



**Mandell Place Civic Association**  
A neighborhood by design

# Neighborhood News



Rod Danielson

## President's Message by Rod Danielson

Welcome to the Fall edition of the MPCA Neighborhood News.

Elections are keeping things interesting this season, with early voting running from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3. Our early voting polling place will be the Metropolitan Multi-purpose Center at 1475 West Gray.

Everything from one of two U.S. Senate seats to the governor's race to local bond issues will be on the ballot.

On a local level, several items of interest to property owners are up for consideration. Seats are being contested in Congressional Dist. 7 (incumbent John Culberson

and Jim Henley), and State Representative Dist. 134 (incumbent Martha Wong and Ellen Cohen).

Be sure to get out and vote, whether you do it early or on Election Day.

Early Voting Schedule	
10/23-27	8 am-4:30 pm
10/28	7 am-7 pm
10/29	1-6 pm
10/30-11/3	7 am-7 pm

We continue to monitor the crime rate in our neighborhood. Although the summer brought an increase in burglaries and other crimes, the trend slows as the temperature begins to drop.

A new civility ordinance to prevent loitering is under consideration by City Council.

We need your input to decide how MPCA will proceed. You can read more about the civility ordinance on page 3.

The City Council also is reconsidering a graffiti ordinance—originally submitted in June—that would require businesses to clean up graffiti on their buildings within 10 days or face a fine.

You may be aware that the River Oaks Theatre's existence is being threatened by a possible new development in the River Oaks Centre. The Neartown Association has offered to serve as intermediary between the developer and the community.

As always, the Mandell Place Civic Association board members want to hear from you about these and other issues affecting us all.

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# Election Day

## Nov. 7



### Next MPCA Meeting

**When:** Oct. 21, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Home of Martin & Lenny Teske  
1613 Harold



## Around Our 'Hood

### Updates on the Graffiti Ordinance and the River Oaks Theatre

The City Council is reconsidering a graffiti ordinance update first presented in June. The changes would require property occupants, as well as owners, to clean up graffiti within 10 business days. If the owner or occupant fails to comply after receiving a warning letter, the city could issue a misdemeanor citation and maximum \$500 fine.

Graffiti victims can call the city's 311 help line to file a report and ask the city to cover the graffiti at no cost, but the city's paint color may or may not match that of the property's.

The proposal also prohibits sale of broad-tipped permanent markers and

paint sticks to children under 17 years old, unless they have a parent's note.

Weingarten Realty, a Houston-based company that owns and manages about 300 properties in the US, reportedly has plans to tear down the River Oaks Theatre, although Weingarten will not confirm those plans. *The Houston Chronicle* reports that a Weingarten agent told several tenants of plans to raze parts of the historic shopping center.

Constructed in 1937, the curved art deco building is "of national significance," said architecture historian Stephen Fox.

The Neartown Neighborhood Asso-

ciation has offered to act as a liaison between the realtor and development opponents.

"We believe the community needs assurances from Weingarten that it will retain in the Center those neighborhood friendly qualities that we have all come to value," Allen Uekert, Neartown President, said in an Oct. 9 letter to Andrew Alexander, President & CEO of Weingarten. Mayor White and at-large and our district city council members received copies of the correspondence.

More than 24,500 people have signed an i-petition urging Weingarten to keep the theater intact.

## Recycling and Heavy Trash schedule

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Recycling days      Heavy trash days

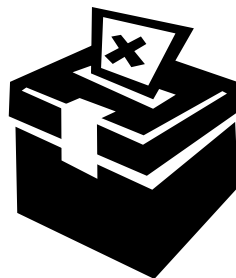
## Bond and charter items

Election Day is Nov. 7, and several local bond items and two charter amendments are on the ballot. Mayor White has endorsed all proposed bond issues and the charter amendments.

**PROP A** - \$320 million street and drainage improvement bonds

**PROP B** - \$135 million police and fire improvement bonds

**PROP C** - \$55 million park and recreational improvement bonds



**PROP D** - \$60 million general improvement bonds

**PROP E** - \$37 million library improvement bonds

**PROP F** - \$18 million affordable housing bonds

**PROP H** - would allow the city to col-

lect and spend \$90 million on public safety above a revenue cap imposed by voters in 2004.

**PROP G** - The 2004 cap, known as Proposition 2, would be changed to exempt from revenue limits the city's "enterprise" funds. Proposition G has drawn criticism from the limited-government advocates who supported Prop 2 in 2004.



### Civility Ordinance

The city’s civility ordinance recently was extended from the downtown and Neartown areas to include Avondale and Hyde Park. Now the Neartown Association is encouraging its member associations to consider joining a single, unified request to be included in the ordinance.

. The civility ordinance discourages the homeless from camping makes it unlawful for a person to sit, lie down or leave bedding on a sidewalk between 7 a.m.—11 p.m. in a “designated area.”

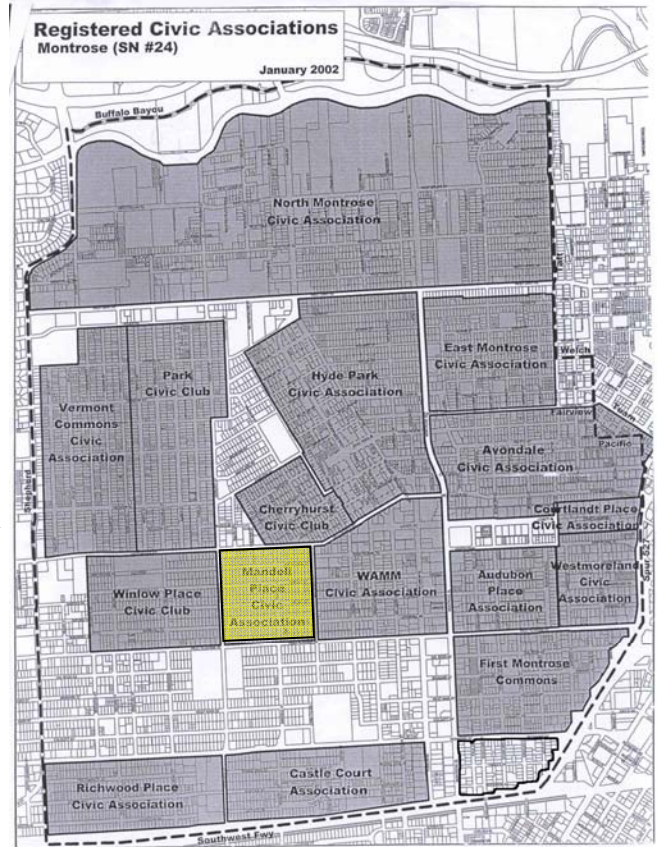
If Neartown pursues the designation, it must gather signatures of owners holding 20% of all properties in the Neartown area within 60 days.

A minimum 100 signatures must be collected from the 16 member organizations.

The request must be filed with the city secretary within 90 days of the first signature. If the request is granted, the ordinance would apply to the entire Neartown area, not individual neighborhoods.

A public hearing must be held, and the police chief determines whether activity exists in the area that would violate the ordinance (in other words, whether people are currently sleeping in public areas).

To learn more, and to further discuss this issue, please attend the Oct. 21 neighborhood association meeting. We want to hear from you.



### Mandell Place Crime Report

The information below was taken from the City of Houston’s Web site, under June-August 2006 crime statistics for Police Beat A130, which is a larger area than Mandell Place. For a complete view of the crime in Beat A130, visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/police/cs/beatpages/cs1a30.htm>

#### June—August 2006 Crimes in Mandell Place

Offense Date	Offense	Block	Street Name
6/3/2006	Burglary	1500	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
5/31/2006	Burglary	1600	HAROLD
6/7/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1600	HAWTHORNE
6/27/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1600	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
7/17/2006	Robbery	1600	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
6/30/2006	Burglary	1500	HAROLD
7/20/2006	Burglary	1500	HAWTHORNE
6/29/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	HAROLD
7/16/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	MARSHALL
7/25/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	HAWTHORNE
7/15/2006	Auto Theft	1500	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
7/26/2006	Auto Theft	1500	MARSHALL
8/15/2006	Burglary	1600	HAWTHORNE
8/26/2006	Burglary	1600	HAWTHORNE
8/16/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	HAROLD





### Join Mandell Place Today

Your annual payment (due at the beginning of each calendar year) helps us improve our neighborhood, take on special projects, keep you informed and manage many other important tasks.

Join today! Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check made out to:

**Mandell Place Civic Association (MPCA)**  
**P O Box 66005**  
**Houston, TX 77266-6005**

**Thank you!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues (Please check one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Contributing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (\$\_\_\_\_\_)

**We're on the Web!**  
go to  
[www.mandellplace.org/](http://www.mandellplace.org/)



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