

Monthly Newsletter

March 2014

WBPOA is patrolled by :

Harris County Constable Precinct 7
Constable May Walker
Precinct 7 Dispatch 713 / 613-6602

Deputies assigned to WBPOA:

Sgt. P. Basralian
Deputy Nowlin
Deputy Dickson
Deputy Antone

Please contact your alarm company and have the Constable's precinct listed as the first police authority contact.

Going on vacation? Please register for vacation watch by visiting the Precinct 7 website and select "Vacation Watch"
<http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/conpct7/>

WBPOA BOARD MEMBERS:

Barbara Hite, President
Jeannette Calhoun, Vice President
Phil Abrams, Secretary
Marc S. Warren, Treasurer
Jonah Nathan, Board Member
Tom Roberts, Board Member
Danny Fishman, Board Member
Dyaz Godfrey, Board Member
Mari Angelo, Board Member
Neal Harris, Board Member
Asher Belles, Board Member
Barbara Gretzer, Board Member
Zally Lazarus, Board Member

DUES REMINDER!

For the HOA to best serve our community and properly maintain our amenities, we need to receive your HOA dues promptly. The fees were due on January 1, 2014. If you have not already paid your HOA fees, please contact Ry Reid at Sterling ASAP for total amount due inclusive of late fees and any additional charges that may have been incurred. Thank you!

To stay on top of WBPOA news, be sure to check out our website: <http://westbellfortpoa.com/>

WBPOA MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Ry Reid, PCAM, AMS, CMCA
Sterling Association Services
11201 Lake Woodbridge Drive
Sugar Land, TX 77498
Phone: 832-678-4500
Fax: 281-598-4487
Emails: ry@sterlingasi.com

Ludington Clubhouse Rental

Joy Cunningham 713 / 729-1053
Joycunningham@sbcglobal.net

Braesridge Clubhouse Rental

Jeannette Calhoun 713 / 203-2407
jeannettecalhoun@aol.com

NEIGHBORHOOD ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

The construction along Ludington and Pembridge on the south side of West Bellfort is coming along pretty well. The 270-day construction timeline began in late November and is currently on track to finish in August 2014. The city is updating the drainage infrastructure in our neighborhood to replace smaller drainage pipes with larger ones. This project will prove a great benefit to our neighborhood, and your continued patience during this process is greatly appreciated. *If you have any questions regarding the road construction, please feel free to contact City Services by dialing 311, or 713-837-0311, or by contacting Barbara Hite, District K at barbara.hite@houstontx.gov or 832-393-3016.*

Important News

In April 2013, Houston's City Council approved amendments to Chapter 42 and Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances involving Houston's urban planning. The amendment will go into full effect as of May 1, 2014. The full amendment can be read in detail at the City's website (www.houstontx.gov/planning/DevelopRegs/docs_pdfs/ordinance_ch10_42.pdf). In summary, the amendment makes the City of Houston entirely urban. Simply stated, historically developers in the City of Houston have been allowed to develop multi-plex residences (such as high rise condo developments, etc.) in neighborhoods within the inner-610 Loop area (previously the only area of Houston defined as "urban"). You may recall that residents in the Rice University area have been fighting a battle against the development of the Ashby Highrise since 2007. The new amendment now allows this type of development to occur ANYWHERE within the entire city limits. Since Houston does not have zoning, the only real protection Homeowner Associations have to keep such multi-plex developments from occurring within their subdivisions is to update their HOA bylaws by a certain deadline. The WBPOA board is in the process of amending our bylaws to protect our neighborhood, which will require a 55% homeowner approval via a special vote in order to pass. As such, sometime within the next few months, you will receive a special proxy to vote for or against the amendment to the West Bellfort Property Owners HOA bylaws. You should, of course, vote as you deem will best benefit our neighborhood, but we do hope you vote FOR the acceptance of the newly amended bylaws, as your Board believes the amended bylaws will protect the our home values as well as the peaceful aesthetics of our neighborhood. We will continue to keep you posted on this important issue. In the meantime, if you would like to research this issue further, please visit the website above, or visit www.planninganddevelopment@houstontx.gov. As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue or any other that may affect our neighborhood, please feel free to attend a Board meeting, contact your Board Members or Ry Reid of Sterling ASI, our property management company.

Did You Know?

A majority of the Fondren / Southwest area of Houston was originally the Fondren Ranch, owned by Walter Fondren, Sr. an oil operator and philanthropist. Fondren and Ross Sterling were the two primary founders of Humble Oil (now Exxon). Born in Union City, Tennessee in 1877 and orphaned at age 10, Fondren rose from his modest early life to operating his own company by the age of 28, then joining with Sterling in 1911 at age 34 to create Humble Oil. Fondren served as director of the Houston office of the Federal Housing Administration, as a trustee and member of the executive committee of SMU, as a director of the Houston YMCA and as Vice President of the National Bank of Commerce. Just prior to their marriage, Fondren's wife, Ella, made the very fortunate purchase of stocks in a company which eventually became Texaco. Although the Fondrens had no other connection to Texaco, this investment alone made the Fondrens very wealthy. The Fondrens made major donations to SMU, Rice University, Southwestern University and many other schools and colleges. They also made major contributions to Methodist Hospital and many other medical facilities. Although Walter passed away suddenly at age 62 in 1939 and Ella in 1982 (age 102), Houston continues to benefit from the generosity of the Fondrens and their descendents through the Fondren Foundation.

Want to be an active member of your community? Come to a Board meeting or contact one of your HOA Board Members or Ry Reid to find how you can serve on one of the Board committees!

Please Note!

The following notice was posted at the Braes Ridge Clubhouse the week of March 10, 2014:

ATTENTION:

Dear Resident:

We are currently rehabilitating the sanitary sewer lines within this area through a contract with the **CITY OF HOUSTON, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING, Waste Water File No. 4257- 133 - 08**. The purpose of this work is to improve flow on these lines and maintain community property. A trenchless rehabilitation method is being used to minimize excavation at the construction site but please be informed the following potential work may be performed:

- Performing Pre-Site Video of work area (recording area to be disturbed with a handheld DVD to document area before any work)
- Cleaning and televising the existing sanitary sewer lines
- Sliplining / Pipebursting (installing new sewer pipe inside existing sanitary sewer lines)
- Excavations to reconnect sanitary sewer service lines from the residence or repair main sewer
- Occasionally, installing new sanitary sewer manhole or rehabilitation of existing manhole
- Removal and restoration of some fence to gain access to backyard public utility easements
- Smoke testing the sewer main or service lines to ensure they are connected properly. (Non-toxic smoke can enter your home if your private house pipes are cracked or not sealed)
- Surface restoration (Sodding and plants on public utility easement will be restored within reason)

Work should begin approximately 3 / 11, 2014 and continue through approximately 3 / 30, 2014. Official working hours are 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM (however crews may not be on-site the entire time).

Water usage is not prohibited; however, we do ask residents to please **keep water usage to a minimum** during working hours so we can properly reconnect service lines to the main sewer. We apologize for any inconvenience, but with your cooperation, we can complete our work in a timely manner and minimize disruption while improving your sewer system.

For further information or questions on this project, please contact the following:

Superintendent: Leo Cruz

Phone: (281) 330-2120

Respectfully,



AN IPR COMPANY

Joe Flanigan
Project Manager
(832) 250-6027

131 N. Richey, Pasadena, Texas 77506
(832) 252- 4800

IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CONTACT DOUG ELLIOT (832) 642-4443

If you do not notice workers immediately, please bear with us, we may be just down the street !!

Our Community

Community News

Exciting changes are a-comin'!! The SEPHARDIC GAN/TORAT EMET (SG/TE), an accredited Orthodox Jewish day school currently located in the Meyerland area, is relocating to the old Plitt Theater on the corner of Braesridge and West Bellfort! The SG/TE was founded in 2005 with just 12 students and in just a few short years has reached an enrollment of almost 250 students from Early Childhood through 8th Grade. The renovations are well underway, and they expect to be fully moved in by this summer. We look forward to welcoming them to our community!

Community Parks

You may have noticed that the Kittybrook Park has received a much needed facelift recently, and some changes have also occurred at the Ludington Park. Many thanks to Danny Fishman, Tom Roberts and Jeannette Calhoun for spearheading these improvements. We hope you and your family enjoy the changes!

You may also have noticed that the tennis courts at Kittybrook are in need of repairs as well. The WBPOA Board has assigned a committee to work on determining on how to best address these repairs within our budgetary constraints. We will keep you posted as the committee moves forward with the plans.

Community Clubhouses

Speaking of improvements, have you seen the Braesridge Clubhouse recently? Talk about facelifts! The clubhouse has been given an entire new look and is beautiful!! Small improvements have also been made at the Ludington Clubhouse, with more hopefully to follow once the road construction along Ludington is completed. Please plan on renting on of our clubhouses for your family events or celebrations. You may call Joy Cunningham or Jeannette Calhoun for information on renting either clubhouse; their contact details are on the front page of this newsletter.

Ludington Pool

It is getting that time of year again.... The start of the famous (or is it infamous?) Texas summers! If you are new to Houston, you will soon find that summers in Texas means one thing: SWELTERING HEAT! Thankfully, your WBPOA has a great way for you to cool off with the Ludington pool!! Homeowners will receive a notice shortly with pool hours and when to pool tags will be available for pickup. However, in order to enjoy the pool, and any of the community amenities, your homeowner dues must be paid in full. So if you have not already done so, please be sure to send in your HOA dues.

HOA Rules Regarding Garbage / Recycling / Heavy Trash / Tree & Yard Trash

Garbage and recycle bins are not to be placed at the curb until the night before pick up (ie, Wednesday nights for pick up on Thursday). Bins are to be kept out of sight at all times except for pick up days. Bins are to be removed from the curb and placed out of view no later than the same evening as pick up.

Heavy trash, tree and yard waste are never to be placed at the curb until the day before scheduled pickup. Heavy trash and yard trash pickup dates alternate months and are noted on the last page of the newsletter and on the WBPOA website. If the waste is not picked up, you are responsible for removing the items until the next pick up date. Heavy trash and yard waste are not to remain at the curb longer than one day.



Community Events and Things to Do

Tune in for different events and places highlighted each month!

For Adults

Hermann Park Golf Course
www.hermannparkgc.com
Rainbow Lodge Restaurant
<http://www.rainbow-lodge.com/>
The Company OnStage (Fridays)
www.companionstage.org

For Children

Children's Museum of Houston
www.cmhouston.org
The Chocolate Bar
www.theoriginalchocolatebar.com
The Company OnStage (Saturdays)
www.companionstage.org

For Free!

Art Car Museum
www.artcarmuseum.com
Discovery Green
www.discoverygreen.com
Port of Houston Boat Tour
www.portofhouston.com/samhou/samhou.html

Other Events in Houston

For many more ideas, visit <http://www.visithoustontexas.com/travel-tools/events/>

Feb 13 – May 11: Georges Braque: A Retrospective. The first museum exhibition since 1988 to present the full arc of the artist's career. www.mfah.org/exhibitions/georges-braque-retrospective

Feb 14 – Aug 17: Magna Carta. The Magna Carta is considered to be Great Britain's most valuable export to the world and is a model upon which the United States Constitution was based. www.hmns.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=652&Itemid=684

Mar 1 – Apr 5: A Year with Frog and Toad. This whimsical musical follows two best friends - the eternally optimistic Frog and the rather grumpy Toad - through four, fun-filled seasons. www.mainstreettheater.com/youththeater/frog.html

Mar 4 – 23: Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. See last page of newsletter for more details.

Mar 7 – Mar 23: A Little Night Music. "Send in the Clowns" and elegant waltzes drive this bittersweet story-the winner of six Tony awards including best musical, book and score. www.houstongrandopera.org

Mar 15 – 23: Architects of Air. Back by popular demand, Britain's Architects of Air returns to Discovery Green with Miracoco, a one-of-a-kind new luminarium! www.visithoustontexas.com/includes/events/Architects-of-Air/23310/419/

Mar 16: The 42nd Annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta. A 15-mile USCA-sanctioned race along the scenic Buffalo Bayou, whether entering competitively or paddling for fun. www.buffalobayou.org

Mar 21 – 23: 4th Annual Kemah Crawfish Festival. The freshest and best tasting Crawfish in the world for only \$3.50 per pound! www.gulfcoastfestivals.com

Mar 31 – Apr 6: Shell Houston Open. Houston's largest and most prestigious golf event hosting 144 of the world's best golfers competing for \$6Mm in prize money. www.shellhoustonopen.com

Local Community Centers and Parks

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston, 5601 S Braeswood Blvd, Phone: (713) 729-3200 / Website: www.erjchouston.org

Lee LeClear Tennis Center, 9506 S Gessner Rd, Phone:(713) 272-3697 / Website: www.houstontx.gov/parks/tennis.html

Answers for puzzles to appear next newsletter

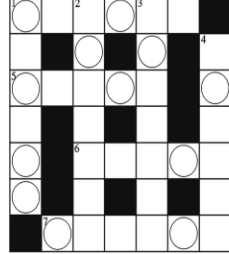
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20				21	22							
23				24					25			
26			27				28	29	30		31	
32							33			34		35
			36		37	38				39		
40	41	42		43					44	45	46	47
48			49		50			51	52			
53				54				55			56	
57					58	59	60				61	
62										63	64	
65					66					67		
68					69					70		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Try to advance after a fly
 - 6 Camper's cover
 - 10 Aid in crime
 - 14 Collars for some preppies
 - 15 Field
 - 16 Phnom ____, Cambodia
 - 17 Like Creole cooking
 - 18 Top 40, say
 - 20 Target number for an angry
 - 21 Mayan ruins site
 - 23 Tote or purse
 - 24 Selling fast
 - 25 "It's __ nothing"
 - 26 Important board matter
 - 31 Shipped
 - 32 Show signs
 - 33 Fall birthstone
 - 35 His, to Henri
 - 36 Two-piece piece
 - 40 UCLA is one
 - 43 "Two Women" director
 - 44 "Ninotchka" actress
 - 48 Disembarked
 - 50 Where La Scala is
 - 53 Ottoman official
 - 55 Followers of mus
 - 56 "Now, where __ 1?"
 - 57 "That's enough!"
 - 61 2000 Gere title role
 - 62 "Whatever"
 - 63 Absurd
 - 65 Leprechaun land
 - 66 Gwyneth Paltrow movie
 - 67 Traffic cop, at times
 - 68 Solar beams
 - 69 Lively dance
 - 70 Court postponements

- DOWN**
- 1 Nuclear restraint pact
 - 2 Calm
 - 3 Attending
 - 4 Family nickname
 - 5 Common schizophrenia condition
 - 6 Gauguin's paradise
 - 7 Colonizer of Greenland
 - 8 North Sea country (abbr)
 - 9 CD alternative
 - 10 Blooming months
 - 11 Band once known as Johnny & the Moondogs
 - 12 Touchdown site
 - 13 Literature, music, etc
 - 19 Collected quotes
 - 22 Sweetums
 - 27 Bach's "Mass __ Minor"
 - 28 Like Schubert's music, eg
 - 29 Prefix with cycle
 - 30 Wrestling surface
 - 34 How-to-get-it-done science
 - 37 Kipling hero
 - 38 Here, in Brest
 - 39 One way to stand
 - 40 More foolish
 - 41 Supermodel Schiffer
 - 42 High school subject
 - 45 Unprocessed computer input
 - 46 Nonsense
 - 47 Shellfish selection
 - 49 Macbeth et al
 - 51 Toughen by heating, as glass
 - 52 Rapa __ (Easter Island)
 - 54 Flying fig
 - 58 Message writer, at times
 - 59 Title for Edith Evans
 - 60 "Coffee, Tea __?" ('60s bestseller)
 - 64 One of the "pickings" hidden in five puzzle answers

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS

by David L. Hoyt



- CLUE ACROSS ANSWER**
1. A capital TAOAWT
 5. Banquet SEFAT
 6. Try hard XTEER
 7. Acumen RSEOAN

- CLUE DOWN ANSWER**
1. Transgress DEOFNF
 2. Acrobatic apparatus EPTZRA
 3. Onlooker ESTNSIW
 4. Small energy packet NOPHTO

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

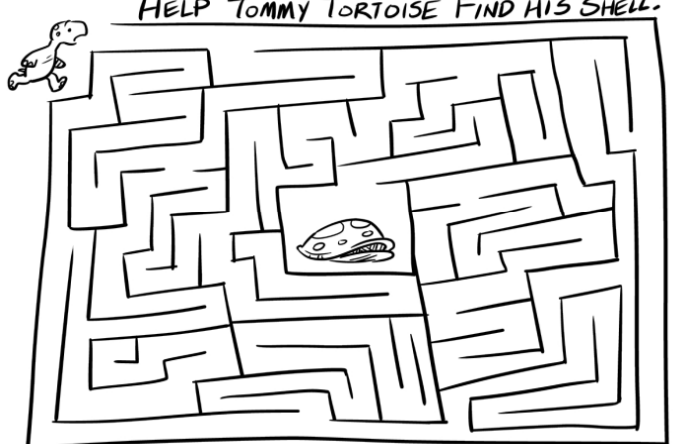
CLUE: This actor, who was born in Chicago in 1942, is an experienced airplane and helicopter pilot.

BONUS ○○○○○○○○ ○○○○

2	3	4	5			
1	9	6	3		5	
4	6		8	1	3	2
2					9	
9		3	6	8		7
		4				8
6	8	1	2	3	7	4
5		8		4	6	1
		1	6	8	9	

Daily SuDoku for Kids: Thu 13-Mar-2014 hard

S C F R B O B R O B E R T S L O K L
 T N L E S R E K C I L S Y T I C R L
 A O E P O B L R U A E C H B U D E A
 R I T O T H E Y O M T O L B A T P H
 L T C M W R G I F M L B E E I B E E
 L C H A I B A O N I L L A U R G E I
 A E K N L U L D D G C I S L H K L N
 M L C T I L L A I N T A G O L H S N
 A E U D A L Y C U N Z H S Y L O S A
 C R R U R D B H S A G T E O P L U S
 L O T C L U L H L L B P C R A P L A
 U M S K I R O P O U L A L P E A A K
 E H N S A H N N S T L A S A C C E H
 L S O O R A D T E H S H B K C R O A
 E U O U F M E M E C O H E T H E E R
 S R M P A R T R B T A R O S A A S V
 S L E I S T O O T H E R U T L E S E
 N A T T A H N A M S E Y S L S S M Y



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- WORD SEARCH - COMEDY MOVIES #1:** All of Me / Annie Hall / Babe / Being There / Big / Bob Roberts / Bull Durham / Cars / Cat Ballou / City Slickers / Clerks / Clueless / Duck Soup / Election / Fletch / Ghostbusters / Happy Gilmore / Harvey / Holiday / Hotshots / Legally Blonde / Liar Liar / Local Hero / Mallrats / Manhattan / Meatballs / Moonstruck / Oh, God! / Plaza Suite / Repo Man / Rushmore / Shrek / Slacker / Slap Shot / Sleeper / The Rutles / Tootsie / Trading Places / Uncle Buck / Yes Man

JOKE CORNER (Answers on back page)

1. What do you call an alligator in a vest?
2. What do lawyers wear to court?
3. What gets wetter the more it dries?
4. What stays in the corner and travels all over the world?
5. What do you get when you cross a cow and a duck?

Happiness resides not in possessions, and not in gold, happiness dwells in the soul.
 ~ Democritus

AWESOME



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Andy, The Awesome Possum

Hi, kids! I am Andy, the Awesome Possum! Yes, I know, you don't believe opossums are awesome – don't worry, I get that all the time. But let me tell you a bit about myself, and hopefully I can change your mind.

First, just because my tail looks similar to a rat's, that doesn't mean I am one. I'm actually a marsupial, so am related to kangaroos and koala bears. In fact, I am the ONLY marsupial that lives in the United States (outside of a zoo). Now, I do admit that I am nowhere near as cute and adorable as my foreign cousins. Apparently, my looks make a lot of people afraid of me. But trust me, I am WAY more afraid of

you humans than you are of me. In fact, I am pretty much a "fraily cat". I get so scared sometimes that I "play 'possum", which means I will faint and play dead. I do this so you or any thing else that is scaring me will go away and leave me alone. But if you insist on getting too close, I will bear my teeth and hiss at you, and if REALLY pushed, I might bite you. I am a wild animal, after all! But honestly, I really am a "loner" and prefer to run around at night when everyone else is asleep, doing my "possum" thing.

So just what is it that possums do exactly, you ask? I am so glad you asked, because we actually do quite a lot of good things! In fact, we are called "Nature's Little Sanitation Engineers" because we help maintain a clean and healthy environment. If you see me in your yard, it is because I am looking for some of my favorite things to eat: INSECTS! Like cockroaches, crickets, beetles, etc. We also catch and eat rats, roof rats, mice and even eat dead animals of all types. YES! You read correctly! WE EAT RATS! Now you know why we don't like to be called rats! We also LOVE over-ripe fruit, berries, and grapes. But our absolute favorite thing of all? Snails and slugs! YUUUUUMMY!! These are the BEST!

Now, this doesn't mean that if garbage is left uncovered that we won't jump in and help ourselves to tasty leftovers. After all, your moms are mighty fine cooks! Just be sure to keep your bins closed and we will walk on by -- maybe take a sniff or two, but that lid is awful heavy so we will go on our way and find some tasty insects.

Here are a couple of other fun facts about me and my relatives:

- We get along well with cats, but am absolutely terrified of dogs. Dogs will eat us alive!
- Adult opossums do not hang from trees by their tails, as sometimes said, although babies may dangle temporarily. But really, our tails are not strong enough to support a mature adult's weight. Instead, we use our tails as a brace and a fifth limb when climbing.
- The tail is also sometimes used as a grip to carry bunches of leaves or bedding materials to the nest.
- Like all marsupials, baby possums are carried in their mothers' pouches for up to 125 days. Momma possums will sometimes carry her young upon her back, where they will cling tightly even when she is climbing or running.
- Male opossums are called jacks, females are called jills, and babies are called joeys, just like our Australian cousins. A group of opossums is called a passel.

I hope you enjoyed learning about me and my relatives and that you found that I am actually quite a useful little animal to have in your yard. So really, I am quite adorable after all! That's all for now, but I will appear in future newsletters to tell you about some of my friends, as Texas has a LOT of fascinating wild animals – so be sure to come back and visit with me again next month! *Be sure to stay posted for more fun facts from Andy, the Awesome Possum!*

See Something, Say Something!

Help keep our neighborhood safe! One of the MOST effective ways to achieve this is through the eyes and ears of our neighbors. Please practice the "See Something, Say Something" motto and call our Constable's dispatch (713 / 613-6602) if you see anything or anyone suspicious. If it turns out to be nothing, no harm done. But you may prevent a serious crime from occurring. You do not have to be involved anymore than a phone call – our Constables will take it from there. To make things easier, program the dispatch number into your cell phones. On behalf of the neighborhood, thank you!

March 2014

March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war. For many years, March, being the start of spring, much of Europe used March as the start of the year. Britain used March 25th as the beginning of the New Year until 1752.

Birthstone: Aquamarine and Bloodstone / Flower: Daffodil / Zodiac signs: Pisces and Aries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Mardi Gras	4 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins HOUSTON RODEO	5	6 Recycle pick up	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins	10	11	12	13	14 Tree & Yard Waste – North Side*	15
16 Purim	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Recycle pick up Tree & Yard Waste – South Side* Spring Equinox	21	22
23 HOUSTON RODEO ENDS	24	25 Board Mtg – 7pm Braes Ridge Clubhouse	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Joke Corner Answers: 1. An Investigator / 2. Law suits / 3. A towel / 4. A stamp / 5. Milk and quackers

- * WBPOA – Northfield III and IV (North Side of West Bellfort): Heavy Trash 2nd Friday of even months / Tree & Yard Trash 2nd Friday of odd months
- * WBPOA – Northfield V (South Side of West Bellfort) – Heavy Trash 3rd Thursday of even months / Tree & Yard Trash 3rd Thursday of odd months



HOUSTON Livestock Show and Rodeo

For those of you new to the city, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, aka the Houston Rodeo, begins March 4th and ends March 23rd. The Houston Rodeo is the world's largest livestock exhibition and has one of the richest "purses" for its cowboy performers. Its primary goal is to raise monies for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, and grants scholarships every year to many students entering agricultural fields. This 82-year old tradition is loved by all Texans, old and new, and should not be missed! Please go to <http://www.rodeohouston.com> for the list of the star studded performances as well as additional information regarding the livestock shows and carnival, parking and how to use the Metro buses and rail. Hope you go and have a great YEEHAW time!!!

March is the time to celebrate all things TEXAS! Texas is a unique state in many ways. The name "Texas" comes from the Caddo Indian word "teyshas", meaning "friends". Spanish explorers recorded it as Tejas in the 1500s. "Friendship" is our state motto. Texans have a great passion for their state, and the months of March and April are particularly important to our history. There were only 5 battles in the War for Texas Independence, which raged from October 1835 to April 1836. All were important, but the most significant occurred in March and April: the Battle of the Alamo (March 6, 1836), the Goliad Massacre (March 27) and.... with battle cries of "Remember Goliad! Remember the Alamo!" flying in the wind.... The Battle of San Jacinto (April 21), where in less than 20 minutes, Texans captured Santa Anna and won our independence. Texas became a republic on April 21, 1836 and remained a separate nation for almost 10 years until it joined the Union as a State on December 29, 1845 (hence the name "Lone Star State"). Now that you have made Texas your home, we hope you come to love it as much as us natives do!