

NORHILL NEWS

NEWS FROM NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 VOL. 24, NO. 6

Ring in the holidays with your Norhill neighbors

We're starting a new holiday tradition for Norhill Neighborhood Association with a fabulous (and mostly free) holiday party at Heights Villa, the wedding and special events facility located at Pecore and Michaux. Owners Cathy and Brendan Gowing have generously donated the use of their huge ballroom for the biggest and best Norhill party ever. Grab a few neighbors and join in the celebration. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 6 and ends at 10:30 p.m.

According to event chairs Linda Vasse and Kathy Cameron, lots of great surprises are in store. Door prizes and treats are being provided by such popular Heights restaurants and merchants as Happy Fatz, Ruggles Green, Town In City Brewing Co., Companion Bakes, D&T Drive Inn, DownHouse, NiaMoves, Brazilian Arts Foundation and more.

Volunteers are still needed. If you're willing to help, contact Linda or Kathy at [vassecameron@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vasecameron@sbcglobal.net).

Because this gathering is being held on the First Friday, we will continue our happy hour tradition of asking everyone to bring a favorite appetizer and beverage. A professional bartender will be provided to help you tag your beverages if you wish. And NNA is providing additional beer, wine, holiday punch and peach tea (because Bob Lamons said we had to offer it).

One of our objectives as a neighborhood association is to bring people together and provide the opportunity for new friendships to blossom. But we can't do that if you sit at home like Ebenezer Scrooge. Now's the time to get out and meet some new folks. And while you're at it, let's all support our many fine merchants in the Greater Heights. 'Tis the season to be jolly!

What: **Norhill Holiday Party**

Where: **Heights Villa, Pecore at Michaux**

When: **Friday, December 6, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.**



President's Message

This is my final column as your association president, and I write it with mixed feelings. On one hand, I'm proud of the things we have accomplished this year for Norhill Neighborhood Association. But on the other, there's so much yet to be done.



I'm confident that incoming president Tom Patton and the new board elected at the October 29th meeting will continue the trend of new programs and activities for NNA. For that matter, I'll be continuing on the board as communications director, a new position created by our by-laws change.

We have some talented and enthusiastic new board members joining a group of experienced people who have agreed to continue serving another year. It will really help having twelve board members next year versus ten that we had this year. It doesn't sound like much, but two extra people represents a 20% increase in volunteer power.

The primary change is we have created four new board positions with specific responsibilities defined for each. Viula Torgerson has agreed to handle programs, and since she's one of the most "plugged in" people you could hope to find in The Heights, I'm excited about our possibilities for attracting interesting speakers at the monthly meetings.

Mike Clennan, who ably chaired the successful tree planting project at the beginning of the year, has agreed to be community projects director. He's going to announce another tree planting project at the November 26 meeting.

And Dave Hamilton, a new Norhill resident and new board member, has volunteered to head up the social events committee. Dave will be seeking to stage regular events throughout the year to bring Norhill residents together for fun and fellowship.

If you've been meaning to get more involved in NNA activities, I'll hope you'll do it soon. We can use your help.

—Bob Lamons

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Sign landscaping volunteers wanted

You've probably noticed the beautiful, new signs marking the main routes in and out of the Norhill Historic District. Part of our agreement with the City of Houston is to place ornamental rock landscaping beneath each sign so city mowers can do their job without harming them.



To make this task as inexpensive as possible, we're scheduling a work day on Saturday, December 14th to install metal edging, weed barrier underlayment and river rock at the base of each sign. Actually, one of the signs is done already, so we only have four more to complete.

If you're willing to help for a few hours, please call **Tom Patton** at 713-578-0804 or **Bob Lamons** at 713-828-7000. We'll start at 9:00 a.m. and should be finished by noon. NNA will provide the materials. Let's all pitch in for a more beautiful Norhill.

New board members elected for 2014

Twelve officers and directors were elected at the October 29 meeting and will officially take office at the November 26th meeting. The by-laws were amended to increase the number of board positions from ten to twelve. You can read the new by-laws on our website at norhill.org.

Tom Patton will be assuming the president's position, having served capably this year as First Vice President, Membership. Under Tom's leadership, membership in NNA has almost doubled.

Stepping into Tom's membership position is **Chris Lang**. Chris is M&A advisor with Grant Thornton and has lived in Norhill since 2012. He brings a lot of fresh, new ideas to the board.

Another new face is Lawrence Febo, who has volunteered to chair the demanding Deed Restrictions Committee. Lawrence is a Ph.D geoscientist with Chevron Energy. By day he worries about what happens deep inside the Earth. At night and on weekends, he will be thinking about what happens on the Earth's surface, in Norhill specifically.

We wanted a sociable person to head up our new Social Events Committee, and we think we found a good one

in **Dave Hamilton**. Spend a few minutes with Dave and you'll see what we mean.

Mike Clennan did such a great job chairing the tree planting project last January, we decided to give him the opportunity to do it again. He's joining the board in the new Community Projects Director position.

If you've read the online blog, *The Heights Life*, you know that **Viula Torgerson** is super-connected to people and places that make our area interesting. As our new programs director, Viula will be looking for interesting speakers for our monthly meetings, as well as serving as board liaison with the special interest clubs (Cycling, Dining, etc.).

John Wood is Chief Lending Officer for Heritage Bank in Pearland, so we thought he might be able to handle the Treasurer's job. Piece of cake, huh John?

And the final new member of our board is **Pedro Ayarzagoitia**, director-at-large. Pedro is our representative on the Greater Heights Super Neighborhood Council.

If you add these seven new people to the five continuing members (see back page), we think the future looks extremely bright for Norhill Neighborhood Association.

2014 Tree planting project coming soon

Details of our 2014 tree planting project will be announced by committee chair Mike Clennan at the November 26 meeting. If you missed the last project, or weren't ready to make a commitment for additional trees for your property, be sure to attend the November meeting or watch for information to be posted on our website, norhill.org.

Mike is busy gathering information from the City of Houston and various non-profit organizations like Trees For Houston, and will recommend the best options for us. Learning from our recent experience, we may not offer as many tree varieties as we did in January. One reason is the trees are donated and it's not easy getting the precise number of trees requested for each variety.

The other reason is that saplings are hard to recognize in winter without their leaves. Even professional tree experts were wrong in several cases, which required us to replant some trees or persuade homeowners to accept something they didn't order.

Another option is whether to provide planting services or allow homeowners to do their own planting. If you have a preference on any of these issues, send Mike an email at mgclennan@gmail.com.

Nobody knows Norhill better



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NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2014 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President

Tom Patton
713-578-0804

**First Vice President,
Membership**

Chris Lang
281-222-2629

**Second Vice President,
Deed Restrictions**

Lawrence Febo
832-854-7012

Secretary

Rebekah Mayfield
832-439-7219

Treasurer

John Wood
281-685-5638

Crime Watch Officer

Patti Woods
832-776-2801

Communications Director

Bob Lamons
713-828-7000

Programs Director

Viula Torgerson
713-392-0109

Social Events Director

Dave Hamilton
281-413-6338

**Community Projects
Director**

Mike Clennan
713-864-1204

Director-at-large

Daryl Sinkule
832-465-1051

Director-at-large

Pedro Ayarzagoitia
281-808-8748

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 26** Installation of new officers and directors
NNA Monthly Meeting — Annual Report to the Membership
- **December 6** Norhill Holiday Party
Heights Villa, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- **December 8** Norhill Cycling Club monthly ride
- **December 13** Norhill Diner's Club

NOTE: There is no December monthly meeting due to the holidays



Norhill News
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Visit us at www.norhill.org

 [facebook.com/norhill.org](https://www.facebook.com/norhill.org)

NORHILL YARD OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Linda Marx (713-503-0424)

We are pleased to recognize these Norhill Yard of the Month recipients. Thanks for helping keep Norhill beautiful!



October: Lynn and Rebekah Mayfield, 808 W. Temple



November: Joel Dietz and Cory Jensen, 4607 Oak Ridge