

**HOUSTON
CITY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT
G**



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District G

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News From District G

March 2010

To The Citizens of District G:

I continue to develop information on flooding & drainage, crime prevention, and mobility. They are each complex issues that require us to assemble a broad range of information. We now better understand regional flooding issues and we have identified many local drainage problems. We have identified most of the volunteers and private professionals involved in crime prevention. We are meeting with the HPD Westside Captain this week to better understand how our private security activities can complement those of the HPD. We will have a more complete report next month. We have also been immediately responsive to a vast majority of the large number of requests that come in daily from constituents. We have had numerous small victories on behalf of District G residents whether it's getting a backed-up sewer fixed, or getting traffic control signs or devices installed, or finding answers to questions about city services. We continue to remind people that most city services call be accessed through calling 3-1-1 or going online and filling out the web intake form and by copying us on your request.

We have attended the Army Corps of Engineers presentation on the safety of Barker and Addicks Dams. I attended the March 2 TIRZ 17 meeting, where the TIRZ agreed with us that the Kimberley Lane and Memorial Drive at Beltway 8 street and drainage projects would be delayed until the drainage study being conducted is completed. If you have experienced flooding in your area, please go to my website and complete the Flooding & Drainage Survey. As you may have heard, the City Council Flooding & Drainage Committee is considering the city's long range needs for infrastructure funding, and it has been suggested that \$500 million a year for 20 years in necessary to catch up. Keep a lookout for future notice of a Town Hall meeting on flooding being held jointly by At Large City Council Member Costello, the Chair of the Flooding and Drainage Committee, and me as your Council Member and a member of the committee.

I also have a Security Survey on my website to identify those involved in security in our neighborhoods. I believe that we can improve on how we share information and spot trends in crime and you can help by filling out this Security Survey. I continue to support increased HPD presence in District G. I am supportive of efforts by the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood to establish an HPD storefront in the general location of Wilcrest @ Briar Forest. I will strongly urge the Mayor to support our constituents CIP requests for better streets and drainage.

I hope you enjoy this, my second newsletter. Please feel free to submit any materials you feel may be of interest to the District. The fiscal year budget process will begin soon. Please note the schedule on page 7 of this Newsletter. The City will undoubtedly raise substantially less revenue this year than last. I will appreciate your comments on how the City should reduce costs or on any other subject.

Sincerely,
Oliver Pennington

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District G CIP Meeting Held March 3



**Annual District G
CIP Meeting Held
March 3, 2010**

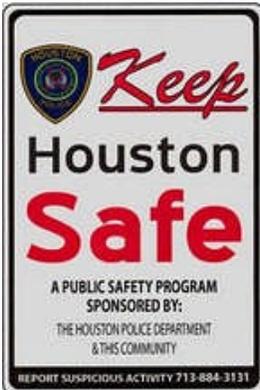


Council Member Pennington held his annual District G CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) meeting on March 3, which was attended by over 150 people, including many City of Houston Department heads and officials. The meeting was attended by Council Members Bradford and Costello, staff members from the offices of Council Members Stardig and Noriega, and representatives of the Mayor's office, the Controller's office, and the Finance, Public Works, Gen-

eral Services, Parks & Recreation, Housing & Community Development, Planning & Development, Solid Waste Management, and Health & Human Services Departments, as well as the Houston Police Department, the Neighborhood Protection Corps, the Houston Fire Department, the Houston Public Library, and the Municipal Courts. Mr. Marcotte, the Director of Public Works & Engineering, answered a number of questions from the audience regarding public works projects.

We heard from many citizens regarding their desires to have CIP projects constructed in their areas. The most common requests were for improvements to storm sewers and roads (Richmond Avenue, Dairy Ashford, Memorial Drive, Kirkwood, etc.). District G has aging infrastructure and many of our major thoroughfares such as Dairy Ashford are in need of reconstruction. We will strive during the CIP budgeting process to include as many of these worthy projects as possible.

HPD's 27th Annual "March on Crime"



The 27th annual March on Crime campaign is a proactive campaign aimed at informing citizens about crime prevention tips and how to keep safe. The March on Crime campaign began in December 1984 out of growing concern over violent crimes committed in African-American communities. In 1986, it expanded to the Hispanic community. Eventually, the campaign was expanded to all citizens of Houston.

It is up to every Houstonian to help keep the city safe. HPD needs all citizens – from business owners to church members, from community groups to families – to pledge to Keep Houston Safe.

Crime prevention tips: http://www.houstontx.gov/police/keep_houston_safe/index.htm

Here you will find Crime Prevention Information on:

- Back to School Safety
- Burglary Prevention for Your Home
- Burglary Prevention for Your Vehicle
- Crime Prevention Manuals
- Cyber Safety
- Halloween Safety
- Holiday Safety
- ID Safety
- Identify Theft Brochure
- Identify Theft Prevention & Victim Information
- 10 Ways to Protect Yourself from Identity Theft
- Robbery Prevention
- Senior Citizens Crime Prevention
- Sexual Assault Prevention
- Summer Safety for Kids

To view crime statistics for the last 30 days, visit: <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/crime/optionPage.aspx>

Access to Houston City Council & City Council Committees by the Public

The City of Houston City Council Agenda is published on Friday afternoon and describes the actions that Council will consider at its meeting the following week. The Agenda may be viewed online at the link provided below. Council usually meets at 1:30 p.m. most Tuesday afternoons and at 9:00 a.m. most Wednesday mornings in the City Council Chamber, 901 Bagby, Houston, Texas 77002. The Tuesday session is devoted to public comment, or “pop-off” as it is commonly called, and the Wednesday session is for the consideration of agenda items that require City Council approval.

To sign up to speak during a Public Session on Tuesday afternoon, call the City Secretary's office at 832-393-1100 or come by the office on the public level of the City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby (across the street from the City Council Chamber) at least thirty (30) minutes before the meeting start time.

Each week's Council agenda is available at www.houstontx.gov/citysec. Under the City Secretary Quick Links, select the “Current City Council Agenda” link on the left for the basic

agenda and the “Agenda Backup” link on the left for all of the backup information associated with each agenda item. You will also find a link to previous agendas and minutes if you wish to review matters considered by City Council in the past.

City Council meetings may be viewed on HTV Houston Television at <http://houstontx.city.swagit.com>. The first tab allows you to watch the proceedings live. The second tab will list all past sessions that are on file.

If you have questions about any of the items posted on the agenda, please contact marta.crinejo@cityofhouston.net.

City Council Committees usually meet monthly (e.g., Budget & Fiscal Affairs, Flooding & Drainage, and Public Safety & Homeland Security). To view a list of Committees with links to their most recent agenda, visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/citysec/committee/index.html> Contact the Chair of the Committee for information on meetings



Appointment to City of Houston Boards & Commissions

Would you like Mayor Annise D. Parker to consider you for an appointment to a Houston Board or Commission in an area where your expertise and commitment will make a difference?

If so, please go to www.houstontx.gov/boards or call 832-393-0817. The City has over one hundred Boards and Commissions, TIRZ's, Redevelopment Authorities, and Management Districts that need volunteer members. At this link, you will find an application form to request appointment to a board or commission, as well as a link to descriptions of all boards and commissions that are available.

Examples of just a few of the many boards and commissions that need volunteers:

- Harris County Appraisal District
- Houston Library Board
- TIRZ 1-22
- Buffalo Bayou Partnership
- Commission on Disabilities

- Ethics Committee
- Houston Read Commission
- Municipal Court Associate Judges
- Garden Center Advisory Board
- City Hall Preservation Committee
- Affirmative Action Advisory Commission
- Building & Standards Commission
- Citizen Review Committee
- Animal Advisory Committee
- Civil Service Commission
- Miller Theatre Advisory Board
- Houston Zoo Development Corporation
- Municipal Board of Sign Control
- Houston Downtown Management District
- Harris County Improvement Districts 1-9

To review other volunteer opportunities available through the City of Houston's Volunteer Initiatives Program, please go to www.houstontx.gov/volunteer or call 832-393-0971 or email volunteer@cityofhouston.net

Boards & Commissions



District G Honors The Lopez Family

Contact:

For more information on the Lopez Taekwondo Academy, please visit:

[http://
www.LopezTaekwondo.net/](http://www.LopezTaekwondo.net/)

or call 281-564-KICK
(281-564-5425)

or email:
info@LopezTaekwondo.net



It is rare to be able to introduce reigning Olympic champions who are from the same family. On February 16, Council Member Pennington had the honor of introducing the Lopez family and their parents and presenting them with a Proclamation from Mayor Annise D. Parker, declaring February 16 "Lopez Family Day" in Houston, Texas.

Jean, Steven, Mark and Diana, along with their parents Julio and Ondina, are true inspirations for all of us. Julio and Ondina moved from Nicaragua to the United States searching for success and the American Dream. Their family found success in the sport of Taekwondo. Such success includes 5 time world champion in Steven, reigning silver medalist in Mark, and reigning bronze medalist in Diana and with every win, point and bead of sweat there is oldest brother Jean as coach. We commend their abilities as athletes, but we praise their love, respect and spirit as a family. A family with values.

Taekwondo is a passion for the entire Lopez family with Steven, his younger brother Mark, and sister, Diana, all competing at the elite level. Steven, Mark, and Diana made history when they each won gold at the 2005 World Taekwondo Championships in Madrid, Spain, becoming the first three siblings in any sport to claim World

Championship titles at the same event. They again made history in 2008 in Beijing, China, becoming the first trio of American siblings to qualify for the same Olympic Games since 1904 and, being joined by their older brother and coach Jean, they became the first family to have four siblings on the same Olympic team. Jean coached Mark to a silver medal and Diana and Steven to a bronze medal. This also made U.S. Olympic history by being the first three siblings to medal at the same Olympic Games. They are all now focused on returning to the Olympic mat as a family at the 2012 Games in London, England.

The Lopez family has showed the world that discipline, dedication, determination, strength and a family that loves one another can conquer all. Recently the siblings penned their story in: *Family Power: The True Story of How the "First Family of Taekwondo" Made Olympic History*. For the first time they share their inspiring story of a family united by a dream.

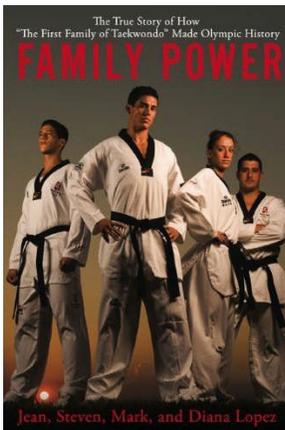
The Lopez Taekwondo Academy is located at:

9907 S. Highway 6
Sugar Land, TX 77498

On February 18, the Lopez family opened its second academy, this one in the heart of District G, located at:

1415 S. Voss Rd.
Houston, TX 77057

For more information on the Lopez Taekwondo Academy, please visit: [http://
www.LopezTaekwondo.net/](http://www.LopezTaekwondo.net/) or call 281-564-KICK (281-564-5425) or email: info@LopezTaekwondo.net. Taekwondo is a family affair, appropriate for young and old alike, and a great way to get/stay in shape.



LIFEGIFT
ORGAN DONATION CENTER



LifeGift Helps Address the Critical Shortage of Organs

Council Member Pennington and LifeGift will partner in April, during National Donate Life Month, to address the critical shortage of organs for the nearly 10,000 Texans and the more than 106,000 Americans awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant and thousands of others who will need tissue transplants. National Donate Life Month is a time to focus attention on the importance of registering as an organ and tissue donor

via the Donate Life Texas Registry (www.donatelifetexas.org.) Named for a kidney recipient and Texas legislator, the Glenda P. Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry has close to 700,000 registered to donate organs or tissue (skin, bone heart valves and corneas). For more information about LifeGift and the Donate Life Texas Registry, visit www.lifegift.org.

Census 2010 Forms in the Mail



L to R: Council Member Pennington, Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20 Vice President Carolyn Boozer, and Mid-West Super Neighborhood Communications Committee Chair Stephanie Anders.

To draw attention to the importance of the Census, on Saturday, March 13, Council Member Pennington joined members of the Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20 walking in Targeted Enumeration Districts spreading the word about the upcoming Census and the need to fill it out and mail it back in a timely fashion. He passed out posters, fact sheets, door hangers, magnets, and T-shirts to help get the word out. We are Houstonians, and We Count!!

There are numerous ways Census data is used to benefit the City of Houston (so please turn in your Census form as soon as possible):

- A more accurate picture of our population to use when adding two new City Council Districts in 2011
- Decision making at all levels of government
- Drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts
- Attracting new businesses to state and local areas
- Distributing over \$400 billion in federal funds plus additional state funds
- Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population
- Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services
- Forecasting future housing needs for all segments of the population
- Directing funds for services for people in poverty
- Designing public safety strategies
- Development of rural areas
- Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters
- Creating maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance
- Delivering goods and services to local markets
- Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, or children
- Planning future government services
- Planning investments and evaluating financial risk
- Publishing economic and statistical reports about the United States and its people
- Facilitating scientific research
- Developing “intelligent” maps for government and business
- Providing proof of age, relationship, or residence certificates provided by the Census Bureau
- Distributing medical research
- Reapportioning seats in the House of Representatives
- Providing evidence in litigation involving land use, voting rights, and equal opportunity
- Drawing school district boundaries
- Planning budgets for government at all levels
- Spotting trends in the economic well-being of the nation
- Planning for public transportation services
- Planning health and educational services for people with disabilities
- Establishing fair market rents and enforcing fair lending practices
- Planning urban land use
- Planning outreach strategies
- Understanding labor supply
- Assessing the potential for spread of communicable diseases
- Analyzing military potential
- Making business decisions
- Understanding consumer needs
- Locating factory sites and distribution centers
- Setting a standard for creating both public and private sector surveys
- Evaluating programs in different geographic areas
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans



“We lose an estimated \$1,700 per person per year for everyone not counted in the Census.”

“An accurate count in the 2010 Census will help Houston receive its fair share of \$400 Billion in federal funds allocated each year.”

United States™
Census 2010



Out and About in District G

During the month of February, Council Member Pennington was extremely busy attending City Council Meetings and Committee Meetings held by the 8 City Council Committees he has been appointed to. In addition, Council Member Pennington and/or District G staff attended the following meetings/events outside the office:

- Energy Corridor Management District
- Galleria Chamber of Commerce
- Nissan's Unveiling of the LEAF Zero Emissions Vehicle @ Reliant Stadium
- Mid-West Super Neighborhood #20 Annual Meeting & "Presidents' Night"
- Washington Avenue Coalition/Memorial Park Super Neighborhood #22
- Meeting with HISD Superintendent
- Westchase District
- Eldridge/West Oaks Super Neighborhood #17
- Chinese New Year Reception
- Woodland Hollow HOA
- Heathlake Community Association
- Economic Development Summit & Star Awards Luncheon
- West Houston Public Safety Coalition
- District C CIP Meeting
- Rebuilding Houston
- State of the County Address
- Briar Forest Super Neighborhood #18
- Memorial Super Neighborhood #16
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Addicks and Barker Dam Safety Public Meeting
- Memorial City District Drainage Coalition First Annual Meeting
- Energy Corridor District
- Environmental Protection Agency Reception
- Rustling Pines Neighborhood Association
- Tealwood Homeowners' Association
- Yorkshire Academy Youth Aspiration Olympics

HPD Midwest Patrol to Begin Civic PIP March 24



Citizens and Police Friendship Through Education

The Houston Police Department has had a Community Service Division since the 1970's. When a group of citizens requested a presentation on a crime prevention topic, they would send one of their officers to the group and advise them what they could do to keep from becoming crime victims again. This is proactive policing. In 1982, out of the patrol division came the idea that citizens also need to know more about their police department before a crime occurred in their neighborhood. From this idea came the concept of the Positive Interaction Program, or "PIP".

A police agency can be very confusing to most citizens. The Positive Interaction Program holds monthly PIP meetings featuring speakers from different divisions (Burglary & Theft, Homicide, K-9, Helicopters, etc.) explaining how their division operates. This is done so citizens will know what to expect should they ever need the police. The department was not sure how citizens would react to coming to a police station once a month for a presentation on a different division. So, the Positive Interaction Program was started as a pilot project in only one police station to

begin with. The Program has proven to be an overwhelming success.

The new Midwest Patrol Station (District 18) will hold its first Civic PIP meeting on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. The special guest will be Midwest Captain David J. Williams. The new Midwest station is located at 7277 Regency Square (just south of Harwin between Hillcroft and Fondren). While it serves three City Council Districts (C, F & G), District 18 includes a large portion inside District G (S. Gessner to the west, IH-10 to the north, 610 to the east, and Westpark to the south). Members of the general public are invited to attend. Prior to the meeting, there will be a tour of the new police station.

If you have any questions regarding the new Midwest Civic PIP, please feel free to call Officer Robert Curl at 713-735-2062 or email him at robert.curl@cityofhouston.net

For those in District 19 or 20, the Civic PIP meets at 7:00 p.m. the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Westside Division, 3203 S. Dairy Ashford. Contact Officer Charles Sterns at 713-773-7000 for additional information.

HPD Midwest Patrol
District 18
Civic PIP

March 24
7:00 p.m.
7277 Regency Square
Blvd.

Crime Stoppers

Crime Stoppers of Houston operates 713-222-TIPS (713-222-8477), a telephone tip line. Information about criminal activity is received and transferred to law enforcement for immediate action. Crime Stoppers of Houston will pay up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and charging of any felony suspects. All callers will remain anonymous. Crime Stoppers provides a safe forum for citizens to report crime in their neighborhoods without the fear of retaliation. They are the eyes and ears of law enforcement in the community.

Overall Success of Crime Stoppers Houston since 1981:

21,357 Felons Arrested
 28,415 Crimes Solved
 861 Murders Solved
 3,736 Robberies solved
 \$7,800,000 in Cash Rewards Paid

If you give valid information on guns, knives, other weapons, drugs, arson, terrorist activity, or on gang activity in our schools, you could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000 if your tip leads to an arrest and charging of a suspect.

In addition to calling 713-222-TIPS, you can text TIP610 plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or you can use the online form: <https://www.tipsubmit.com/WebTips.aspx?AgencyID=610>

If your school would like to schedule a presentation by a Safe School Trainer, call Derric Whitfield at 713-521-4600 or email derric.whitfield@crime-stoppers.org

If you have any questions about Houston Crime Stoppers, call 713-521-4600 or email info@crime-stoppers.org



City of Houston Budget Process & Schedule

As we are all aware, the economic climate has changed over the past 18 months. We all have been forced to tighten our belts at home – city government should also do the same.

The City of Houston’s Fiscal Year 2011 budget is set to be released by the Mayor on May 11, 2010. FY 2011 begins July 1, 2010. Although Council receives monthly projections from the Controller’s office, we will have a more accurate picture of the budget situation on May 12 when the Mayor presents her proposed budget to City Council.

As of January 31, 2010, Controller Green is expecting a deficit of \$154 million in the general fund for FY 2010. This deficit will need to be balanced in the upcoming months.

I have advocated to the Mayor that just as taxpayers have had to make adjustments to their budget, the City should also take the same approach. Each Department needs to be scrutinized for efficiencies. If a job can be accomplished with fewer employees, so be it. We need to be mindful of the taxpayer dollar.

A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled for June 8, 2010. Council is expected to take action on the budget during June.

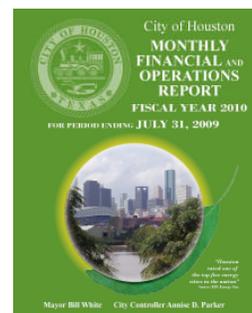
I look forward to working with the Administration and my fellow Council Members as we move through the budgetary process.

Condensed Budget Schedule:

- May 11, 2010: Press Conference – Mayor Parker Releases FY 2011 Proposed Budget
- May 12, 2010: Mayor Parker’s Report at City Council Meeting
- May 26, 2010: City Council Action Setting Public Hearing
- May 28, 2010: Public Notice for Public Hearing on Proposed Budget
- **June 8, 2010: Public Hearing on Proposed Budget**
- June 9, 2010: Council Action on Proposed Budget
- June 16, 2010: Council Action on Proposed Budget
- June 23, 2010: Council Action on Proposed Budget



A LOOK at the BUDGET





City of Houston Residential Permit Parking Ordinance

The City of Houston has a program in place to help residential neighborhoods deal with problems with parking that occurs from a spillover of vehicles from nearby nonresidential properties. Once in place, only those residents living on the street that display an official decal or hangtag can legally park on the designated Residential Permit Parking streets.

Basically, in order to qualify there must be a "chronic commuter parking problem", which is determined as follows: first the City counts the total number of legal parking spaces on a residential street; at the time the City visits the street to conduct their surveys, 60% of the on-street parking spaces must be occupied, and 25% of the on-street parking spaces must be occupied by non-residents. The City knows who is a resident because in connection with the application/petition process, each resident must submit their

license plate number(s).

To find out more about this program, please visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/permits-faq.htm>

If you have any questions about the program or to obtain a Permit Area Application and Petition of Support, you can contact Melonie Curry at 713-853-8271 or at melonie.curry@cityofhouston.net. You may also obtain an Application here: <http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/rpp-petition.pdf>. For a flow chart that shows the entire process, visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/respermit-flowchart.pdf>

There are quite a few such Residential Permit Parking Areas located in District G (in the following zip codes: 77027, 77056, 77007, 77063 and 77019).

Nissan Unveils the New LEAF Zero Emissions Electric Vehicle



On February 5, Nissan Motor Company's LEAF Zero Emissions Tour came to Houston. The LEAF is a 100% electric, zero emissions, mass-produced vehicle manufactured by the Renault-Nissan Alliance.

Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker and representatives from Nissan North America, Ltd. and Reliant Energy were at Reliant Stadium to present details of the City's partnership which were first announced in November, 2009.

Last November, 10 charging stations were installed around downtown Houston, including one on Walker Street just outside of City Hall. Through a partnership with Reliant Energy, these electric stations are offered to motorists free of charge throughout 2010. As part of the agree-

ment, Nissan, the City, and Reliant Energy will develop plans to build a charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in Houston to make electric vehicles not only convenient but more affordable than gasoline vehicles.

While Nissan has not yet disclosed the price of the LEAF, it was described as comparable to the price of a well-equipped family sedan (\$26,000 - \$33,000), although \$7,500 of that will be offset by available Federal EV Tax Credits. The City intends to acquire 25 of the new vehicles in late 2010, bringing to 40 the total number of plug-in cars in the City's fleet.

Nissan will begin taking reservations for the LEAF in April, will start building the vehicles in October, and will be delivering the first of them in December.

Mayor Parker noted that Houston, with its research and development of wind, solar and electric fuel sources, is on the cusp of becoming the alternative energy capital of the world, and that it is "fitting that the city be a leader in increasing public awareness of environmentally-friendly transportation alternatives like the LEAF."



Grand Re-Opening of Tanglewood Park February 14



On February 14, Tanglewood Park held a Grand Opening of its newly renovated attractions. Improvements include a new dog park and gazebo, as well as new fencing, benches and tables, a 0.2-mile concrete walkway, and improved drainage. Much of the \$195,000 private fundraising for this project was handled through the "A Buzz and a Bark at Tanglewood Park" citizens' initiative.

Council Member Pennington was one of the speakers at the opening ceremony. Mayor An-nise D. Parker was also there and spoke to the crowd. Former District G Council Member Pam Holm was also present for the festivities.

Mayor Parker presented "A Buzz and a Bark" co-chairs Flo McGee and Linda Debrovner with plaques commemorating their public service, with permanent versions to be erected in the park.

811 — Know What's Below. Call Before You Dig



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

One easy phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground utility lines marked for free. When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Local One Call Center operators will ask you for the location of your

digging job and route your call to affected utility companies. Your utility companies will then send a professional locator to your location to mark your lines within a few days. Once your underground lines have been marked, you will know the approximate location of your utility lines and can dig safely, because knowing what's below protects you and your family.

Always call 811 before starting any digging project. For more Information, visit: <http://www.call811.com/>

NOTIFICATION OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES COLOR CODE

WHITE	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
PINK	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKER
RED	ELECTRIC
YELLOW	GAS- OIL
ORANGE	COMMUNICATION
BLUE	WATER
PURPLE	PROCESSED WATER
GREEN	SEWER

CALL 48-72 HOURS BEFORE YOU DIG • DRILL • BLAST • ETC.

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

HPD's Neighborhood Protection Corps Relocates



On February 11, an open house for the newly-relocated HPD Neighborhood Protection Corps was held at 7125 Ardmore. The Corps seeks to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by reducing blight and substandard living conditions by enforcing City Codes relating to:

Open and Dangerous Buildings (see: http://www.houstontx.gov/police/npc/npc_danger.htm):

- Walls that lean or buckle
- Improperly distributed loads upon floors or roofs where there is insufficient strength to be reasonably safe
- Unoccupied buildings and structures that have been left unsecured from unauthorized entry and may be entered by vagrants, or could be entered by children.
- Dilapidated, decayed, unsafe, unsanitary or substandard conditions that are likely to cause sickness or injury.
- A building that is boarded up, fenced or secured in a manner that does not prevent unauthorized entry or use of the building.

Weeded Lots (see: http://www.houstontx.gov/police/npc/npc_weedlots.htm):

Junked Motor Vehicles (see: http://www.houstontx.gov/police/npc/npc_junk.htm)

A vehicle that:

- Has either an expired license plate or an invalid safety inspection sticker and

- Is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled or discarded;
- Has either an expired license plate or an invalid safety inspection and
- Is inoperable and remains inoperable for a continuous period of more than 30 days on private property.
- Any such vehicle must be screened by completely enclosing the vehicle in a building. Car covers, tarps, bamboo shades and other types of materials are not acceptable screening.

Graffiti (see: http://www.houstontx.gov/police/npc/npc_vis_blight.htm)

Nuisances on Private Property (see: http://www.houstontx.gov/police/npc/npc_nuisances.htm):

- Grass and weeds more than 9 inches tall
- Obstructions to public sidewalks
- Dumpsters on public right-of-way
- Visible Junk
- Broken fences
- Not meeting minimum building standards
- Missing address numbers

If you would like to report any of these issues to the Neighborhood Protection Corps, please call 832-394-0600.

2-1-1 Emergency Evacuation Assistance



In the event of an evacuation, would you need transportation assistance? This may be because you do not drive, are elderly, disabled, or simply do not own a vehicle. If so, dial 2-1-1 to register for free emergency evacuation assistance.

The City of Houston encourages those members of our community who do not have access to transportation, and may need special transportation assistance during an emergency evacuation, to pre-register with the City of Houston's Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Note that all persons who have registered in previous years must re-register for assistance in 2010. Each year on January 1, the city's registration database is completely cleared.

To register, go to <http://www.houstonoem.net>. Under the tab "Transportation Assistance" select "Register Here". You may also contact the OEM at 713-884-4500 or dial 2-1-1, the Texas/United Way Helpline (cell phones or VoIP should call 1-877-541-7905).

For more information, you can also visit: <https://www.211texas.org/211/>



Expansion of the Automated Recycling Program in District G

As reported in the February newsletter, approximately 57,000 of the 96-gallon automated recycling two-wheel containers were recently purchased by the City to expand the automated recycling program.

This program, which was initiated in Houston on March 11, 2009, allows residents to place all recyclables (newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books, cardboard, plastic containers #1-7, glass, tin and aluminum) into one single stream container without the necessity of doing any sorting.

Considering a number of factors, such as service date availability, curbside collection relief, curbside recycling wait list, neighborhood size, and service proximity, the Solid Waste Management Department recently notified us that a number of neighborhoods in District G have been added to the program (bringing to 21% the percentage of their total customer base who are now served by the automated recycling program). While we were not able to get everyone on the list who wanted to be added to the program, it is hoped that as Solid Waste looks for further efficiencies in department operations, and as the new compostable yard waste bag program begins to bring savings to the Department, additional neighborhoods will be added in coming months.

Welcome to the following District G neighborhoods who were recently added:

- Ashford Hollow
- Ashford Park
- Ashford West Section 1
- Ashford West Section 2
- Brairwood
- Bunker Hill
- Fonn Villas
- Memorial Bend
- Memorial Glen
- Memorial Hollow
- Memorial Meadows
- Memorial Pines
- Memorial Valley
- Park Hollow Place
- Parkridge
- Royal Palms
- West Hollow
- Westpark Village
- Woodbend/Memorial
- Woodland Hollow

You should be receiving a "Program Notification Mailing" any day now welcoming you to the program, to be followed up by an Activation Mailer with instruction on activating your account.



Red Cross "Preparedness on the Square" Held March 11



On March 11, the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross held its annual "Preparedness on the Square" at Hermann Square Reflection Pool outside of City Hall.

Attendees were reminded that Hurricane Season starts on June 1. Red Cross staff and volunteers were on hand to teach citizens how to create a disaster supply kit and communication plan to keep them and their families safe and in touch during an emergency. The Red Cross also offered free CPR and First Aid demonstrations.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Greater Houston Area Red Cross Disaster Services.

The Red Cross reminds us all to be "Red Cross Ready" (see <http://www.houstonredcross.org/en/cms/?22>)

- Get an Emergency Kit (your kit should include: water, food, medications, a radio, a first aid kit, personal documents, contact information, a map, a flashlight, cash, clothing, sanitary supplies, pet supplies and tools)
- Make a Plan (includes: how to get out of the house, and where to meet up with the rest of your family)
- Be Informed (get information, know your region, and take action steps)

1	Get a Kit	
2	Make a Plan	
3	Be Informed	
		Be Red Cross Ready



American Red Cross
Greater Houston

If you would like to receive periodic emails from Mayor Annise D. Parker and the City of Houston on topics of interest to you and your neighborhood, please go to <http://www.houstontx.gov> and register with CitizensNet



United States
**Census
2010**



3-1-1

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713-837-0311

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Housing & Community Development 2010 Consolidated Plan & Action Plan

At the beginning of our annual District G CIP Meeting, we received a brief overview of the Houston Housing & Community Development Department's Annual Consolidated Plan from Mr. Lester Whiteing.

The Department has initiated work on the 2010 Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. The Consolidated Plan is an application for funding and a comprehensive assessment of the City's community development needs for low to moderate income Houstonians which is completed every five years. The Action Plan outlines strategies for addressing the identified needs of low to moderate income Houstonians on an annual basis. Projects funded include neighborhood facilities, housing programs, and social services.

The Department has scheduled the second of two public hearings to receive public input for inclusion in the draft of the Plan. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Council Chambers, 900 Bagby, Houston, Texas 77002.

The Public is invited and encouraged to present input during the March 24 hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may submit written comments by email to: andrea.roberts@cityofhouston.net or mail them to the Housing & Community Development Department, Attention: Andrea Roberts, 601 Sawyer, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77007. Input will be accepted through Wednesday, March 24, 2010. Please plan on attending if you want your voice to be heard.

Keep Houston Beautiful Day April 10



Saturday, April 10, is Keep Houston Beautiful Day. This is Houston's signature event of the Great American Cleanup, the largest one-day neighborhood cleanup and beautification event in Houston.

For more than 25 years, Keep Houston Beautiful has been making our great city shine. From helping neighborhoods organize cleanups to their nationally recognized Clean Neighborhoods program that is the foundation of neighborhood-oriented government, they are always at the forefront of beautification and urban transformation.

If your neighborhood, civic association, church, school or other group needs information on how to organize and conduct a cleanup event, please visit: <http://www.houstonbeautiful.org/links.htm#1> Keep Houston Beautiful also maintains a warehouse filled with all sorts of tools you can use during your cleanup event. For a form you can download that will explain how to reserve tools and supplies, visit: http://www.houstonbeautiful.org/documents/KHBcleanupForms_003.pdf

If your group is planning an event in District G on Keep Houston Beautiful Day, whether it is the clean up of a park, esplanade, or your neighborhood streets, please send us an email with the time and place and a description of the event. Please also plan on submitting pictures and stories to us after the event for possible inclusion in our newsletter.