

Proctor Plaza

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PPNA Neighborhood Message

By Paul Broman, President

Dear Neighbors – The Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association is composed of residents of the East Norhill and North Norhill subdivisions. The legal name of our organization is the Proctor Plaza Civic Club, and we conduct business as the Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association. The Norhill Historic District, which was established in 1999, follows the original boundaries of East Norhill and North Norhill. I believe there is confusion due to use of the name “Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association.” A name change was considered at the time of the historic designation, but several long-time residents felt strongly there should not be a change at that time. Your Board thinks we need to readdress this issue. At an upcoming meeting we will discuss the adoption of other names, such as “Norhill Civic Association”. The Board is also exploring new signage for the neighborhood. One possible location is replacement of the existing sign on Pecore (near the former Baptist Church). We also hope to install a new sign at Studewood and North Main, and we will look into placing signs on our Norhill esplanades. Before this project can conclude, we will need to resolve the new name of the association.

It has been several years since we have organized a home tour. The Board hopes to re-establish this tradition, and preparations have started for a Norhill Bungalow Tour in October. Several owners have already volunteered their homes for a Saturday and Sunday afternoon tour, and we seeking commitments for several more. If you are proud of your bungalow and would consider placing it in the tour, please contact Linda Marx. There will also be a need for volunteers to serve as docents and on various committees. Proceeds from the tour will support the neighborhood signage project and general fund.

East Norhill and North Norhill are governed by separate (but identical) deed restrictions. Pursuant to the terms of the deed restrictions and in accordance with Texas Property Law, these deed restrictions do not expire. However, the deed restrictions can be updated and modified. The Board has started an evaluation of the current deed restrictions. The purpose of the evaluation is to identify areas for clarifications and improvements. This is an important matter that affects all of us, so ideas and feedback from the residents will be welcomed at future meetings.

As you can see, there are a number of projects and changes under consideration, but they can not be accomplished without the support and participation of Norhill residents. Voting at the general meetings is restricted to current membership, so if you haven't done so already, please fill out a membership application and submit your annual dues.

Upcoming Events

- July 26 Association Meeting**
Proctor Plaza Park Building, 803 W. Temple, 6:30 p.m.
Bob Lamons, PPNA Historian will present the “History of Norhill”
Past PPNA presidents will be honored at this meeting
- August 5 First Friday Happy Hour**
- August 30 Association Meeting**
Laurel Smith, Houston Urban Gardeners will be guest speaker

Yard of the Month

Submitted by Louise Denly



911 W. Temple Street

David Jackson has lived at his beautifully restored home at 911 W. Temple St. since 2006. "I have always loved the feel and charm of the Norhill area," he says. David enjoys gardening, and it shows. His house has great curb appeal, and you can tell he takes great pride of ownership.

In 2010, David embarked on the substantial restoration of the exterior of his house, and during that time worked closely with landscaper Mike Scott of Outdoor Solutions to create a design that would complement the new look. "We went with easy-to-care-for knock out roses, boxwoods, plenty of bulbines, agapanthus, junipers, cordylines and ferns," explained David. "And I was fortunate not to lose too many plants in the front yard from the freeze this past winter."

With the type of grass in the yard (Tifway Bermuda), David has to be careful with lawn-care products, and only uses organic fertilizers. "I fertilize about every 4 months and I'm not able to use any type of Weed-n-Feed since this can harm the grass, so weeds are a constant battle!"

Sharing a few tips, David says "I've been told that Bermuda grass should be kept short and thick which will eventually discourage weeds, so it gets cut twice a week using a reel gas mower."

Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association

objective

The objective of the Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association (PPNA) is to promote the civic and social welfare and well-being of the neighborhood; to promote the civic betterment and social well-being of all its residents; to encourage the prevention and suppression of crime in the community; to disseminate facts relating to the improvement of this vicinity; and to preserve the residential character and integrity of the neighborhood.

meetings

The PPNA meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m at the Proctor Plaza Park Building at 803 West Temple. All are welcome!

newsletter

Please send ideas for articles to bob.lamons@sbcglobal.net.. If you are interested in writing an article, the next submission deadline is September 1. The newsletter is distributed the week of the PPNA General Meeting in March, June, September, and December.

advertising

Interested in advertising in the Proctor Plaza newsletter and reaching more than 1,200 homes? Contact Bob Lamons at bob.lamons@sbcglobal.net Business Card = \$30; Quarter Page = \$45; Half Page = \$75; Full Page = \$150.

officers & board of directors

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MEMBER-AT-LARGE POSITION 2, Bob Hollingsworth

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LIGHTING CAMPAIGN, Glen Clement

NEIGHBOR CARE, Sister Eleanor Dickmann

YARD OF MONTH, Louise Denly

HEIGHTS SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD, Pedro

Ayazagoitia

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Bob Lamons

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COMING IN OCTOBER



NORHILL

BUNGALOW TOUR

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!

What's in a name?

For many years, our homeowner's group has been called Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association, primarily because we have a lovely park and community center by that name.

Many people think there must also be a Proctor Plaza subdivision, but there isn't. Norhill is the original name of the area developed in 1920 by William and Michael Hogg, along with several other prominent Houston businessmen and families. The name is most likely a combination of our elevated (i.e. up a hill) location north of downtown Houston.

(By the way, "Norhill" was the Hogg brother's working class neighborhood, while "River Oaks" was the one they developed at that same time for Houston's more affluent people (hasn't changed in ninety years). Norhill was conceived as a "suburb especially rich in artistic bungalows.")

Which brings us to the subject of this article. There has been some interest in changing our association's name from Proctor Plaza to Norhill to better reflect our history and geographic location. Norhill was the name used in 1999 when the East Norhill and North Norhill Historic Districts were created. Those two districts define the current boundaries of Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association.

The topic of a possible name change will be brought up at a future monthly association meeting so we might discuss the pro's and con's. We hope you will attend and be part of that discussion.

SPANISH FLOWERS:

4701 North Main Street
Houston, TX 77009



Established in 1979, The Spanish Flowers Mexican Restaurant has flourished under the owner Mary Bernal's constant care and guidance. This restaurant has been a "**Heights Neighborhood Legend**" (Zagat Survey) for many, many years.

Since the first day she opened, Mary decided she would keep her restaurant open 24 hours a day. This tradition continues to this day. The only time the restaurant takes a break is on Tuesday nights, it closes at 10:00 P.M., then reopens on Wednesday morning at 9:00 A.M. and maintains its 24 hour schedule until the next Tuesday night.

One of the biggest challenges in being a 24 hour restaurant is to ensure that the quality of service and the taste of the food are always the same, regardless of what time you visit the restaurant



tiny shovels

landscaping for people and pets

- 🌸 design & installation
- 🌸 cleanup & maintenance
- 🌸 seasonal color changes
- 🌸 pond & fountain care

paula mabrey 832-248-7498

Have you joined or renewed for 2011?

Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association

A note from VP of Membership – Janne Alt



As VP of Membership, I track the home sales in the neighborhood. Since January, we've had approximately 30 homes trade ownership. That's a lot of new neighbors! I hope you are reaching out and welcoming our newest residents. We're seeing more and more new faces at the monthly meetings and it's spurred the Board on to new ideas.

One question I hear a lot is, "Why do I need to join the Neighborhood Association?" It's simple. To vote at the General Meeting, on issues that affect YOUR neighborhood, you must be a member. It's in the By-Laws! We've got approximately 800 homes and only 109 members. That's what I call a Silent Majority!

Another question I hear frequently is "Where does my membership money go?" It goes to cover the activities of our association, like this newsletter for example and the BBQ dinner we hosted earlier this year.

We've got some great speakers planned for the upcoming meetings. Stay tuned for more information about the mid-summer July Kickball Game. There are all kinds of projects in the works and with a Bungalow Home Tour slated for the fall; it will be time for Santa in the Park before you know it!

Where would you like your membership \$\$ to go? Come to the monthly meeting and be heard!

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES:

"Proctor Plaza has one of the safest neighborhoods in the city because residents care."

- Officer Muskiet, HPD

A PPNA MEMBERSHIP HELPS EVERYONE, AND THAT'S A PRIVILEGE!

- YES!** I want to renew or join the Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association:
 - ___ \$35 regular member, homeowner
 - ___ \$10 senior citizen (over 65)
 - ___ \$10 renter
 - ___ \$50 business membership

- I would like to make an additional donation to support PPNA projects _____.
- I want to join a PPNA project committee. Please call me at _____.
- I want to work on a PPNA project. Please call me at _____.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Houston, TX _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

(Please make check payable to Proctor Plaza Neighborhood Association and mail to P.O. Box 30021 Houston, TX 77249-0021)

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ACTIVITY CORNER

If you have a special interest and would like to join with other Proctor Plaza and Heights area residents, let us know. Send an email to Bob Lamons at bob.lamons@sbcglobal.net telling us what your special interests are and we'll see if we can match you with other like-minded folks.

Here are some possibilities:

Bridge Club

Book Club

Dinner Club (in private homes or area restaurants)

Board Games Club

Quilting or crocheting Club

Travel Club

Fishing Trip Club

Garden Club

Monday Night kickball at the park (Janne Alt is organizing)

Men's or women's poker night

Karaoke Night

Bible Study Group

Scrapbooking Club

Bowling Night

Theater Night Club

Weight Loss Support Group

Bingo Night at the community center

Volleyball Night at the park

Bike Riding Club

Jogging or Walking Groups

Motorcycle Club

Chess Club

Yoga or Aerobics classes at the community center

Calling all past presidents

As part of our Norhill history presentation at the July 26th meeting, we will honor all past presidents of the Association. If you, or someone you know has served in this capacity, we hope you'll join us for a trip down memory lane. We truly appreciate all the dedicated work and accomplishments from those who have led our group in years past.