

Howdy

THE HEIGHTS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

A GATHERING LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN

DOOR PRIZES!

THURS FEB 15 6PM

Wanna' kick start your New Year with color, energy, & entertainment?

Get ready for a standing ovation presentation. This one is gonna be fun!! Plan to make your stage debut with fellow neighbors for the Heights Park Neighborhood Association's General Meeting.

You're gonna experience what this hood and this city has to offer all wrapped around the arts. Our meeting takes place **Thurs., Feb 15, 6pm** at **The Core Theatre**, 518 West Arapaho, Ste. 115. A unique, cozy space complete with **comfy, cushioned raked seating** and **complimentary theatre concessions!**

We'll open the curtain with **Jazz Bytes**, a smaller expression of the **Texins Jazz Band**, a Big Band whose history goes back to 1986 when they were the Texas Instruments Jazz Band. **This quartet will sizzle**, treating us with **something everyone will tap their feet to**. And that's just Act One!



A hard act to follow but HPNA will take the stage. Drum roll please. **Be the first to hear all about some lively, new events planned for our hood in 2024.** We'll also elect officers and present our budget.

In Act Three, our **Asst. City Manager, Michaela Dollar** will reveal **all the color of the arts scene in Richardson**. Can you name Richardson's three live theatres? (Hint, you'll be sitting in one of them.) Do you know where all the city's public art is located? You'll learn all about the varied colorful cultural arts throughout our city and where you can tap into all of them for entertainment and enrichment.

In our final scene, the Jazz Bytes will send you off with tunes that will kick your New Year in high gear. **Join us to crunch on concessions, tap to the Texins tunes, and swing with the city's Art Scene.**

HEIGHTS PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION





Oktoberfest



1st Place

ANNA LATSON

"Vixen Venison"
with bragging rights via a
front yard Winner sign, and
a Cuisinart dutch oven



2nd

JOSH HAYNES

"Daddy's Chili"
(Appropriately, accepting the
award, Josh's daughter)
with a \$50 gift card to Deep Cuts



3rd

JACOB FULBRIGHT

"Hillbilly Chili"
with a Beer/Pretzels/
Snacks a plenty basket



**Honorable
Mention**

CLARK USIE

"Daredevil's Delight"
with his priceless
Tyrolean Hat prize



THE BEST OF THE BEST
AND ALL THE REST

Oktoberfest Highlights

THE CROWDS AND THE ENTRIES
GROW YEAR AFTER YEAR.

THIS ONE WAS NO EXCEPTION.

THE COMPETITION, THE CHILI,
AND THE TEMPS WERE HOT,

BUT THE BEER (FREE FOR MEMBERS)
COOLED US DOWN.

AH, THE PERKS (AND THE THIRSTS)
COULD BE MEASURED IN KEGS!



WHAT A GOOD LOOKING CROWD



OUR FROTHY HOSTS

Wayne and Erika Usie
sure know how to drink,
uh, we mean host. They
gave us their home, their
time, and their electricity,
literally and figuratively!



NO DOGS HERE!



President's Message

My Neighbors,

I hope everyone's Christmas and New Year was safe and enjoyable. Taking down the decorations and tree, cleaning the gutters, and trying to figure out what to do with that present from Aunt Josephine tends to keep us busy the first few weeks of the year. I am going to add one more thing to that list for you, but this one will keep you giving to the neighborhood all year! What you say can do THAT? Well, let me start with a quote that I use often from a man I know and respect. "If you need help with something, ask. You do not receive what people do not know you need."

H.P.N.A. needs your help. Although we had a GREAT year in 2023, your Heights Park Neighborhood Association Board is a few members shy and we need your help filling those positions. This past year we brought our membership totals to what we think is a record, our financials are on firm footing to see us through any hard times, and our volunteer board has worked hard to bring you the best events and information that we can. Our neighborhood association is a valuable asset that helps bring us events like Oktoberfest, Food Truck Friday, The Heights of Summer, even some new events this year. Be sure to attend our Feb. 15 meeting (see front page) to get the scoop on what those will be. A beautiful newsletter twice a year is delivered to your door and board members attend city informational meetings to help keep you aware of things that affect our 'hood. These things keep our neighborhood vibrant, engaged, informed and connected.

We can only do this with the help of our neighbors. Volunteers outside the board help with events. Their help is always appreciated and welcomed. Now we need a few to join the leadership team. The H.P.N.A. board is a fun and energetic group that strives to continue these efforts and the legacy of those that came before us in making Heights Park the best neighborhood in Richardson! However, we need additional hands to continue sailing. So, climb onboard and scratch this one off your New Year's resolutions!

Ahoy,

Jeff Davis
President

Heights Park Neighborhood Association
214.803.9035 | contact@heightspark.com
Awaiting your call or email to volunteer or ask questions

H.P.N.A. Open Board Positions

VICE PRESIDENT

At the helm to assist the President in steering the association and at the ready to move into leading H.P.N.A.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Connect with our base to manage and grow our membership base. A great way to meet your neighbors.

EVENTS CHAIR

Be the lead of all our fun social events that bring us together as a neighborhood.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR

Use your skills for the good of the hood to spread the word about all that is happening in H.P.N.A.

CIVICS CHAIR

An important role and a unique opportunity to be the eyes, ears, and voice of H.P.N.A. in city business such as the Council and City Planning Commission meetings.

Our Deepest Rooted Residents

Just as our mature trees stand majestically, reflecting the history of our neighborhood, so do many of our residents who took root

here in Heights Park decades ago. They have a deep appreciation for this special place they chose as their home. Through a few of their memories, perhaps your gratitude of this well established neck of the woods will grow too.

Fred & Barbara Ellis 823 Ridgedale Dr.



In 1967 we bought our home and were among the very youngest in the neighborhood and now, well, the fact that we are in this article says it all. We celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary this past August. We wanted a home in Richardson Heights because it had a fireplace, but we ended up buying here because it was less expensive than the south side of Beltline. Things have changed since then. We paid \$18,750 and had a monthly mortgage payment of \$109. Yes, things have changed a lot. The trees were much smaller then, the neighborhood was filled with kids and the yards filled with kids and parent's visiting. Someone started the "HP Babysitting Club". You had to be invited to join. Once you did, the moms would meet socially and pass out coupons that granted you babysitting hours. It was very successful. Heights Park with its space themed playground was a favorite stomping ground for our two boys. Heights Shopping Center featured a Kroger's (now TJMaxx), a Dad and Ladd's Mens shop, Friends Bookstore and Margies Florist. Fred's passion is gardening. We're proud of the fact that we have won Yard of the Month a couple of times. We've done extensive remodeling to the home in all these years but we still have our beautiful original hardwood floors. Some things haven't changed-Heights Park has a great central location, and it is a place of peace with a strong sense of community.

It's true, this has been our home for 62 years! My husband Dave and I both worked for Collins Radio when we married in 1961. We bought our home in 1962 for \$20,000 there were so many young couples from many other U.S. locations living on Weatherred, many with children. Collins Radio and Texas Instruments were quickly increasing the population of Richardson. Dave planted five one-gallon red oaks. Those HUGE trees still grace our yard. Our neighbors like the idea and started doing the same. Now you know how the "neighborhood leaf exchange" started in our neighborhood! Dave also loved playing golf. He considered Heights Elementary school (right out our back gate) his private driving range and must have hit millions of balls from the batting cage on the north end to Beltline and back again. Dave passed in 1988 but I'm still here and still enjoying all this lovely area has to offer, especially those fall leaves!

Georgia Jepson 200 N. Weatherred



Bob & Judy Dietze 604 Westwood Dr.



We were married in 1965 at the First Baptist Church on the corner of Phillips and Greenville Ave. As we drove around in our '58 Chevrolet, we were drawn to this area. When we spotted this charming home we said, "That's where we want to live." and we've been here ever since. We won't leave until our maker brings us to our forever home. We paid a whopping \$12,000k for our house. Our two daughters, Debbie and Cathy, were raised here, both of whom attended Heights Elementary, West Jr. High and R.H.S. Judy's parents were Emory and Laverne Huffhines who lived at 105 North Gentle Drive. The Huffhines family were among the first settlers, true pioneers of Richardson in the mid 1800's. We were both life long teachers; Judy taught 3rd grade for 25 years in R.I.S.D. and I taught for D.I.S.D. We love the location of Heights Park. I could walk to church, even to Central to hitchhike into downtown if I wanted to! It's great having a park practically in our backyard and watching all the new folks that are now future settlers, making this their home just as we and many others have done.

My parents were the original owners of this home which they purchased in 1962. When I grew up here, Arapaho was a two lane road. We shopped at Piggly Wiggly on Arapaho in the shopping center where Taco Bell is located. My siblings and I would walk to go swimming at the pool on Arapaho and Floyd. There was no Rec Center and the pool was very basic, not at all like the one there now. Renner Road was just a bunch of empty fields of cotton. I still have my library card from the first library on Greenville Ave! I was in the third graduating class at Pearce High School, a much smaller school then without a pool nor even a library. Eventually I moved to the Northrich neighborhood but came back to Heights Park. People take good care of their properties and it's a perk having a park right in our area to walk in. Over the years, I've been involved in our community from being on the neighborhood association board to serving on the Yard of the Month committee. Since 2009, I've served as a Block Captain delivering the H.P.N.A. newsletters. It keeps me walking, connected to my neighbors, and helping out our neighborhood association.

Sheila Harrison
600 Twilight Trail



Neale & Kelly Patton
535 Ridgedale Dr.



My parents, Ed and Jackie Patton purchased this Ridgedale residence in 1955. I began my residency in 1956. My older siblings Patricia, Joe David and I attended Heights Elementary (where our Boy Scout Troop planted the trees between the circle drive and Floyd Road), West Jr. High and R.H.S. The Pattons attended Richardson Heights Baptist Church faithfully on the corner of Floyd and Beltline. The church bought houses beside it and used them for their youth Sunday school before they were removed and the new building constructed on Beltline. My father was the owner of Preston Road Plumbing Company. When I was a kid, I played baseball and football at Heights Park. The tall rocketship slide had to have extra iron added to keep the kids from jumping off the top level! I spent my summer's at the Gray's home on the corner of Westwood and Lindale, the only one with air conditioning! The Patton backyard usually had a football game going with the kids in the neighborhood. I left to attend college but was drawn back here because of my love of Heights Park. Kelly and I married in 1990. She feels the same connection here and unites back by being a Block Captain. She has given her time for the neighborhood association and neighbors for eight years.

When we bought our home in 1968 (paying under \$22k), we were drawn to it's floor plan and the screened in porch, but we also loved the trees. We added to them by planting several in our backyard that are still here. Few houses had fences and if they did, they were chain link, not wood. Our two boys and two girls would play in Cottonwood Creek, accessing it through a ravine that was off Thompson at the end of Ridgedale. A large white, two story wood home sat in front of a pond with not much around it where the hospital is now located on Campbell. At the corner of Spring Valley & Waterview stood a house with a barn, corral and horses. Richardson had no public kindergartens. I've always been active in giving back to my community. When door-to-door fundraising was allowed, such as the March of Dimes, I would do that. I've been a Block Captain since the position was created about 20 years ago and on Crime Watch patrol for 15 years. It feels good to contribute to your neighborhood.

Jackie Oswald
804 Ridgedale Dr.



These are the pioneers of Heights Park, among the first here to lay down the seeds of our soil and our future. Many have children that are still here. They've put work into caring for their home, establishing gardens and planting trees to make this one of the most charming and special places in Richardson. They have built a caring, connected community from which we all benefit. Let's follow their spirit and pay forward to all they've given by getting involved (see HPNA President's letter, pg. 3). And next time you are near one of these addresses, honor these folks by introducing yourself. I'll bet they have many more Heights Park fun facts they'd reveal to you.

Honor Our Pioneers



WASHBURN
REALTY

FREE HOME SELLING WORKSHOP



THINKING OF SELLING?

- What changes are needed to prepare my home to sell?
- How much can I get for my home in today's market?
- Can I buy my next house before moving out of my current home?

LOCATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024
FROM 9:00 - 10:00 AM

RICHARDSON SENIOR CENTER
820 W. ARAPAHO RD., #100

REGISTRATION

Space is limited.
Scan the QR code
and register today!

LEARN FROM YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD
EXPERTS



Sign up on our website and receive 10% off

Cyrille Aimée

in concert with

Texins



Jazz Band



Eisemann Center in Richardson, TX

Sunday, April 14th, 7:00 PM

Plano East Jazz Band
opens the concert

texinsjazz.com

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Have You Heard?
It's Time to
JOIN or RENEW
your **MEMBERSHIP.**

HELP US KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING!

Your Heights Park Neighborhood Association Membership runs from January 1 through December 31, so it's time to renew or join us.

As our President mentioned in his letter (pg. 3) with of many of you helping, **we hit the "Heights"** last year in terms of record membership. This allows us to continue so offer you so much.

PLEASE HELP US DO THE SAME IN 2024!

WOW, what a lot of benefits!

Remember that rousing game of Richardson Trivia honoring our city's 150th anniversary with terrific prizes we played at our General Meeting last year? How about the fascinatingly fun one planned for Feb 15th (see front page)? Can you

feel the cool waters of The Heights of Summer Splash pool party in scorching July? Well, okay that came from a once-all-summer storm, but our intentions were there. Mmm, those yummy Food Truck Friday happenings. How about all those pots of tasty chili during Oktoberfest washed down by Four Bullets draft, free to all members, and the food we collected during the event to help our local pantry, Network? Need I say Crime Watch and Yard of the Month? And then there's this thing in your hands that keeps you informed and smiling knowing you are one of the very few neighborhoods who are treated to a newsletter personally delivered to your doorstep by our dedicated Block Captains. Plus the new events to be revealed at the Feb. 15th meeting (see front page).

NONE of this happens without this association!

Right now, while all of that is fresh on your mind, grab the form on the back of this publication, fill it out and mail it in with a check. Or even easier, go to: www.heightspark.com, hit the "Join Today" button and pay online.

You've made it so easy to join!

Did you say "Free Membership"? I'm in!

And just to push, oops, we mean entice you to join now, all those who sign up during our Membership Drive will be entered in a raffle for a free membership. **We'll select two winners.**

Our drive ends Feb. 29, so leap to it!

H.P.N.A. is recruiting again, Sue.



It's only \$25. for the year. Consider it window insurance :)

SIGN UP TO GET MONTHLY HPNA EMAIL UPDATES

Periodically we send a neighborhood email to our HPNA residents. This email contains brief neighborhood or City of Richardson news or exciting upcoming events.

If you don't want to miss out, we need your email address. We don't distribute or sell your email address to anyone. It is strictly used to communicate neighborhood news to you. Please send an email to contact@heightspark.com with a request to be added to the email update, or visit our HPNA website www.heightspark.com and sign up there.

Many of you are already on NextDoor.com or our FaceBook or Instagram, but an email update is just one more way to get information out to you. Because it's costly to provide a printed newsletter more than twice a year, electronic communications is very cost effective and timely method of bringing neighborhood and city news to you. **Just below, check out all the ways we reach out to you and you can keep up with all that is Heights Park.**

ABOUT HEIGHTS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Heights Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) is an organization created by the residents of the Heights Park area of Richardson, Texas, to promote communication and cohesiveness throughout the neighborhood. HPNA brings together neighbors to preserve and enhance the quality of life in our community.

We promote safety, an attractive appearance, a family atmosphere and community pride. Our neighborhood is located in the northwest area of Richardson, bordered on the north and south by Arapaho Road and Beltline Road and on the east and west by Custer Road and Thompson Road.



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CONTACT@HEIGHTSPARK.COM



HEIGHTS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 833537
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75080

YOUR DEDICATED HPNA BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Jeff Davis	jeff@davisphotography.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Open	
TREASURER	Andrew Young	andrewyoung571@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Karen Love	karen_love@mac.com
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	Open	
EVENT CHAIR	Open	
CIVICS CHAIR	Open	
PUBLICATIONS/DESIGN CHAIR	Bonnie Kudlicki	bonnie@kudlicki.com
WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR	Open	
SAFETY CHAIR	Mark Hoefle	mkhoefle@gmail.com
ENVIRONMENTAL CHAIR	Judi Hoefle	jlhoefle@gmail.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Start 2024 fresh with some inspirational advice.

Keep a running list of the nicest things anyone has ever said to or about you. It's a lifesaver on days when the world is getting the best of you.

Be a fountain, not a drain.

Instead of calling someone out, call them in: Invite them into a judgement-free conversation with the intention of promoting understanding.

Every time you receive a box containing something you bought, fill it with items to donate.

Retire from your job, not from life.

Walk at least a little way down into the Grand Canyon: don't just stay up on the rim.

If everyone is driving you crazy, then the feeling is probably mutual.

We are all juggling so many balls. Differentiate between glass balls and rubber balls - and don't be afraid to drop the rubber balls.

Just book the trip!

