



# Neighborhood News

## Special Edition honoring Dorothy Tyler, MPCA founder and first president

### President's Message by Rod Danielson



Rod Danielson

Welcome to our Spring issue of the MPCA Neighborhood News. This edition is a special tribute to Dorothy Tyler, the longest-tenured member of our association; you can learn more about her when you read the page 4 insert.

In the last newsletter, I listed my goals for 2006. In each newsletter this year, I want to update you on those goals and our progress.

#### 1. Increase membership.

Last year our total membership was 59. This year, largely because of the efforts of Membership Chairman Kelly DeHay, we have increased our membership by 31%, to 90 members.

However, despite this success, let me share this statistic with you: Our 90 members represent only 36% of the 250 properties in Mandell Place. Without greater membership participation by

our residents and property owners, it will be hard for MPCA to accomplish any projects of much impact on our neighborhood (security, beautification, and so on).

But we're not done yet: If you haven't joined, please fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it in. There's so much we can do with your support.

#### 2. Keep up the attack on graffiti and other crime.

We are exploring the cost of part-time security in the neighborhood. Although early information tells us it may be too expensive for our budget, we are looking at other options. By the way, you may have seen more Houston Police Department patrol cars around lately—Mayor White has told HPD to pay overtime to maintain police coverage while the city hires more officers.

Also, the city recently transferred its Neighborhood Protection and Buildings & Standards department to HPD. They've

promised to heighten efforts to reduce graffiti in the Montrose area, and dedicated an officer to the task. But they need your help: Report graffiti by calling 311. If you want to get involved in fighting graffiti, send an e-mail to [graffitibusters@cleanmontrose.com](mailto:graffitibusters@cleanmontrose.com).

#### 3. Join other organizations to beautify our neighborhoods.

If you've driven down W. Alabama between Mandell and Dunlavy lately, you've seen that Trees for Houston planted live oaks along this block. This was accomplished through the efforts of Mandell Place residents. If you want to find out more about Trees for Houston or contribute, go to: [www.treesforhouston.org](http://www.treesforhouston.org)

We have an opportunity this year to concentrate on beautification, and plan to adopt a budget that will give us some flexibility to improve our already-wonderful neighborhood.

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### Next MPCA Meeting

**When:** Sun., April 23, 2006, 4-6 p.m.

**Where:** 1507 and 1509 Hawthorne

(Lawns of Pandora Snethcamp and Lisa Dempsey)



## 2006 Mandell Place Civic Association Members

Below are the 2006 members of Mandell Place Civic Association. Please look for your name and make sure spelling and address are accurate. For corrections, contact Kelly DeHay at 713-528-0575 or e-mail him at [kdehay@greenwoodking.com](mailto:kdehay@greenwoodking.com).

### 1500 block of Marshall

1501 Kelly DeHay and Rod Danielson  
 1507 Mike Shannon and Pat Digby  
 1508 Sue Thompson  
 1514 George and Pam Laflin  
 1515 Susan Cockburn  
 1517 John and Dinah Martínez  
 1518 Roy Baker  
 1520 Greg and Hillary Press  
 1522 Peter and Cheri VanHoeven  
 1523 Linda and John Lee  
 1525 Ray and Ina Brown  
 1528 Joe and Ekaterini Noffsinger  
 1529 John Kirksey Jr.  
 1531#5 Donald Dahn  
 1531 Marshall Townhome Association

### 1500 block of Kipling

1501 Patricia Garrison  
 1502 Greg Purser and Tony Montalvo  
 1504 Dorothy Tyler  
 1507 Bob and Joan Roden  
 1508 Laura Feldman  
 1517 Michelle Judson  
 1519, 1532 Robert and Carol O'Neal  
 1521 Robert Turner  
 1537 Mark and Laura Pauly

### 1500 block of Harold

1504 Bob and Melissa Frazier  
 1507A John and Barbara Kenna  
 1509 John Blackman and John Roberson  
 1524 David Crossley and Jody Blazer  
 1527 Harvey Levin  
 1530 Michael and Joyce Harris  
 1531 Brad Hillman

### 1500 block of Hawthorne

1505 Ed Bullock and Flora Yeh  
 1507 Pandora Snethkamp  
 1527 Ben Crump  
 1530 Dan and Vivian Jordan  
 1536 Ralph and Gwen Spaugh

### 1500 block of Westheimer — none

### 3300-3700 block of Mandell — none

### 1500 block of W. Alabama

1516 Fat Cat Flats  
 1518 Menil Foundation Properties

### 1600 block of Marshall

1606, 1616 Pat Corrigan and Sandra Scurreia  
 1613 Craig and Nan Varoga  
 1617 Randy Branca and Chris Arnot  
 1620 Tony Snider and David Trahan  
 1631 Bill Bartlett

1634 Zuhail Fahim  
 1642 Iris Sizemore and Jacsun Shah  
 1645 Heather Hazen  
 1651 Dolores Lamb

### 1600 block of Kipling

1602 Jerald Kelly  
 1612 John Culver  
 1614 Christopher Hunt  
 1621 Erik and Holli Nichols  
 1624 Betty Gerlach  
 1625 Samira Salman  
 1627 Jeanne Wilequet  
 1640 Tony and Connie Pfeiffer  
 1651 Coralie Kelly  
 1660 Alan Mundy

### 1600 block of Harold

1601 Deborah Brown  
 1602 Fabené Welch  
 1606 Jim Roy and Rex Watson  
 1609 Mary Curl  
 1610 Arleen Znosko  
 1613, 1625 Samir Khushalani and David Brantley  
 1619 Carol Wolk  
 1621 Marshall Abramson and Steve Reynolds  
 1624 Sanila Rana  
 1628 Jaye Tullai  
 1631 Earnest and Donna Roth  
 1635 Greg Le Roy  
 1636 Peter Balter  
 1641 Andrew and Jeannine Helms  
 1644 Dana Epley  
 1655 Mark and Laura Pauly

### 1600 block of Hawthorne

1602 Bill Truitt and Carolyn Foug  
 1609 Thomas Cuthbert and Adriana Silva  
 1615 Bob and Sonia Clayton  
 1616 Barbara Quinn  
 1644<sup>1/2</sup> Robert Graham  
 1648 Robert and Mary Scruggs  
 1651 Anthony and Chun Ling Coffman

### 1600 block of Westheimer

1641 2009 Welch, Inc.  
 1641 Poison Girl

### 1600 block of W. Alabama

1606 Jewell McNabb

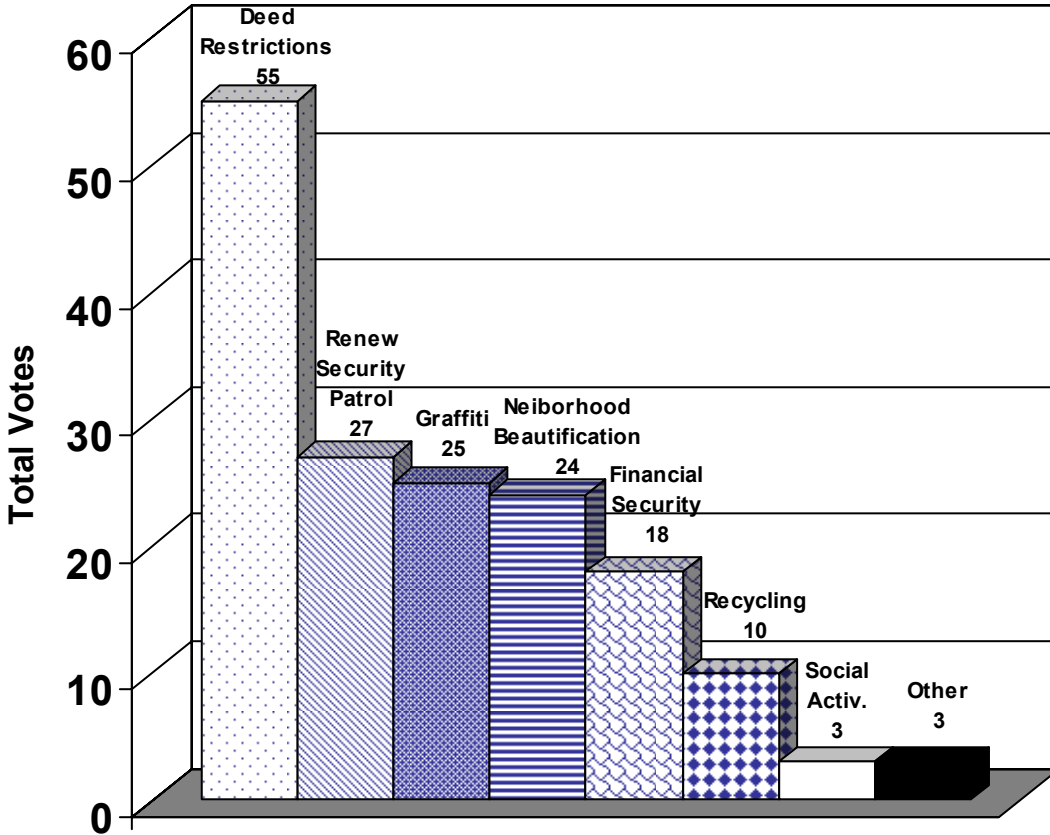
### 3600-3700 block of Mulberry

3608 Mary Murray  
 3614 Rhine McNeil  
 3616 Mark Crook and Bob Hall  
 3702 Mark Copeland and Ron Little



### Survey Says....

The MPCA board asked members to choose their top priorities for the coming year. The results of all whom responded are tabulated below. If you haven't filled out the survey, go to our Web site at [www.mandellplace.org](http://www.mandellplace.org) or e-mail Rod Danielson at [danielsonr@msn.com](mailto:danielsonr@msn.com).



## JOIN MANDELL PLACE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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 (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)





## Special Feature: Dorothy Tyler, MPCA Founder



Dorothy has lived in Mandell Place since

To Dorothy Tyler, resident of Mandell Place since 1961, the “good old days” are here today.

Dorothy, who was born in Wisconsin nearly 80 years ago in May, moved to Houston in 1945 and worked her way through the University of Houston. After receiving her master’s degree in English, she taught for 25 years at Lanier Middle School.

Speaking from the dining room table in her Kipling St. home, she said, “I’ve always been a neighborhood activist—it’s just the way I am. My parents were very active politically; my father was a union man, and I’m very much a union man’s daughter. That’s why Mandell Place has always appealed to me: It’s more sympathetic to the causes of humanity and to quality of life.”

“When I came here, this was a hippie place. I wasn’t a hippie, though. I was young, upwardly mobile and hardworking.”

In 1985, three families got together because some new townhouses violated the neighborhood deed restrictions. “What offended us was the wall they built next to the sidewalk. We might’ve been offended by other townhouses as well, but we didn’t know much

about deed restrictions then.”

But the families learned a lot in the coming months. They learned they had to organize if they wanted to fight deed restriction violations, so they sent letters to all residents asking for contributions. Then-council member George Grenias held a town hall meeting in Neartown, and Dorothy

**“What offended us was the wall they built next to the sidewalk. We might’ve been offended by other townhouses as well, but we didn’t know much about deed restrictions then.”**

approached him with the townhouse problem. “He got real upset,” she remembered. “He arranged a special council meeting to hear our complaints.” After the meeting, the city ruled in MPCA’s favor and provided the association an attorney to take the case to court.

“The builder countersued the three families, but we won,” Dorothy said. “And that’s how [MPCA] got started. We met at this very table, developed by-laws and got involved with Neartown.”

Dorothy was the first MPCA president when it formed in July 1985, and between then and now, she’s seen many colorful events in the neighborhood.

She went to Austin once to testify against neighborhood bars. But in 1988, *Inner View*, a magazine calling itself The News Magazine of Houston’s Innercity, produced a story on the hot new sex industry trend of businesses renting hot tubs by the hour, and that a new site was opening in the 1600 block of Alabama.

“We raised Cain. We marched. We fought places like that. We knew when to do it—you go public on weekends because news is slow then, so reporters give you more attention. The owner eventually sold and moved. Publicity is what cooks ‘em. They can’t take it.”

Also in 1988, a *Houston Post* magazine featured Dorothy and other neighborhood activists in an article entitled, “Fighting Back: How One



“Everyone has great courage because we’re in a group,” says Dorothy Tyler, shown here in front of the townhouse that first unified the Mandell Place Civic Association. “And nearly everyone agrees: We see a difference in our neighborhood.”

Dorothy, with Pamina, in a 1988 *Houston Post* magazine article



**Dorothy, continued from page 4**

Group is Saving its Neighborhood.” Dorothy, with 15 adults and the Guardian Angels, a famous citizen’s patrol group from New York, had instituted “prostitute patrols.” Residents followed, harassed, and otherwise discouraged prostitutes from entering the neighborhood.

One night the patrol followed a transvestite wearing a strapless black dress with a ruffled miniskirt down the neighborhood streets. The transvestite, awkward on high heels and unsettled by the unwanted attention, sped up. The group increased its pace. In frustration, the prostitute grabbed the skirt and shook the frills back and forth, “and I’ll never forget it—that skirt made the exact sound a bird will make when it ruffles its feathers in annoyance,” Dorothy said.

In 1990, a serial rapist terrorized the neighborhood; he was never caught. Then a series of arson-related garage fires occurred. So the association hired security officer Debbi Logan to patrol part-time at nights. Later, Debbi’s husband Tom took over the job. He was employed by MPCA and other neighborhoods for

more than six years. Tom and Dorothy were interviewed for a Channel 11 TV news feature on reduced crime rates in the neighborhood in 1994.

Dorothy recalled a neighborhood less safe than today. “One time a man ran across my porch and tried to open my doors, but they were locked. He was trying to get in. Then I heard gunshots—it was a drug deal gone bad. Later I found a bullet hole in the wall. The shot had gone through the

**“We raised Cain. We marched. We fought places like that. We knew when to do it—you get public on weekends because news is slow then.... Publicity is what cooks ‘em. They can’t take it.”**

bedroom, hit a globe and literally went through the world before coming out.”

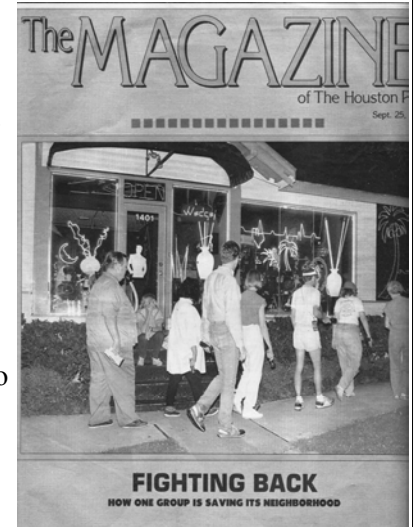
She’s been recognized by several civic leaders over the years. George Grenias honored Dorothy in 1986 at his annual town hall meeting. In 1991, Mayor Kathy Whitmire presented her with a certificate of appreciation that said in part, “for meritorious service to the community as a tireless and effective leader in the Neartown Association and Mandell Place Civic Club.” Once, “[Former city council member] Vince Ryan gave

me a little celebration. We went to a restaurant and the whole neighborhood came. It was really nice,” she said.

“Other neighborhoods looked up to us because we were getting good publicity with tangible results,” she said. “They would ask for our help to start their associations. We helped WAMM get started.” (W. Alabama, Westheimer, Mulberry and Montrose Neighborhood Association.)

“This neighborhood has changed for the better,” Dorothy said. “We used to fight liquor licenses in the area, but now the government regulates them better. We’re controlling business better—it’s off residential streets. We have business streets and residential streets. That’s the way to have a community, especially if you have children.”

So don’t expect Dorothy to long for the way things were. She doesn’t have time for that. She’s got e-mails to send, a yard to tend, weightlifting or yoga on the agenda, walking to do. She also can enjoy the fruits of years of labor, knowing she helped make Mandell Place what it is today.



Dorothy (far right) with MPCA members on “prostitute patrol” in this archive copy of a 1988 Houston Post magazine





## Around our 'hood

### New Restaurant

Hungry's Restaurant & Bistro Cafe, with two locations in town, plans to open a third restaurant this year at 1704 Westheimer. The location replaces Carpets by Joy. Although management confirms plans to open are definite, no information is available on the new building size and configuration.

"Check back in a month

or so, and we'll have more information for you. Right now, all we know is that it will be completely different from our other menus and locations," said Rice location manager Neima Sharifi.

### New Clothing Store

American Apparel, a national clothing store chain, is planning to open a store on Westheimer.

### Trees on W. Alabama

Have you wondered why we have new oak trees on W. Alabama from Mandell to Dunlavy? Kelly DeHay and Rod Danielson donated funds for planting them to Trees for Houston, to honor friends, neighbors and former officers of Mandell Place Civic Association.



New Trees along Alabama

## 311 services take new direction

The City of Houston's Neighborhood Protection and Buildings & Standards Department has moved to the Police Department, and is under Assistant Chief Brian Lumpkin.

Dangerous/vacant buildings, graffiti, high grass, trash, nonworking

street/traffic lights, debris, unsafe pools, abandoned autos and other issues that affect public safety and quality of life now lie within HPD's jurisdiction.

The city pledges greater attention to neighborhoods' needs, and one indication of this new

focus is a police officer dedicated solely to graffiti control.

To report any of the issues above, call 311 or, if you don't like waiting on hold, go to the Web page listed below and report your concern there.

**The City's new Web page to report 311 problems:**  
[https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web\\_intake/Controller](https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller)

## Blue wrappers got you blue?

Are you enjoying the weekly *River Oaks Examiner*, reading it cover to cover for local flavor? Or would you prefer that the blue-wrapped newspaper never grace your lawn?

If you want to cancel delivery of the *Examiner*, call 713-520-1226 or go to this Web site:

[www.riveroaksexaminernews.com](http://www.riveroaksexaminernews.com)

Many *Examiners* are never picked up, end up in the street or clog our gutters and old sewer lines.

So if you don't read it, don't like removing it from your yard or the street, and want to make

your neighborhood a little neater—knowing that you may have helped save a tree in the bargain—just make that call or hit that Web site.



Some of us enjoy our blue-wrapped neighborhood news; some don't.

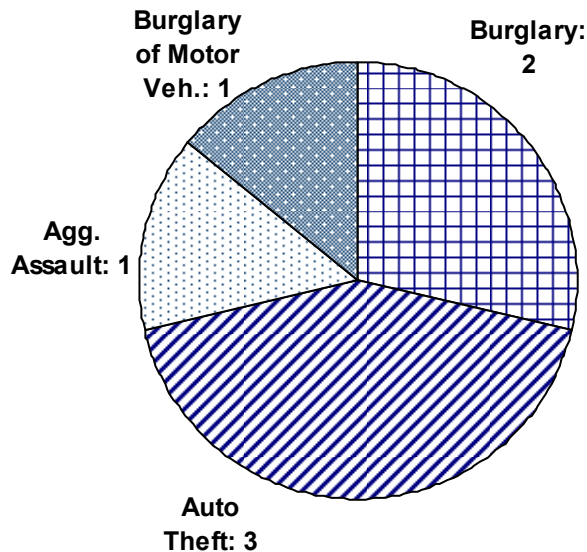


## Mandell Place Crime Report

The information below was taken from the City of Houston's Web site, under December 2005 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>

### December 2005 and January 2006 Crimes in Mandell Place

Date	Time	Offense	Block	Street Name
12/11/2005	0259	Burglary	1600	WESTHEIMER
12/26/2005	0400	Auto Theft	1600	ALABAMA
12/30/2005	1500	Auto Theft	1600	WESTHEIMER
1/24/2006	2100	Aggravated Assault	1500	WESTHEIMER
1/10/2006	2200	Burglary	1500	WESTHEIMER
1/18/2006	1515	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	ALABAMA
1/6/2006	0730	Auto Theft	1500	HAWTHORNE



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



## Letters to Mandell Place Residents



What are you thinking? We want to know. We welcome your letters and e-mails about subjects important to our neighbors in Mandell Place. We reserve the right to print and edit any submission.

### Let's Stop Grease Balls

As you may be aware, the city sewer line serving our block has backed up for the fourth time in less than three months. We call and the city comes out to clean or repair the stoppage and around three weeks later it backs up again. On one oc-

casation the pipe was found to be damaged.

At least one of the stoppages was reportedly caused by a huge ball of grease. Dirt was recently found in the line.

The city sewer line running behind our house is old, fragile and probably needs further repair. We have called council members Ada Edwards and Peter Brown's offices.

However, there are also things we can do as homeowners and good neighbors to help mitigate the current situation. We can take more care in what we flush or put down the drain.

Cooking grease, fat and oil should *never* be poured down the drain. It should be collected in a container and disposed of in the trash. Restaurants have grease traps, our homes do not. Grease builds up in the

sewer and clogs it up.

Likewise, paint, household chemical and solid debris should not be disposed down the drain into the sewer.

Many of us have disposals under our kitchen sinks – with these powerful grinders we can force prodigious quantities of solids into the sewer, which was not designed to handle any of this stuff.

So please, let's be mindful of what we flush and pour down the drain.

Ed Bullock and Flora Yeh  
1500 Block of Hawthorne



**Mandell Place Civic Association (MPCA)**  
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Houston, TX 77266-6005