

Historic District

*A deed restricted community
(exclusions apply)*

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

Website
www.audubonplace.net

Audubon Place Association

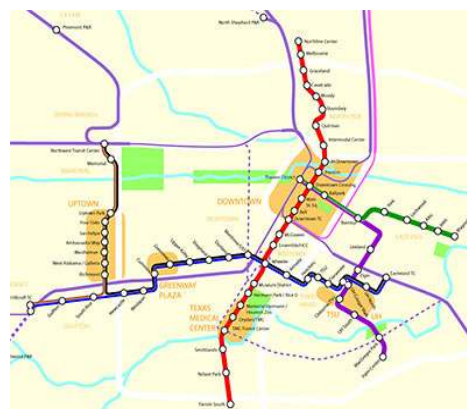
Newsletter Vol. 19, No. 1, Spring 2009

We are now a Historic District

Wednesday April 8, 2009. This morning, at 10:30 we officially became a Historic District. The council described our neighborhood as wonderful and expressed the hope that we could preserve all our beautiful homes. Thanks everybody for all the work you have done. I hope you will further support our preservation efforts and work with me on establishing minimum lot sizes and building lines for our streets.

Message from the President

Audubon Place continues to be a vibrant, beautiful neighborhood thanks to the efforts of our association. Promoting our collective quality of life remains the association's enduring priority. To that end, I would like to personally thank all those involved in the successful effort to secure designation of the neighborhood as a historic district. As you see in this newsletter, the development of the light rail line and high rises on Montrose will bring dramatic change to our area. With your help, the association will work to preserve the shaded, quiet character of our architecturally eclectic corner of Neartown, and to assure that change occurs in concert with the neighborhood's well being."



Metro University Line

In March City Council woman Sue Lovell, who is also the chair of TIA (Transportation, Infra-structure and Aviation) reported during a Neartown meeting that METRO is waiting on funding for the University Rail Line. The proposed route is still waiting for an environmental impact study. It seems fairly certain that it will run on Richmond from the spur to Greenway Plaza, then cross the 59 and continue

West along Westpark. A branch will turn North along Post Oak all the way to Uptown Park. As a result W. Alabama will become a major thoroughfare. There is talk about parking garages to remove parked cars from the street, especially on Montrose, which will get more high rises and more traffic to digest.

Hardening Electricity Grid

We remember well the nearly two weeks of no power in most of the Houston area. Austin has issued general guidelines for building power grids. CenterPoint has released a vision of what it would like to do. One idea, a "smart grid" would allow sensors to immediately point to the location that needs to be repaired. Remote switches would enable rerouting power to circumvent problem spots. This will not be sufficient when massive failures occur as during a hurricane. More lines need to be buried underground; wood poles replaced with steel and trees need to be cut away from power lines more frequently. All this will cost money and will probably be passed on to us poor customers.

Crime Statistics

Most of the crimes in our neighborhood are car burglaries. Please do not leave valuables in your cars overnight.

Call the police non-emergency number (713-884-3131) whenever you have anything to report!

2008/9	Nov	Dec	Jan
Assault		1	
Burglary	1		
Burgl/auto	1	2	3
Robbery		1	

Paying your Dues

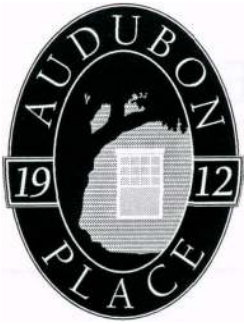
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voluntary contribution to the Audubon Place Association; we have included the usual “join APA” slip for your convenience. You can also give us your info on-line, at www.audubonplace.net and just mail your check to us. We greatly appreciate this token of your appreciation.

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VP: Peter van Bommel
Secretary: Anita Bryant
Treasurer: Maaïke van Bommel

PIP: Ronald Coifman
(PvB)



AUDUBON PLACE ASSOCIATION

2615 Waugh Drive, No. 108

Houston Texas 77006

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<p><i>Peter P. van Bommel, SEG, EAGE</i></p> <p>Earth Science Consulting</p> <p>615 Marshall St, Houston TX 77006, USA Tel: 713 521 1091, Cell: 713 447 0443 pvanbommel@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>TBPG License 5913</p>	<p>Lynne Gevirtz</p> <hr/> <p>Petroleum Landman / Oil & Gas Consultant</p> <p>3611 Audubon Place Houston, Texas 77006 Tel: 713.594.6148 Fax: 713.521.0016 lgevirtz@comcast.net</p>

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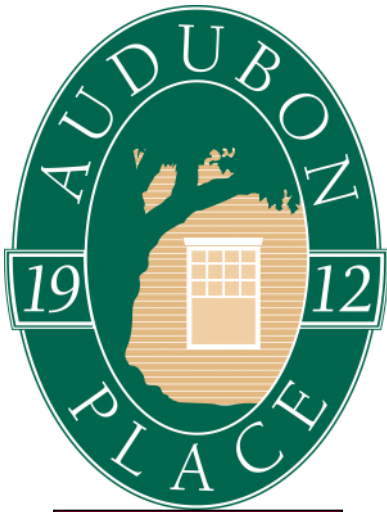
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Renewing Member _____ New Member _____ Committee Interests: _____

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Donation (thanks from Audubon Place) \$ _____

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Newsletter Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 2009

Hurricane Preparedness

The Hurricane season has officially begun. Please prepare for this eventuality. Once again we may be left without power for two weeks or more. Be sure to stock up on drinking water and non perishable food items. For more information there is a link on our website called "Hurricane Info", which gets you to KHOU's hurricane center.

Historic Committee

The Historic Committee was extended on June 4. New members are Kathleen Osman, David Mailman and Patti Thompson. Jack Schaffer remains chair.

Our neighbors in First Montrose Commons, to the South of us, have been very active and are close to becoming the next Historic District. This would form a very nice contiguous area with Westmoreland and Audubon. The combined districts would lie between Hawthorne to the North, Spur 527 to the East, Richmond to the South and Montrose to the West.

Kristina Lumbreras, one of FMC historians, is organizing a walking tour for 2010 to include all three districts.



Metro University Line

The proposed design of Richmond including the University Line shows a pedestrian friendly approach that will still allow four traffic lanes. This will alleviate the need to make W. Alabama a major thoroughfare. The two rail sections will occupy the center of the street with a very limited need for taking property where the station platforms will be.

Esplanade Committee

An Esplanade Committee was formed. Patti Thompson is chair, members are Becky Potts, Rick Greiner and Becky Grant. The committee will study how to improve the landscaping, turning on the watering system and seeding Bermuda grass, which is more draught resistant than St Augustine.

There is a modest Esplanade fund, which is used to maintain the grass and shrubs. Donations are always welcome and we are looking forward to the garage sale, to boost our coffers. This will take place at the end of September at Linda and Brad Harms on Audubon Place. Please keep anything you may want to contribute for that day. We do not take clothing.

Crime Statistics

Many of the crimes in our neighborhood are car burglaries. Please do not leave valuables in your cars overnight.

Call the police non-emergency number (713-884-3131) whenever you have anything to report!

2008/9	Feb	Mar	Apr
Burglary	1	1	
Burgl/auto	1	1	
Robbery			1
Narcotics	1	1	
AutoTheft	1	1	

Paying your Dues

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greatly appreciate this token of your appreciation.

Welcome new neighbors

Katie and Ben Chandler and newborn Ella
Rebecca Potts and Martin F Cohen
Jeremy and Lisa Eves and little Luca
Susan Fontaine and Andrew Gellatly
Rebecca R Grant
Mike and Julie Henson
Karl W and Ann Marie Pierce
Jeanne Salyers

If we forgot someone, be assured that you are very welcome

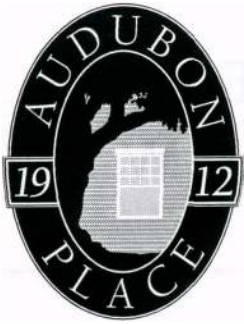
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(PvB)



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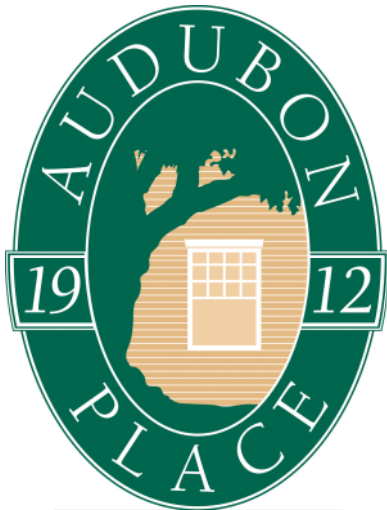
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Newsletter Vol. 19, No. 3, Fall 2009

Montrose among nation's top 10 neighborhoods

The American Planning Association announced this during a ceremony at the Menil. We share this honor with "Bungalow Heaven" in Pasadena (Calif.), and Faubourg Marigny in New Orleans. **Its walkable street grid, carefully preserved historic districts and eclectic mix of homes and businesses — reflect Houston's preference for private rather than government-imposed planning, experts said.**

All of you who have worked so hard on becoming a Historic District deserve kudos, and you may feel proud to be part of the reason Montrose got on the national 10 best list!

Garage Sale a Great Success

The Garage sale took place at the Harmes's on September the 26th. It was a great success: we made upwards of \$700, which will go to the Esplanade fund of Audubon Place Association. General maintenance is exacting a toll on our funds. A beautification plan is also being worked on by the Esplanade Committee including repair of the irrigation system.

If you can please keep your discarded treasures and save them for next year's sale. Please **NO CLOTHES OR HEAVY FURNITURE**. Smaller furniture items like chairs, coffee tables, bookcase etc always sell well and can bring a good price.

If you do want to donate large furniture to a good cause please send email to pvanbommel@sbcglobal.net. We can arrange for pickup by Alliance, IFM or the Salvation Army. Also our foster family from Nepal needs furniture desperately.

Historic Committee

The Historic Committee is working with our neighbors in First Montrose Commons to arrange a walking tour of our area in 2010. The tour should include Westmoreland and we will hope that several homes will be open for visits during the tour. If you are interested in participating please send a note to Jack Schaffer jackrschaffer@comcast.net or Kathy Osman kweisz@comcast.net

The city has hired Jonathan

Smulian to generate a style guide for our Historic Districts (Avondale, Audubon Place and Westmoreland). His draft report will be available for review at the end of this month.

Metro University Line

Implementation of the University Line has been delayed for at least a year. Meanwhile Metro is continuing planning which will include pedestrian friendly solutions.

Crime Statistics

Theft and robbery have risen since last quarter. Part of this may be to blame on the bad economy. Be extra watchful, lock your doors and cars and call the police if you see suspicious characters.

Call the police non-emergency number (713-884-3131) whenever you have anything to report!

2009	Jun	Jul	Aug
Burglary	1	2	
Robbery		3	
AutoTheft			2
Theft	6	4	5

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Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party will be held once again at the Di Bagno's home, 608 Harold. The date will be December

3rd, starting at 7:30. Please bring some food or wine for us to share.

Brian and Kathi, we thank you again for a wonderful event last year.
(PvB)

2009 Officers

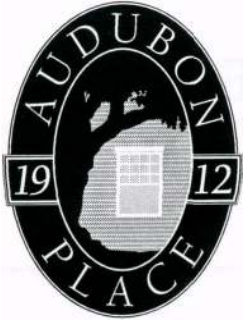
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Historic: Jack Schaffer (Chair), Kathleen Osman, David Mailman, Ann Marie Johnson and R. Davis Maxey



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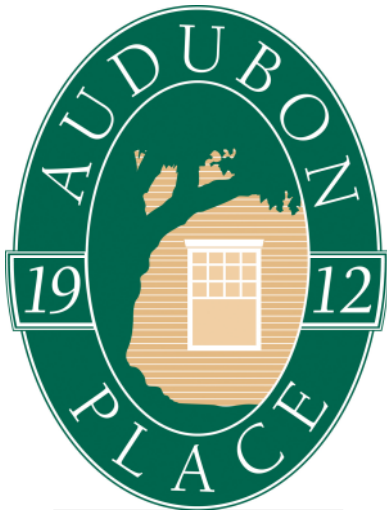
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Newsletter Vol. 19, No. 4, Winter 2009

Montrose was written up in Community Spotlight

The Houston Chronicle featured a write up about the desirability of living here. The real estate market was called strong and stable and it was praised for its "eclectic diverse makeup". The full article can be accessed on our website on the "about" page.

Historic Committee

First Montrose Commons had an open house on Saturday, November 14 at 800 Sul Ross. This historic home is exquisitely maintained and artistically decorated with mostly Hispanic religious art. Our neighbors are getting close to becoming a Historic District, which would more or less complete the trapezoid circumscribed by Montrose, Fairview, Bagby and Richmond. Together with the fact that our new mayor lives in the area this should become a destination for tourists in our fair city.

If you are interested in participating in the planned walking tour 2010 please send a note to Jack Schaffer jackrschaffer@comcast.net or Kathy Osman kweisz@comcast.net

Design Guide

The City planning division completed the design guide for our Historic Districts (Avondale, Audubon Place and Westmoreland), which is now available on our website at the bottom of the "preservation" page.

Metro University Line

Implementation of the University Line has been delayed for at least a year. Meanwhile Metro is continuing planning which will include pedestrian friendly solutions. For the latest news visit the Richmond Rail link on the "links" page of our website.

Crime Statistics

Theft was still very high in September and November. Part of this

may be to blame on the bad economy. Be extra watchful, lock your doors and cars and call the police if you see suspicious characters.

We have alerted the police of this increase in thefts and asked them to step up their patrolling in our neighborhood.

Call the police non-emergency number (713-884-3131) whenever you have anything to report!

2009	Sep	Oct	Nov
Burglary	1		
Robbery	1		1
AutoTheft		1	
Theft	5	1	9
Assault	1		

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Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party at the Di Bagno's home was a great success. We all missed Alex, but the Di Bagno sisters made up for it!

Brian and Kathi, we still remember your wonderful party. We are sorry to see you leave the neighborhood but retiring in France sounds like a dream come true. We wish you all the best in your new life.
(PvB)

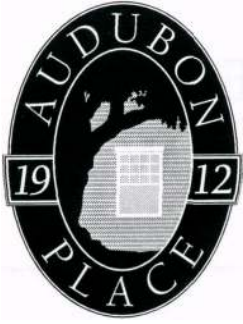
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