levels in all three drinking water reservoirs. Because the city continues to experience severe drought conditions, Houston residents are asked to continue voluntary water conservation. All water customers are strongly encouraged to practice and further develop water conservation efforts.

More Information: <http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/index.html>

Keep Up to Date on City Council Business

The City of Houston City Council Agenda is published late on Fridays and describes the actions that Council will consider at its meeting the following Wednesday. The Agenda may be viewed online at the link provided below. Council meets at 1:30 p.m. most Tuesday afternoons and at 9:00 a.m. most Wednesday mornings in the City Council Chamber, 901 Bagby, second floor, Houston, Texas 77002. The Tuesday session is devoted to public comment, or "pop-off" as it is commonly called, and the Wednesday session is for the consideration of agenda items that require City Council approval.

To sign up to speak during a Public Session on Tuesday afternoon, call the City Secretary's office at 832-393-1100 or come by the office on the public level of the City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby (across the street from the City Council Chamber) at least thirty (30) minutes before the meeting start time.

Each week's Council agenda is available at <http://www.houstontx.gov/citysec/index.html>. Under the City Secretary Quick Links, select the "Agenda of City Council" link on the left for the basic agenda and the "Agenda Backup" link on the left for all of the backup information associated with each agenda item. You will also find a link to "Prior Agendas and Minutes" if you wish to review matters considered by City Council in the past.

City Council meetings may be viewed on HTV Houston Television at <http://houstontx.city.swagit.com>. The first tab allows you to watch the proceedings live. The second tab will list all past sessions that are on file.