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## Press Release

July 31, 2013

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### **800 Youth Tennis Players Wrap Up Summer Lessons at National Junior Tennis and Learning Kids Day**

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will host the National Junior Tennis and Learning (N.J.T.L.) Kids Day at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, August 1, 2013, at the Memorial Park Tennis Center. The event will celebrate the successful completion of the department's free junior tennis program by approximately 800 young athletes. The classes took place at 40 parks across the city, and were made possible by support from National Junior Tennis and Learning, a free youth tennis and learning program co-founded by the late tennis star Arthur Ashe. H.P.A.R.D.'s youth tennis classes are made possible through grant funding from the United States Tennis Association (U.S.T.A.) and the Houston Tennis Association (H.T.A.). Support also comes from the Houston Young Lawyer's Foundation, the Houston Ladies' Tennis Association, U.S.T.A.-Texas, and the World Oilmen's Tennis Tournament.

**Who:** Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department  
Jack Christie, City Council Member, At Large Position 5  
Emily Schaefer, H.P.A.R.D. Director of Tennis  
Baby Jay, a local rapper with a positive message for youth  
800 youth tennis students

**What:** National Junior Tennis and Learning (N.J.T.L.) Kids Day

**When:** August 1, 2013  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. - Event  
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. - Opening Ceremony  
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. - Baby Jay Performance

**Where:** Memorial Park Tennis Center  
1500 Memorial Loop Drive  
Houston, TX 77007

**Why:** To celebrate the students' new tennis skills

N.J.T.L. Kids Day is an opportunity for the children who have successfully completed H.P.A.R.D.'s Summer 2013 youth tennis program to enjoy music, snacks, prizes, a display of art and writing contest entries, a performance by Houston rap phenomenon Baby Jay, and, of course, tennis. Approximately 800 young tennis players are expected to attend.

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*