

Audubon Place Association Newsletter

Spring is here

The Tulip tree in front of the Lightfoot house (3602 Audubon Place) announced the arrival of spring with a riot of blooms. Other blossom trees are hesitantly showing some flowers, but this old lady is convinced! The weather certainly seems to confirm this although we had ice in our birdbath as well.

A Deed Restricted Community

APA WEBSITE
www.audubonplace.net

KEEPERS
City Services 3-1-1

City Emergency 713.834.0600

www.cityofhouston.gov
Public Works 713.837.0600

Westheimer
Police Storefront
(no officers dispatched from
this location)
713.284.8604

Police Dispatcher 713.884.3131

Fire Department
713.222.7643
Or 9-1-1

Heavy Trash
Second Wednesday
Of the Month

Recycle!

Prevailing Building Line

Patti Thompson and Eric Hardenbol did a terrific job petitioning for a Prevailing Building Line on the East side of Audubon Place. It was a lot of work, but the planning commission approved the petition. It was scheduled for final approval by the city council on February 20th and it passed. Kudos!

Help protect your neighborhood

On the 7th of February I sent out an email message to those we have email addresses for. There are only a hundred odd names on that list and many of those are spouses. I strongly urge you to send us your email address so that we can contact you with news, updates and requests for help.

The text follows here (with some modifications):

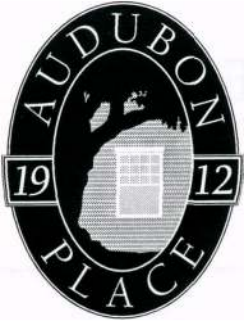
In view of the increased criminal activity in our neighborhood we are looking into engaging extra security to complement HPD. HPD by the way have been very responsive to us concerning 614 Marshall and 803 and 807 Hawthorne.

We have spoken to the Constable's office for precinct 1 and got some idea of pricing and services available. The constable would patrol the area in standard shifts of 5 days a week, 8 hours a day. The constables are in uniform and drive marked cars. They have the same authority as and work together with HPD. They would have the advantage of patrolling a well defined and relatively small area.

In order to explore the feasibility of this extra security I would like to see a show of hands from all of you who are interested in supporting this idea financially. I am envisioning involving Westmoreland, First Montrose Commons and Roseland Estates as well. This would give us a consecutive area between Montrose, Hawthorne and the SW Freeway. If a sufficient number of us would contribute the fee could be as low as \$75 per residence per quarter.

About half of those contacted said they would contribute. Many residents in Westmoreland have also responded positively. I am still waiting for the other neighborhoods to respond following their monthly meetings. St Thomas University has also indicated they are interested in working with us. Please bear with me. This is a slow process.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE
Call me at 713 521 1091 or email to pvanbemmel@sbcglobal.net



AUDUBON PLACE ASSOCIATION
2615 Waugh Drive, No. 108
Houston Texas 77006

Audubon Place Association (APA) is a non-profit corporation organized to preserve the integrity of one of Houston's unique inner city neighborhoods.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm, normally at Mangos Café, Taft at Westheimer

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, March 1

Among the crimes reported:

- Drug deals, prostitution and garbage at 614 Marshall
- Car windows smashed
- Tools stolen
- Garages broken into
- Fancy doors stolen from the building site at 604 Harold
- Trash at 805 and 809 Marshall

A thief tried to steal a baby carriage from the back of a truck at 816 Kipling but dropped it when he was discovered. He was wearing a hood and raced off on a bicycle.

A drug deal went sour in front of our house. A group of junkies surrounded a new looking SUV. Suddenly one pulled off his shirt and screamed "You wanna fight?" The SUV sped off and the junkies ran after it. One of them wore an orange jacket and has dreadlocks.

We have had problems like this about ten years ago. We hired a constable for a year and since then things quieted down. Now with this surge in criminal activities, I strongly believe that having a neighborhood patrol again would help us to get our neighborhood back

SAVE AUDUBON PLACE!

TAKE PRIDE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Zip code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Business Telephone: _____

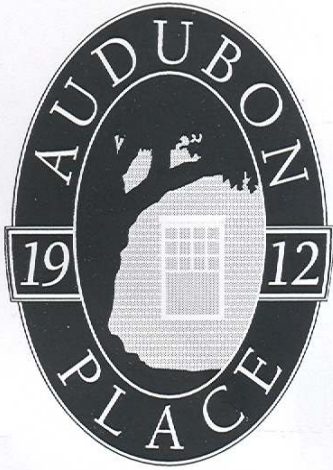
Email: _____

Renewing Member _____ New Member _____ Committee Interests: _____

Annual dues: \$15 per person/ \$25 per couple. Number of persons: _____ Total dues paid: _____

Donation (thanks, from Audubon Place) \$ _____

Mail to: Audubon Place Association, 2615 Waugh Drive, No. 108, Houston, Texas, 77006. Thank You!



A Deed Restricted
Community

Audubon Place Association

Newsletter Vol. 17, No. 3, Fall 2007

Fall is on the way

Fall is hopefully coming with cooler temperatures and NO hurricanes please. We had more rain than I can remember as well as hotter days than I want to remember. Phew. We also had a very nice National Night Out in Patti's garden, thanks to all helpers!

Constable Program going nowhere in a hurry

Perhaps you remember my enthusiastic messages about the contributions people were promising. Well things have not progressed as we had hoped. We are still very far away from a feasible solution.

We will continue to depend on HPD, who are understaffed and often on call elsewhere. Still I have been impressed with the promptness of their response whenever we called. I urge you all to keep calling 911 whenever you see something suspicious or dangerous or when you need to report a crime.

Clean Montrose

An initiative by the Museum District Business Alliance, sponsored by Southwestern Paint and others will assist you in the removal of graffiti; which you are required by law to do. For more information email grafittibusters@cleanmontrose.com or visit our website and click on "Important Issues".

Montrose Management District

Garnet Coleman has been instrumental in the creation of a bill that would extend the East Montrose Management District to cover all of Montrose. The new area would be called the Montrose Management District and it would generate more income to reinvest in improving our district. The bill was

passed in congress, but Governor Perry vetoed it on technical grounds, involving the participation of local interests. Perhaps the bill will be reintroduced after those conditions are met.

University Light Rail

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published on August the 3rd. The public is invited to comment on this study. Please go to our website's link on "Richmond Rail" to do so. A wish list exists, the most important items are: providing sound walls along Westpark, planting grass between the rails rather than concrete pavements, preserving tree counts, creating pocket parks on unused property that was taken for construction of the light rail line, residents only parking zones and placing platforms in the right places.

From the Archives

Courtland Place was the location for the 1995 film "A Woman of Independent Means" starring Sally Field. Several of the homes are featured in this entertaining story from the book by Elisabeth Forsythe Hailey. The movie was nominated for a Golden Globe Award.

The American Institute of Architecture listed several homes in Audubon Place and Westmoreland in the Houston Architectural Guide. Among those were 3702 Audubon Place by E.H.Lightfoot, 303 Hawthorne, 201 Westmoreland (the Waldo home) and 607 Kipling which was purchased in 1922 by George Cohen, the president of Foley's department store. (PvB)

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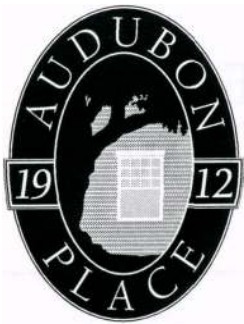
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Houston Texas 77006

Audubon Place Association (APA) is a non-profit corporation organized to preserve the integrity of one of Houston's unique inner city neighborhoods.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month.

Officers for 2007

The following slate of officers was presented and elected for calendar year 2007.

President: Peter van Bommel
Vice President: John O'Donnell
Treasurer: Maaike Van Bommel
Secretary: Patti Thompson

The officers elected for Neartown are:

President: Allen Ueckert (North Montrose)
Vice President: David Robinson (Park Civic)
Secretary: Carol Galeener (North Montrose)
Treasurer: Dale Harger (Avondale)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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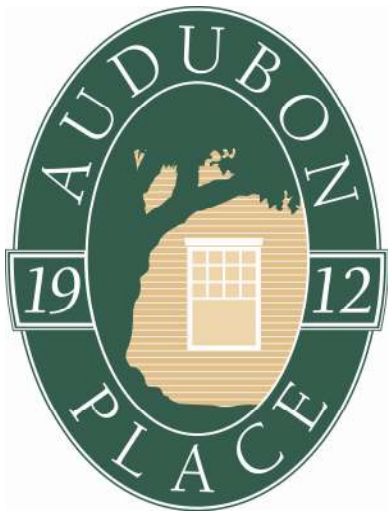
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A deed restricted community
(exclusions apply)

Audubon Place Association

Newsletter Vol. 17, No. 4, Winter 2007

Get Connected

Get connected to our on-line community. We are sending communications to your email address as well as to our yahoo group. You will receive reminders for Recycling, Heavy Trash and APA meetings. Please send an email to pvanbommel@sbcglobal.net and sign up to the group on the "about" page of our website at www.audubonplace.net.

Historic District Designation

Encouraged by a recent change in the percentage of required home owner signatures required we are restarting the drive to become a historic district.

The new requirement is a minimum of 51% of the owners representing at least 51% of the land area. Although the preservation ordinance is unchanged and provides only a 90 day delay in construction permits, this still helps to preserve our neighborhood. Developers will choose to go to a place, where they would not have to wait that long to begin construction.

A distinct advantage is in the calculation of minimum lot sizes and building lines. If you are a historic district the 50 percentile is used rather than the 75 percentile to determine these quantities.

Montrose Management District

The East Montrose Management District is still alive and well even though the larger plan of including all of Montrose was vetoed by our Governor. EMMD is now in the process of petitioning the formation of this district which would mean a source of monies available to increase security and beautify East Montrose among other things.

Dog do do and other unpleasantness

Many of you pick up what the dog left behind, but quite a few unsavory brown heaps still litter the neighborhood. Please join us in keeping the sidewalks and grass strips clean. Did you know this is a city ordinance and

that you can get fined \$200 if you don't do your civic duty?

The thief-of-ornaments is prowling the neighborhood. Please lock the gates if you can.

Crime Statistics

Please continue to be vigilant and call the police non emergency number whenever you have anything to report!

2007	July	Aug	Sep
burglaries	1	1	3
autotheft	1		
Burgl/auto		2	1

Paying your Dues

It may be time to pay your **voluntary** contribution to the Audubon Place Association; we have included the usual "join APA" slip for your convenience. If you receive this newsletter electronically please print the last page, fill it in with your name and email address and mail it with your check to us. We greatly appreciate this token of approval for our association.

Holiday party

We had a most wonderful Holiday Season Party at the di Bagnos. Thank you Andrea and Alex for your great hospitality (as always) and thank all of you great neighbors for being there and bringing the delectable goodies. All together it was a great spread and we enjoyed wonderful conversations.

APA Decals

Please put an APA decal on your car. We suggest the lower right corner of your rear window. This will help spot suspicious vehicles that do not belong in this neighborhood. You can pick one up at our next meeting or request one to be sent to you. (PvB)

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Website
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APA meetings
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month except July and August

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Vice President: Greg LeGrande (Avondale)
Secretary: Julie Young (East Montrose)
Treasurer: Rod Danielson (Mandell Place)

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