

February-March 2015

WINLOW *Place*

A WINNING DEED-RESTRICTED NEIGHBORHOOD OF OVER 400 FAMILIES RIGHT IN THE HEART OF HOUSTON!

Visit for

www.winlowplace.org

Tuesday, March 3

GENERAL MEETING – 7:30 P.M.

St. Stephens Church, Havens Hall

(Next to the Chocolate Bar)

WINLOW PLACE AND SECURITY

Back in the 90s, we tagged along on the Upper Kirby constable patrol for a fairly nominal sum—until Upper Kirby decided they didn't want attachments. Since then, many things have changed; property values are up, making us more attractive, the crime stats are up, the crime rates for everything from daytime robberies, assaults and broken car windows has escalated. Therefore some WPCC members have decided to re-investigate the possibility of re-instituting the Constable Patrol.

This will be discussed further at the meeting on March 3, but briefly, there is no free lunch. The committee has spent considerable time talking with Al Rosen and the constable's organization, and determined that if we can hold hands with Mandell Place, we might well be able to resurrect this service. They believe the many benefits far outweigh the extra cost; basically we would be buying 80% of one Constable's time, on a consistent basis (32 hours/week) and he would patrol the neighborhood at irregular hours and be available with a phone call. Obviously there would be backup for the "other times" but we would consistently get to know one person better than his/her colleagues. See the next page for additional details.

We are therefore conducting an online survey to gauge resident interest in a security program. Share your opinion on safety and security by going online to <http://www.winlowplace.org/security/> – more details are below. You can be anonymous, and you may also send additional comments to winlowpatrol@gmail.com.



Many of us have observed that HPD is already overstretched with its current commitments. Therefore, we believe the burden is on us, as concerned citizens, to become *proactive* about our security needs and to help deter crime before it happens.

We are often told to be vigilant, observant and ready to report anything suspicious a.s.ap. But to whom? Currently, our only option is to call 911 and ask for a Houston Police response. 911 calls are routed through HPD central dispatch. Depending the number and priority of other calls, it can take an hour or more before a HPD officer responds – even for emergencies. This is often far too late to apprehend criminals or prevent crime.

Other neighborhoods – The Heights and Braeswood, for example – have tackled this gap by implementing a Constable's Patrol. Constables are licensed law enforcement officers who privately contract with neighborhoods to assign a regular Constable to a particular geographic area, such as Winlow Place or Mandell Place. By paying a portion of the Constable's salary, the neighborhood "buys" several benefits, including an immediate response – usually within 1-2 minutes – to any problem reported to a specially assigned telephone dispatch number. Furthermore, the presence of a Constable in a clearly marked car serves as a deterrent to crime before it occurs. According to our research, each neighborhood that has implemented a Constable's Patrol has seen a significant decrease in crime; criminals think twice about committing crimes or move on to more vulnerable, less secure neighborhoods.

Experience indicates that not all households can or will contribute money to a Constable's Patrol. However, if just 1/3 of our households buy in, a Constable's Patrol will cost the residents of Winlow/Mandell Place slightly more than \$1/day for the service. As the Constable's Patrol is a flat annual fee, the price per household goes down with each new participant. Importantly, "participating" households – i.e., those neighbors who commit to paying for the service – receive additional direct benefits, including a direct phone number to the dispatch for the Constable's Patrol in our neighborhood; the Constable being listed as a first responder with the resident's alarm company; personalized security audits of the residence; and daily patrolling of a home by the Constable when the resident notifies the Constable they are on vacation.

Recent meetings of the officers of Winlow Place and Mandell Place have generated great interest in the Constable's Patrol. The consensus seems to be that the time for us to take a more active role in our safety and security and implement a Constable's Patrol in our neighborhood is upon us.

Please indicate your interest in financially supporting and participating in the Constable's Patrol by writing to winlowpatrol@gmail.com OR mandellpatrol@gmail.com. If enough neighbors show a willingness to pay for a Constable's Patrol, we will take steps to implement one this calendar year.

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to:

January 2015: Brent and Laura Smith @ 1705 Kipling Street

Spring is coming! We look forward to what creative people do to welcome it!

Cocktails & Conversation

Chez Ryan and Pam Hicks,

1711 Harold

March 27, 5:30—8:30

April: Friday, April 10 hosted by Kent Ferguson & Landy Bauman @ 1802 Marshall

May: Friday, May 8 hosted by Mark and Casey Schultz @ 1733 Kipling

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Happy 2015, Winlow Place! I'm excited to be the new incoming president of the Winlow Place Civic Club, and already this year is off to a great start – my thanks to Russel Garrison for his help in a smooth transition. There will be a lot of opportunities for us to work together to keep Winlow Place the “crown jewel of Montrose,” and this newsletter highlights some of the things we'll be exploring and putting into place over the coming year.

First, as Winlow Place continues to change, some of our residents are looking at putting extra security in place in concert with the Harris County Constable's office. This potential program is something that is just beginning to take shape and the neighborhood's reaction and wishes will really drive how and whether this plan moves forward – many thanks for the exhaustive research they have done to find out our options. The Civic Club board is also looking forward to putting in place some beautification efforts to make the neighborhood really shine. In addition, we'll be continuing our enormously successful Cocktails & Conversation series so that we can keep forming those strong bonds of friendship that make this neighborhood great. We've got most of the hosts for this year signed up already! Finally, we'll continue, as always, to work toward preserving and protecting the deed restrictions we have in place.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tireless effort and generosity of our neighborhood volunteers. A special thanks to them to making this neighborhood so wonderful. We have a very exciting year ahead and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Caroline Garry, Winlow Place President

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

1920 Alabama The Development here has been subject to a variance request which at first was denied, and then reviewed further by the City Planning commission. Initial plans called for very little room between the building and the sidewalk, and the sidewalk and the street, making it plain dangerous for pedestrians. The final plan has 6' sidewalks and a 23' setback from the front of the building to the street.

Widening Dunlavy. This has gone quiet for the moment, but we are watching for it to come up again. As with West Alabama, aside from chopping down all the trees, the main consideration is that the sidewalks would have no “Insulation” between the edge and the curb. There is already significant difficulty walking in our neighborhood due to the 85 year old walkways, many of which haven't been touched for about that long. To have pedestrians right up against the curb is dangerous and people with dogs and small children simply get into their cars rather than chance it. Upper Kirby “transformed” their neighborhood by essentially eliminating pedestrian traffic! Let's keep Winlow Place walkable.

WPCC; We still need a webmaster and someone to take over the emails to the membership. Please consider volunteering. It does not take a whole lot of time, and the website has been set up so efficiently that there is very little to actually do!

Also, many more residents are choosing to make their contributions via the website; thank you all—we pay a tiny premium for the service, but it has simplified the process tremendously! (and think of all the stamps that are being saved...)

WPCC Meetings for the remainder of 2015—mark your calendars!

Tuesday, June 2, Havens Center

Tuesday, Sept 1, Havens Center

Tuesday, Dec 1, Havens center

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

2015 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Caroline Garry
VICE PRES	Ben Garry
SEC.	Brandy Laakso
TREASURER	Lindsey Aldrich

2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

WEBMASTER	Open
DEED RESTRICTIONS	R. Hicks/ L. Aldrich
PUBLICATIONS	M. Needham
MEMBERSHIP	L. Aldrich
YARD OF THE MONTH	D. Leflar
SOCIAL	T. Carroll
HISTORIAN	A. Georgandis
NEARTOWN REP	K. Warhol
WELCOME COMM.	J. Ray and S. Dennis

Other News Sources

1. www.citizens.net
 2. www.nearatown.org
 3. www.winlowplace.org
 4. www.richmondtrail.org
- Crime Stoppers: 713-222-TIPS (8477)

YARD OF THE MONTH;

Send your nomination to Deb Leflar

dhleflar@aol.com

EMAIL ADDRESSES?

Do you get the email updates on the crime stats? In-between-newsletter news? If not, send your address to president@winlowplace.org

2015 DUES ARE DUE

Suggested amounts: Patron: \$100.00

Regular: \$50.00

Seniors : \$10 or what you can afford.

Mail to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 980712, Houston, TX 77098

(Or take advantage of the fact that our computer wizards have made it possible to pay on line and save the stamp!)

Go to: www.winlowplace.org and click on the tab marked "Get Involved" this takes you directly to a pay system.

2015 BLOCK CAPTAINS/ NEWSLETTER

1700 Hawthorne	Pam Jenkins	1707 Hawthorne	713.927.2880
1900 Hawthorne	Marg. Nunez	1900 Hawthorne	713.
1700 Harold	Jan Ossman	1716 Harold	713.529.3191
1800 Harold	Connie Reilly	1829 Harold	713.524.9821
1900 Harold	Ken Wiesehuegel	1911 Harold	713.446.2472
1700 Kipling	Lillian Anfosso	1720 Kipling	713-529-3367
1800 Kipling	Lee Loe	1844 Kipling	713-524-2682
1900 Kipling	Open	Kipling	
1700 Marshall	Michael Drifmeyer	1724 Marshall	713-523-0624
1800 Marshall	Steve Dennis	1825 Marshall	304 685 5626
1900 Marshall	Denise Hanks	1911 Marshall	713.520.1277
1800 w. Alabama	Terrie Frankel	1902 w. Alabama	(713) 228-9445

WWW.WINLOWPLACE. ORG

Please check our website frequently

You can improve our neighborhood security

WINLOW
Place

WINLOW PLACE CIVIC CLUB • PO BOX 980712 • HOUSTON TX • 77098