



The Nor'westener



Serving Concerned Readers in greater Clark Pines, Cottage Grove, Hidden Lake, Holly Park, Lazybrook, Oak Forest, Shady Acres, Timbergrove Court, Timbergrove Manor, Timbergrove Terrace and Woodcrest.

"To Inform"

Community News Since August, 2002

December 4, 2008

Online Issue

In This Issue:

- HFD Station 62 Grand Re-Opening – **Friday, December 12, 4 p.m.**
- Neighborhood Watch for Timbergrove West - October Crime Report – p. 2
- Holiday Safety Tips From the Houston Police Department – p. 3
- Shepherd's Harvest Farmer's Market - - is no more... - p. 3
- For Our Soldiers During the Holidays – Something Cool From Zerox – p. 3
- Solid Waste's 6th Holiday Curbside Food Drive, **December 8 – 12** - p. 3
- It's Not to Late to Register with FEMA –But Soon it Will Be! – p. 3
- MKT Rails to Trails Ceremony – **Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.** – p. 4
- Houston Arboretum's Winter Holiday Native Tree and Shrub Sale - **December 5, 6 and 7** – p. 4
- Buyer Be Aware – Gift Cards/Closing Businesses – p. 5
- Hurricane Ike Contracting Opportunity – p. 6
- "Behold the Marvel of the Night" Concerts -**Saturday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. & Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m.** – p.6
- W. 18th Street Tree Rescue Update – p. 6



Houston Fire Department Station 62 Grand Re-Opening

The reconstruction of HFD Station 62 located at 1602 Seamist took a few months longer than expected - equipment supply issues plus Ike visited - but our area's local HFD First Responders together with their ambulance and squad vehicles have now all returned home. The temporary trailer that housed the crews of the pumper during reconstruction has been removed from the site and all the personnel are settling in.

The Fire Department, in coordination with Council Member Lawrence's office, has scheduled a Grand Re-Opening ceremony for **Friday, December 12 at 4 p.m.** This will be an excellent opportunity for interested members of our community to gather for a few minutes and express appreciation for what our HFD First Responders provide to our community and to welcome them all back home.

In order to bring an atmosphere of celebration to the event the Sinclair Elementary Folklorico dancing group has agreed to appear and perform a few of their routines. Attendance to demonstrate support and encouragement for this future generation of leaders, to encourage their development and confidence seems worthy of a few minutes from our day in itself.

Take a few minutes. Drop by and shake some hands as old 'kids' and young kids as well can take the opportunity to inspect and discuss the new squad vehicle, the ambulance and that big old red fire truck. A recent quick drop-by visit reveals much improved living conditions including expansion of the kitchen and common living area. Infrastructure ills - electrical and the like - have been cared for. Come see the impact of your tax dollars at work.

Station 62 serves generally from the Loop on the West and North, to Shepherd Dr. on the East and roughly along White Oak Bayou/W. 11th on the South. Live in that area? Have a fire? Have a heart attack? Need an ambulance? These are our First Responders. The ones who, among all their other vital functions for our

community, enter burning buildings, if need be, when all others are fleeing.

Station 62 personnel pay for most of the station amenities and their food out of their own pockets. HFD does have a formal Adopt-A-Station program to provide for citizens/groups to provide some level of ongoing assistance in the area of amenities. While not formally completing that process, it is through that program that HFD headquarters personnel have agreed to handle any monetary donations that neighbors might wish to make to assist in day-to-day expenses. Rumor at the Station is the cookware has long been inadequate to prepare for the typical 8 or 10 on each shift at each meal, but until now there has been insufficient space to store or work with truly adequate pots and pans. Whether for that purpose or some other the Board of Directors of the Timbergrove Manor Civic Club are contributing \$100 from the club's donations budget to Station 62. Individuals or other civic groups who might wish to also donate can make out your check to: **MediLife of Houston** and *notate the check* as for: **Station 62**. Mail the check to: **Houston Fire Department Public Affairs, 500 Jefferson, 16th Floor, Houston, TX 77002**. MediLife is a 510(c)3 organization that permits tax-deductible contributions to the extent allowed by tax code. The donations will be assembled and made available to Station 62 folks to use as they ultimately desire. Call it a house-warming gift with the total to be announced at the December 12 ceremony.

The Fire Department will only be able to provide a modest amount of snacks and refreshments. Mark and Kathryn Oster, owners of Kojak's Café have stepped forward once again to give back to our community by providing some additional snacks. If you can provide some cookies or snacks for the event, between the children and the fire personnel they will not go to waste.

And if you care to participate: **Annual Toy Drive:** Operation Stocking Stuffer, the annual toy drive sponsored by the Houston Fire Department and local charitable organizations is in full gear. Please help families in need by donating a new, unwrapped toy by December 17, 2008. You can drop off your donation at any HFD Fire Station. Due to the demand for toys, HFD cannot accept clothing donations at this time.

Neighborhood Watch for Timbergrove West - October Crime Report

From the publicly available HPD Monthly Crime Report for October 2008 for TM-West (Sections 5 - 14). Timbergrove Manor along with the greater Shady Acres, Clark Pines, Lazybrook and Holly Park areas are in Patrol Beat 2A60. October's source HPD crime report for 2A60 and historic monthly crime reports may be accessed at: <http://www.houstontx.gov/police/cs/beatpages/cs2a60.htm> Scroll down on that page to the 2008 or 2007 calendar and select the month for which data is being sought.

10/01/08	Burglary - Garage	6100 Waltway	Midnight*
10/14/08	Auto Theft	6500 Grovewood Ln.	Midnight*
10/30/08	Burglary Motor Vehicle	6100 Queenswood Ln.	7 p.m.* Vehicle parked at curb
10/30/08	Burglary Motor Vehicle	6200 Linton Rd.	11 p.m.* Vehicle parked in driveway

*Indicates the time the incident was reported. The actual time of occurrence may be different.

These incidents bring the 2008 reported crimes total to 28 placing us 9 incidents above our lowest crime rate year (2006) through October and still at least a bit below the other five years in which criminal incidents have been tracked. For worst-case comparison perspective, the total crimes reported at the end of October in 2004 were 47 and at the end of October 2007 there had been 47 crimes reported.

There are no historical 'norms' about crime rates in November and December from year-to-year. The rate varies from very minimal to quite a few, but economic times are tightening down even though Houston's economy has held up pretty well so far. Simply stay aware and try and prevent offering targets of relatively easy opportunity to the bad guys.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FROM THE HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

From Mayor White via Citizen's Net: The City of Houston wants everyone to protect themselves, their families and their property against criminals this holiday season. Criminals have a "desire" to commit crimes against those who are not aware of what is going on around them. The holidays are an opportune time for these criminals. Know your surroundings and don't become a "target." Please share this information with all your family and friends. For a copy of HPD's holiday safety tips visit www.houstontx.gov/police/crime_prevention/images/holiday_safety_2008.pdf

Shepherd's Harvest Farmer's Market - - is no more . . .

This writer cannot improve upon this heartfelt communication from TM neighbor Rebecca Edwards.

Just FYI - the Shepherd's Harvest Farmer's Market is no longer . . . We tried, but there are just too many other markets in the area to compete with for the local growers.

Additionally, it seems the church we 'merged' with in an effort to help Shepherd Drive UMC revitalize following years of lost membership (and working revenue) due to it's aging congregation - - has thrown in the towel . . . The District Superintendent of the UMC came this past Sunday and officially disbanded our congregation . . . 109 years of ministry . . . This year had marked 70 years (and 4 generations) my family has been serving with this congregation . . . So to have a week's notice that we're being closed down, right before Christmas, and on Thanksgiving weekend . . . Completely devastating, as you can imagine.

For Our Soldiers During the Holidays Something Cool That Xerox is Doing

If you go to this web site, www.LetsSayThanks.com you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services. How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! This is a great site. Please send a card. It is FREE and it only takes a second. Tip'O The Hat to TM Neighbor Jack Pinkerton for this article.

Solid Waste's 6th Holiday Curbside Food Drive

PUT FOOD & TOYS ON THE CURB FOR FAMILIES IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

From Mayor White via Citizen's Net: By placing canned goods, nonperishable food items or toys in a grocery bag at the curb on garbage collection day **December 8 -12, 2008**, you can help contribute to needy Houston families. The City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department and the City Wide Club are co-sponsoring the **6th Annual Trash and Treasure Curbside Food Drive** to benefit the **30th Annual Christmas Eve Big Feast** held at the George R. Brown Convention Center on December 24th.

If you have more food and toys to give, you can bring them to a neighborhood depository or service center listed on the Solid Waste Department website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org.

It's Not Too Late to Register with FEMA...But Soon It Will Be!

From Mayor White via Citizen's Net: If you have damage from Hurricane Ike and still have not applied for reimbursement with FEMA, you have until Friday, December 12th to do so. Even if you've already repaired your home and paid for it yourself, you could be entitled to reimbursement. Pictures, receipts and any other documentation can help make your case.

To register with FEMA online visit www.fema.gov or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). You won't be alone. FEMA reports that 200 to 300 new applications are coming in each day.

For daily updated information on FEMA and other Ike related matters, please visit www.houstonhurricanerecovery.org

HOUSTON IS ON A ROLL
Houston Bikeway Program

MKT rails to trails

Join the City of Houston Bikeway Program for the ground breaking of the Missouri, Kansas, Texas/Southern Pacific Rails to Trails bikeway project.

The MKT/SP Trail is a Rails-to-Trails project which converts 4.6 miles of former rail into a 10-foot wide, concrete, multi-use bike and bike trail along the old Missouri, Kansas, Texas Southern Pacific railroad. The trail runs from 20th Street south to 7th Street, and from Shepherd east along 7th Street, to Spring Street and White Oak Bayou under I-45, where it connects to the proposed Heritage Corridor West Trail near downtown providing a connection to the University of Houston and other downtown bikeways and destinations.

The trail travels through the Heights, connects to Lawrence Park, Snake Park, and ultimately to Buffalo Bayou, Minute Maid Park, downtown and the historic East End. Other bikeway connections to the north are the on-street bike route on 20th Street and the bike lanes on Heights Blvd.

For more information call (713) 837-0136 or Email at daniel.raines@cityofhouston.net

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2008 10:00 am
Location: Heights Blvd. and 7th Street

Master of Ceremonies:
Michael S. Milroy, PE., DWRP, BCCE, City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department Director

Speakers:
Mayor Bill White
Clifford Halvorsen, Texas Department of Transportation
Council Member Adrian Garcia, District 11

rails-to-trails
CONSORTIUM

MKT/SP RAIL-TO-TRAIL CONVERSION

Houston Arboretum's Winter Holiday Native Tree & Shrub Sale

Friday, December 5:- Members-Only Preview Sale 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday, December 6 & Sunday, December 7: - Sale opens to public – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (or until sell out)

The perfect gift that keeps on giving long after the holiday season is a Texas native tree or shrub. This year, 16 different Texas native trees and shrubs will be available for sale. Quantities of each species are limited to less than 24 of each. Most plants will be in 5 to 10 gallon sizes, ranging in price from \$30 - \$90. As substitutions may occur, pre-purchases are not possible.

Organic-based compost and mulch from local supplier Nature's Way Resources will be available for sale.

Arboretum Members will have the first chance to purchase plants at the Members-only Preview Sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, December 5. Join now to get first chance on plants!

Proceeds from this sale benefit the Arboretum's education and conservation programs.

Native Trees:

1. Scarlet Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia var.pavia*)
2. River Birch (*Betula nigra*)
3. Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)
4. Eastern Redbud (*Cercis eciduass*)
5. Two-Wing Silverbell (*Halesia diptera*)
6. Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
7. Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
8. Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*) (Cont. next page)

9. Southern Red Oak (*Quercus ecidua*)
10. American Snowbell (*Styrax americanus*)
11. Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*)

Native Shrubs:

1. Carolina Buckthorn (*Frangula caroliniana*)
1. Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex eciduas*)
2. Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*)
3. Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)
4. Southern Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

Buyer Be Aware - Gift Cards/Closing Businesses

Tip'O the Hat to TM neighbor Charles Pegelow for this heads-up message.

With the current economic times and the growing popularity of purchasing gift cards shoppers best be aware that companies can and will be selling gift cards even as they plan to discontinue business either through bankruptcy or by closing many or all local stores. Charles nor I can attest to the accuracy of all that is shown in the following listing, but let it serve as a *cautionary* concerning where and what you might purchase with the expectation of having access to that business after Christmas. Simple buyer be aware.

Circuit City (filed Chapter 11)

Ann Taylor- 117 stores nationwide closing

Lane Bryant, Fashion Bug ,and Catherine's to close 150 stores nationwide

Eddie Bauer to close stores 27 stores and more after January

Cache will close all stores

Talbots closing down specialty stores

J. Jill closing all stores (owned by Talbots)

Pacific Sunwear (also owned by Talbots)

GAP closing 85 stores

Footlocker closing 140 stores mo re to close after January

Levitz closing down remaining stores

Bombay closing remaining stores

Zales closing down 82 stores and 105 after January

Piercing Pagoda closing all stores

Disney closing 98 stores and will close more after January

Home Depot closing 15 stores

Macys to close 9 stores after January

Linens and Things closing all stores

Movie Galley Closing all stores

Pep Boys Closing 33 stores

Sprint/Nextel closing 133 stores

JC Penney closing a number of stores after January

Ethan Allen closing down 12 stores.

Wilson Leather closing down all stores

Sharper Image closing down all stores

K B Toys closing 356 stores

Lowe's to close down some stores

Dillard's to close some stores

Borders Books – to close some stores in prime locations

.....and the list does not stop there

Hurricane Ike Contracting Opportunity

From Council Member Toni Lawrence's Office:

Calling All Entrepreneurs!

The City of Houston is posting information on Hurricane Ike related contracting opportunities at: www.houstontx.gov/aacc/ike.html

The site provides contact information for opportunities with FEMA, the City and TxDOT. Check it periodically, since the site is updated as new information is received.

"Behold the Marvel of the Night" Concerts

From Mangum Manor neighbor Wes Krueger: Hello everyone. We marvel at the simple and humble experience when love came down to earth and gave hope to our world. As a charter member of the Houston Lutheran Chorale I am sending you a personal and special invitation to attend our Christmas concert, were we will all be reminded of the wonder and mystery of that holy night.

"Behold the Marvel of the Night" Concerts

Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM at St. Mark Lutheran Church (1515 Hillendahl Blvd./Spring Branch)

Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church (800 Houston Ave./Downtown)

For ticket and concert information call 281-479-5761 or visit our website www.hlc-tx.org. I hope you will come to enjoy the familiar sounds of the season. We pray for blessings on our ministry of song and are thankful for this amazing Christmas tradition.

West 18th Tree Rescue Update

The landscape contractor for Broadstone @ W. 18th Apartments righted the three Eastern Red Cedars in front of that unit Wednesday afternoon. That brings all the primary trees planted in the 2004 effort back upright. There are still a couple crape myrtles that will need some attention and there will be the requisite adjusting of straps and stakes over time. Supplemental watering for the Ike damaged trees during dry periods for a year or so may be needed, but appears we will not lose any of those '04 planted trees. Fire ants are about as eliminated from 610 to Seamist as is feasible and most of the '04 planted primary trees have been mulched with bags of mown leaves and grass 'borrowed' from curbside in front of neighborhood homes. The Broadstone owners have declined concerning reconstructing the crape grove at 610. A plant-by-plant survey of what remains of the grove has been conducted and delivered to Lazybrook's Beautification chair, Carolyn Lehnert, and the period of head scratching as to whether to try and save or to simply toss the crape grove concept and rebuild anew is under way. Thanks to Timbergrove neighbor Charles Pegelow who spent part of an afternoon helping to right the two Cedar Elms on esplanade #10 (nearest Seamist). Charles historically responds to a simple "Help" request on the esplanades. Collectively over this project we have completed some \$2,000 of work, if done by contractor, for \$150 or so. Pretty good return for volunteer efforts. Thanks to all for stepping up individually to help. Keep an eye on our trees and let me know if they need attention.

You'll note these reports have focused upon 18th from the Broadstone Apts. to Seamist. Those are the esplanades I have historically been the principal to help maintain and care for. I reach over to other esplanades from time-to-time to help out a bit, but mostly my efforts focus on that half-mile stretch of W. 18th west of Seamist.

Written and distributed by your neighbor Ben Crabb, 2502 Haverhill Dr., 713-861-5354, bncrabb@comcast.net To sign up for direct delivery to your email address simply send an email and ask to be added to the distribution.
--