



Mandell Place Civic Association
A neighborhood by design

Neighborhood News



Rod Danielson

President's Message by Rod Danielson

Welcome to the Summer edition of the MPCA Neighborhood News. The heat of summer is definitely upon us, and it seems the rising temperatures have brought us an increase in crime. Page 3 details the rash of incidents that have occurred over the past several weeks in our general vicinity.

While this trend is of concern, you should know that the Houston Police Department is also concerned about the increased crime and is taking steps to counter it. At the June 26 meeting of the Neartown Association, representatives of HPD spoke about steps the department is taking to combat crime in our area.

One of those steps is increased visibility. Hopefully, you've noticed an increase in patrol presence in the neighborhood. These increased patrols should serve as a deterrent. However, you also must take an active role to protect yourself and your property. A list of safety tips is summarized on page 3.

Also at the June 26 Neartown meeting, a representative of Council member Sue Lovell's office summarized the status of a proposed new graffiti ordinance.

The new ordinance would, in part, decrease the time property owners have to abate graffiti from their properties, make it harder for juveniles to acquire spray paint and other graffiti tools, and make it a crime for juveniles to possess such items in public settings. The details are cur-

rently being ironed out in committee meetings.

You can help the effort by reporting any graffiti you see, whether on private property or government (city, county, or state) property, by calling 311.

The City of Houston is finally as serious about solving the graffiti problem as it is committed to abating all reported instances.

On a lighter note, this year's increased membership numbers have allowed the MPCA board to allocate a portion of this year's budget to beautification projects. Our beautification chairs, David Brantley and Samir Khushalani, are currently working on ideas, and welcome any input you may have. You can contact them at 713-523-1735.

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Next MPCA Meeting — National Night Out

When: National Night Out
Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2006
From 6—9 p.m.

Where: Lawn of Bob & Melissa Frazier
1504 Harold

National Night Out is celebrating its 23rd anniversary. Please come—bring your mosquito spray—and enjoy time with your neighbors.



Around Our 'Hood

Apartment complex

Trammel Crow has proposed a 240-unit apartment complex in Winlow Place off Westheimer and Shepherd.

Concerned about population density and resulting traffic congestion, Winlow Place appealed to the Planning Commission, and won a variance that prohibits ingress and egress from Harold and Hawthorne. Now all traffic entering and leaving the proposed complex must use Westheimer.

Planning Commission chair Dr. Carole Lewis suggested that the commission require all developers to obtain a Traffic Impact Analysis before the commission reviews any plat. The discussion pointed to a lack of consistency in ruling on development in the inner city.

In response, Council member Peter Brown is spearheading an effort to create consistent development rules.

Winlow Place also won a concession that all existing trees remain in the plans.

Council members Ada Edwards, Sue Lovell, Marlene Gafrick and Peter Brown were active in the discussions about the development.

Recycling Schedule for August and September*

August						
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		

September						
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

*Recycling days in green.



Go green—recycle!

MPCA Enters \$5000 Recycling Contest

You should have received a letter recently from Houston Mayor Bill White asking us to get serious about recycling. When Houston hosted the 2006 Environmental Summit, the goal was to make Houston a model environmental city.

A recent survey found that only one in five of our neighbors recycles. That's not good enough.

The Mayor's letter announced a contest in which each subdivision will be scored on participation and amount of recyclables. The highest-scoring subdivision will win \$5,000, to be used on neighborhood improvements.

Prizes will be awarded in four

categories: the most improved paper recycling area, the overall highest



Let's get serious about recycling

paper scoring area, the most improved commingled area, and the highest overall commingled area.

Mandell Place could do a lot of improving with \$5,000. In the past, we

thought a couple hundred dollars would buy a lot of trees, and that's as ambitious as we got. Let's give it a try and start recycling!

You received a card with the Mayor's letter showing recycling days and exactly what can be recycled. If your green bin isn't picked up, it's because there's something in it that isn't on the city's list to recycle. One incorrect item can ruin an entire bin of recyclables.

Save your Recycling Schedule and refer to it whenever you aren't sure if an item is recyclable. If you don't have a green bin, call our Recycling Chairperson, Dorothy Tyler, at 713-523-0979 to get one.



Crime on the Rise

Although the table below doesn't seem especially alarming, a recent spike in crimes in nearby neighborhoods should be cause for concern.

The 15-year-old murder victim in Ervan Chew Park was allegedly a gang member. But closer to home, our neighbors in Winlow Place have suffered several serious crimes lately.

At 3 a.m. Sunday, June 4, two people were robbed at gunpoint as they sat in their car in the driveway on Harold Street.

On Monday, June 12, in the 1700 block of Hawthorne, a family was robbed at gunpoint in their home. The robber had kicked down the back door to enter.

Also on June 12, a neighbor in the 2600 block of Hazard found someone had broken into a locked storage shed on his property and stolen several tools and gardening items.

On June 16, a house in the 1700 block of Harold was broken into at about 11:30 p.m. The assailant first tried to kick in a steel-front door (with the porch light on), then went to the unlocked back door to enter. The occupant ran to call 911: By the time police arrived, the robber had used a stolen credit card at a gas station.

In cases in which a gun was used, victims said the assailant was a middle-aged, stocky African American man, about 6' tall. Police assured one victim that our neighborhood is safe,

but they recommend that everyone take the precautions listed in the box below.

Home Safety Tips

1. **Keep the outside of your home well-lit at night.**
2. **Keep blinds/curtains drawn.**
3. **Have well-secured locks and deadbolts on outside doors.**
4. **Don't let shrubs cover windows.**
5. **Install a security system, if possible.**
6. **If #5 isn't possible, get a small dog—they bark more.**

Mandell Place Crime Report

The information below was taken from the City of Houston's Web site, under April and May 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>

April and May 2006 Crimes in Mandell Place

Offense Date	Offense	Block	Street Name
4/18/2006	Robbery	1600	ALABAMA (commercial)
4/4/2006	Burglary	1500	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
4/5/2006	Burglary	1600	ALABAMA (commercial)
4/4/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
4/20/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	MARSHALL
4/29/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1500	MARSHALL
4/4/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1600	ALABAMA (commercial)
4/4/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1600	ALABAMA (commercial)
4/16/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1600	HAROLD
4/13/2006	Narcotic Drug Laws	1500	MARSHALL
5/11/2006	Burglary	1500	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
5/11/2006	Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1600	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
5/11/2006	Auto Theft	1500	ALABAMA (commercial)
5/27/2006	Burglary	1500	WESTHEIMER (commercial)
5/27/2006	Burglary	1500	WESTHEIMER (commercial)



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/



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