



# IDYLWOOD NEWS

## January 2010

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- ❑ **Garden Club:** 10 a.m. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sat.)
- ❑ **Civic Club Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> (Tues.)
- ❑ **Board of Directors Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> (Tues)
- ❑ **Super Neighborhood:** 6:30 p.m. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> (Tues.)
- ❑ **Positive Interaction Program (P.I.P.):** 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> **Eastside Substation, 7525 Sherman (3<sup>rd</sup> Mon)**

### **MLK Day – January 18<sup>th</sup>**

From [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov) website

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.”

On January, 18, 2010, people of all ages and backgrounds will come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and to move our nation closer to the “Beloved Community” that Dr. King envisioned. Dr. Martin Luther King devoted his life’s work to causes of equality and social justice. He taught that through nonviolence and service to one another, problems such as hunger and homelessness, prejudice and discrimination can be overcome. Dr. King’s teachings can continue to guide us in addressing our nation’s most pressing needs---poverty, economic insecurity, job loss and education.

Volunteer with Americans across the nation on the 2010 King Day of Service and make a real difference in your community.



### **MLK Day Events:**

#### **2010 MLK Cheer Explosion Competition**

Date: January 15, 2010  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Venue: Jesse H. Jones High School  
Location: 7414 St. Lo Rd. - Houston, Texas 77033

#### **4Th Annual MLK Youth Parade-Houston**

Date: January 16, 2010  
Time: 12:00 PM  
Venue: Downtown-Houston  
Location: Originating On Allen Pkwy @ Taft Street

- ❑ **Curbside Recycling:** Mondays, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ **Heavy Trash:** Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – “tree” pickup
- ❑ **Newsletter Deadline** – Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> - If you would like to submit an article just call (713) 775-1443 or email [wendy@thehoustonrealtor.com](mailto:wendy@thehoustonrealtor.com)
- ❑ **MLK Day** – Monday, January 18th (City Holiday)
- ❑ **Chevron Marathon** – Sunday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>



#### **9Th Annual MLK Battle Of The Bands Competition-Houston**

Date: January 16, 2010  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Venue: Robertson Stadium  
Location: On The Campus Of the University of Houston

#### **2010 "I Have A Dream" High School Gospel Choir Competition-Houston**

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2010  
Time: 5:00pm  
Venue: Greater St. Matthew Baptist Church  
Location: 14919 S.Main Street - Houston, Texas 77035

#### **16Th Annual MLK Grande Parade-Houston**

Date: January 18, 2010  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Venue: Downtown-Houston  
Location: Originating On Allen Pkwy @ Taft Street



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### January 2010 Civic Club Meeting Presentation – Distracted Driving

*By Maggie Mottesheard*

Distracted driving has become the most talked about traffic safety problem worldwide. The development and proliferation of mobile communication technologies over the last decade has created a society that allows for instant communication – including while behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. This has taken many drivers' focus off the road, presenting a danger to the rest of the driving public. A study conducted by Virginia Tech University suggests that Texting While Driving is 23 times more likely to result in a collision than non-distracted driving. His presentation will discuss the distracted driving phenomenon and the various efforts that are being taken, at local, state, and federal levels, to address this growing problem.

Idylwood residents are lucky to have Mr. Jeff Kaufman as a speaker at our January 19, 2010 civic club meeting. Jeff is a transportation expert with a national reputation who was recently invited by the US Department of Transportation to speak at the Distracted Driver Summit in Washington, DC. Jeff is H-GAC's Transportation Program Coordinator for Traffic Operations and Safety and coordinates H-GAC's Regional Safety Council, a forum consisting of various transportation safety professionals from the areas of planning, engineering, law enforcement, the medical community, freight transportation, the legal profession, and safety advocacy established to combine knowledge and resources to work at reducing the number of crashes on the region's roadways. Jeff is also involved in planning for Intelligent Transportation Systems and multimodal systems, and was involved in evacuation planning leading up to Hurricane Ike. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas.

### Garden Club News

*By Nancy Doyle*

January brings a special event to Garden Club! The Idylwood Garden Club wishes to acknowledge and honor charter members and those members of long standing at our January meeting. If you are one of this elite group or know someone who is, please notify Bettie Bishop at 713-921-5688, 6647 Sylvan Road, [ms1149@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ms1149@sbcglobal.net), or notify Sally Lehr, president at 713-926-4972. Gardeners always recognize their roots! In addition, our program will be presented by Margaret Lloyd-Bingham of the Harris County Master Gardener's association. She will present "Butterfly Gardening". Butterflies add beauty to your garden through movement and color as well as wonderful learning opportunities for adults and children alike. By providing plants to address all phases of their life cycles, from caterpillars to butterflies, you can entice them to your yard. Come and get information to help you plan what new plants you might want to add to your garden to the fill the gaps created by the recent freeze. The Idylwood Garden Club will meet at the home of Bettie Bishop at 6647 Sylvan Road on Saturday, January 2nd at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome!

By Diane Kopfensteiner

The Idylwood Yard of the Month Committee has chosen 6645 Fairfield (Mrs. Louise Baxter) as the best Christmas decorated yard with it's beautiful moving reindeer, lighted snowflakes bordering the flower beds, lovely wreath on the front door and the Christmas tree in the front bay window. Second runner up was 6623 Park with it's penguin and lights decorating the yard. Kids favorite! Third place was 6666 Sylvan with red bows, candy canes decorating the yard. There were poinsettias planted in the flower beds throughout the yard but our "early" snowfall took its toll on them but all the decorations are looking very pretty. Grab a cup a coffee or hot chocolate and take a stroll or drive through Idylwood and admire all the decorated yards. Its Christmas time at its best. The Idylwood Garden Club wishes everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Most of our flower beds are going to be needing a lot of reworking due to the cold weather and snow so watch the upcoming newsletters for tips and help in getting your yard back in shape for the spring!

Hooray!



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### Dog Park and Animal Adoption Center at Gragg Park

From [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov) website

**December 18, 2009** -- Mayor Bill White today announced plans for a 5.5 acre site which will house a 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art "green" adoption center for dogs and cats from the City's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC), together with a low-cost veterinary clinic and a three acre dog park open to the public. The campus will be constructed on a city-owned site in Gragg Park, along Brays Bayou and Wayside Drive and adjacent to the newly refurbished headquarters for Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The new center, to be named the Ann Young Animal Adoption Center, will enable the City to find homes for many more BARC pets by providing an attractive, well located family-friendly center in one of the City's most beautiful parks.

"Houstonians have clearly asked the City to substantially increase adoption rates for BARC's healthy and treatable pets, and this new Campus will help Houston achieve our common goal. We have made increased animal adoptions a priority in Houston, and now ask everyone in our City to step forward and give generously to make the Animal Campus at Gragg Park a reality," said Mayor White.

Mayor White's announcement kicks off a \$10 million fundraising campaign for the Animal Campus, for which \$4 million has already been contributed. The lead gift was made by Ann Slemons Young, a friend of BARC's, who left a generous bequest to the City in 2007 to build an animal adoption center. Last week, following resolution of litigation regarding her will, which was handled by Alison Smith of the law firm of Haynes and Boone, who contributed in excess of \$100,000 in pro bono legal services, the City received \$1.7 million from the Young Estate. To augment her gift, the City has committed an additional \$1.2 million in Capital Improvements Plan funding and has donated the land at Gragg Park, valued at \$1.3 million, for the campus. The \$4.2 million in existing contributions will be supplemented through a capital campaign coordinated through the Houston Parks Board to raise an additional \$6 million.

"The Mayor's Animal Protection Task Force proposed ways to drive down euthanasia in the City's animal shelters, including a very important recommendation that the City build an adoption center for BARC. Mayor White has made the realization of the Task Force's recommendation possible. Now, it's Houstonians' turn to give their strong financial support to the project," said Alison Smith, who chaired the Task Force.

The Animal Campus at Gragg Park will be owned by the City of Houston and the adoption center and veterinary clinic will be operated by an independent non-profit organization under contract with the City. The design of the campus will be completed during 2010, with construction to begin in early 2011. This public-private partnership in the financing and operation of the facility will greatly improve animal welfare in Houston, and help the City achieve its goal of becoming the nation's most pet-friendly city.

The architect for the Animal Campus at Gragg Park is English & Associates, which is well known for its "green buildings" and has associated Connolly and Associates, one of the nation's leading architects in the design of animal shelters. The construction manager is SpawMaxwell Company LLC, and the fundraising campaign management is provided by AndrisinAbbey.

For more information on this campaign, contact Campaign Manager Cara Pauloski at [cpauloski@andrisinabbey.com](mailto:cpauloski@andrisinabbey.com) or (713) 568-2832.

### Your Dues Are Due – Please Contribute

*submitted by Jeff Klemm*

Idylwood's 2009-2010 year started in August, so voluntary dues of \$20 are now due. The dues are used for many worthwhile projects in the neighborhood including the cost of the monthly newsletter, supplies for the operation of the civic club, to help with special projects, but mainly to help maintain our deed restrictions. Since the \$20 dues have not been raised for several years, many of your neighbors contribute extra for things the civic club could not otherwise fund. Consider an additional contribution in the area of greatest need, beauty, animals or security. Make your check payable to Idylwood Civic Club and drop it in the mail to the address or back or bring it to the next civic club meeting.



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### Idylwood Civic Club

- **President:** Maggie Mottesheard, *Meadowlawn*,  
mmottesheard@earthlink.net
- **VP:** Lawrence Curry, *Meadowlawn*,  
curry6734@sbcglobal.net
- **Secretary:** Jeremy Siebenmann-Lucas filling position  
for duration
- **Treasurer:** Jeff Klemm, *Merry*  
jeffklemm@hotmail.com

#### Directors:

- Kristina Arscott, *Meadowlawn*,  
platypusid@earthlink.net
- Chris Berno, *N. MacGregor*, cberno@kw.com
- Barney Giesen, *Meadowlawn*,  
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- Paul Leggett, *Merry*, paul\_d\_leggett@hotmail.com
- Frank Lovoi, *N. MacGregor* (no email)
- John McDonald, *Fairfield*,  
johnnymacdaddy@sbcglobal.net
- Russell Millar, *Park*, rempilot@sbcglobal.net
- Jeremy Siebenmann-Lucas, *Meadowlawn*,  
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- Juliet Stipeche, *Sylvan*, julietstipeche@hotmail.com
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wendy@thehoustonrealtor.com
- Dave Williams, *Idylwood*, dww300@comcast.net

Idylwood Civic Club Association

P.O. Box 9225

Houston, Tx 77261-9225

www.Idylwood.org

Groups.yahoo.com/group/Idylwood\_Neighbors

**Newsletter Editor: Wendy Thiessen**

wendy@thehoustonrealtor.com

Crime Reporting:

Constable Victor Trevino

(713) 923-9156 Ask for Lt. Ellis

Or HPD non-emergency (713) 884-3131

Officer Trejo (713) 928-4631

Animal Control:

**(713) 229-7300 (new number)**

<i>Idylwood Crimes Reported</i>	06'	07'	08'	Oct YTD 09'
Theft (home or auto)	3	2	4	16
Aggravated Assault	0	0	1	0
Burglary (home or auto)	23	12	16	6
Narcotic Drug Laws	NA	NA	1	1
Robbery	2	0	1	2

### Gotta Get Away in 2010:



### 72-Hour Vacations

[www.gayot.com](http://www.gayot.com) (pronounced guy-OH)

Traveling to a new place can be overwhelming. Where should you stay, where should you eat and what should you do? Since every destination has endless possibilities, our 72-hour can make things a little simpler. Whether you're contemplating a trip to Houston or Hanoi, you're sure to find plenty of inspiration and information right here. People who are on the go for dough will benefit from our Business Travel Guides.

*Sample: 72 Hours in Washington, D.C.*

America's capital city might have started out a swamp, but now it's a destination for tourists and heads of state alike. Whether you're here to inspect the Constitution or to check out artifacts from the first Apollo mission, we'll help you fit it all in.

This is a great travel site I stumbled across the other day while researching future vacation destinations. They have various TOP TEN lists of destinations as well or themed vacations. You can put yourself in their hands entirely and let their itinerary make your travel decisions for you.

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