

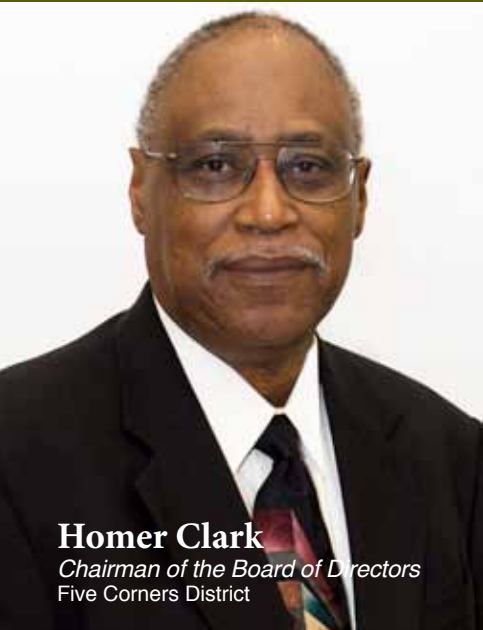


Around the Corner

5 CORNERS NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2014



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A Word from the Chair

The great thing about a brand new calendar year is that it gives you a renewed sense of purpose and the energy to continue with advancements made in the year that just ended. I see 2014 as exactly that kind of opportunity for the Five Corners District: a chance to continue building on the great foundation we've already laid.

We hope that you, the residents and business community, have taken note of some of the improvements made within the last year. We now have a very attractive, functional, and informative website in place where you can go to access board and committee reports or see what's coming up on the calendar.

Our community will soon benefit from the public's exposure to a new Five Corners logo and signage that will be visible throughout the District. This

Environmental Design Master Plan, developed by the planning and urban design firm of Asakura Robinson, will help create a unique identity for our equally unique community, marking gateways and major thoroughfares.

To enhance public safety, we've contracted with SEAL Security Services. Already, they're doing an excellent job establishing their presence in the neighborhoods that need the most attention and interacting with businesses to create a rapport between the District and the community. Having this additional public safety support reinforces the law enforcement work of the Houston Police Department, creating an environment of greater security.

With our advantageous location near the Texas Medical Center and Beltway 8, the Five Corners District is positioning itself to welcome economic development opportunities that are destined to come. It will take some time to forge the relationships to attract new industry and development, but we are taking all the necessary first steps by improving the community to help make this happen.

We're also taking a proactive approach with the projects where we can have an immediate impact, as opposed to waiting for things to happen, and we're hoping to have your support in the process.

Here's hoping that your New Year has gotten off to a great start!



“The Word on the Corner” - quotes from around the community

“When driving through Five Corners District, I see visible changes in the landscape. There is a noticeable absence of bandit signs in the medians and the grass had been carefully cut and edged. Graffiti in our District is almost non-existent. The implementation of our porter service has proved to be a great first step.” — Homer Clark



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COUNCIL MEMBER!!

MAYOR PARKER APPOINTS COUNCIL MEMBER LARRY GREEN AS CHAIR OF CITY COUNCIL'S TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

The Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure Committee (TTI) oversees the City's Information Technology, General Services, and Public Works and Engineering Departments, as well as the Rebuild Houston streets and drainage and water resources and conservation projects. In addition, the TTI Committee oversees the interest of the City of Houston relative to the Harris County Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO) and the Port of Houston Authority. The TTI Committee oversees revenues and expenditures garnered from the City's General Fund, Enterprise Funds and Special Revenue Funds. The Committee is comprised of 15 out of the 16 council members that serve on City Council.

“I thank the Mayor for appointing me as Chair of the TTI Committee. I'm looking forward to spearheading this Committee and moving the City's transportation, technology, and infrastructure. Through the collaborative efforts of my council colleagues, I'm confident this Committee will find solid solutions to Houston's infrastructure needs.”

“The committee chairs have been selected with much attention to their areas of expertise and personal interest. I know Council Member Green will serve the City and his constituents well in this new capacity. We have a lot of work to get done in the next two years. I intend to depend on the work of the council committees to help push this aggressive agenda forward,” states Mayor Parker.

For more info about the TTI Committee, contact Donald Perkins at donald.perkins@houstontx.gov.

HPD & S.E.A.L.
report on
public safety;

HPD DEBUNKS high crime stats



HPD OFFICERS CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE OFFICERS OF S.E.A.L. SECURITY CONTRACTED BY THE DISTRICT TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE AND TO DETER CRIME IN THE FIVE CORNERS DISTRICT.

At the December meeting of the board of directors, S.E.A.L. Operations Supervisor Paul Reese gave an updated report on his team's activities in the area. This included responding to reports of: suspicious persons in the neighborhoods, vagrants in an abandoned hospital on Fuqua, a disoriented male found walking on the highway who was transported to Ben Taub Hospital, vehicle collisions, and stolen vehicles. Reese also reported that there has been a major slowdown of prostitution activities due to the use of cameras on specifically targeted properties.

HPD Officer and Analyst Carl Noon of the Southwest Patrol/Beechnut Crime Analysis unit gave a detailed report on patterns and trends within the District, debunking other studies that use crime statistics incorrectly. For instance, Noon said he was able to immediately disprove the data that purportedly showed the Sunnyside/Acres Homes neighborhood as being one of the top 10 in the nation for criminal activity.

Noon's report to the Five Corners board said that previous studies used the FBI's UCR system of recording and categorizing crimes, which is different from how Houston

and the State of Texas designate crimes under the Texas Penal Code.

"As a result, they lump thefts from vehicles in with residential burglaries," Noon wrote. "This categorization hyper-inflated the area's burglary rate. Since about 2006, the burglary rate of residences and commercial buildings is down more than 30 percent and, in some cases compared to previous years, it is down by nearly half."

"I also found that they based the ratings on all police events, including calls for service that range from disturbances to accidents to 9-1-1 hang-up calls," he added. "HPD's documented crime data tells a different story." The area actually

presents a brighter picture when compared to other police beats around the city, coming in 51st in aggravated assaults, 36th in murders, 35th in robberies, and 73rd in reported sexual assaults, he wrote.

A new HPD Chief, George Buenik, was also introduced to the board at the meeting, and he reported on a recent raid on a human trafficking operation wherein HPD assisted federal officers in making arrests.

"...proves what we have been saying all along, our community is one of the safest in Houston. We just have to get the word out there and help dispel the notion that crime in SW Houston is higher than average because that simply isn't true." — Allen Goodlow, Director of Services

KEEPING THE DISTRICT CLEAN & GREEN

As a part of the District's clean and green initiatives, the District has contracted vendors who work to abate graffiti and litter in the district. The District also has a dedicated crew who report street light outages to CenterPoint. These initiatives not only help to keep the community cleaner and safer but they also help with civic pride and encourage businesses, and residents who are not already participating in these efforts to do the same.

GRAFFITI ABATEMENT

In 2013, over 500 sites containing graffiti were abated thanks to all of our community partners who actively assist us in reporting incidents. We encourage all residents and businesses to join the in the effort to help us eradicate graffiti from the District by reporting to **3-1-1** or going online to www.5CornersDistrict.org and reporting incidences via the **"Submit an Issue"** button on the home page. We are also working closely with our graffiti abatement contractor, our S.E.A.L. security patrols, and HPD to identify and prosecute the individuals responsible for graffiti in our District.

LITTER ABATEMENT

In 2013, over 270 miles of right-of-way were de-littered and 74 miles of right-of-way were mowed, including over 180 business storefronts. The crews have also removed over 11,900 pounds of trash from the area and collected over 1,500 illegal bandit signs. Look for the crews while they are in the community by watching for the **"Five Corners District at Work"** signs and let them know they are doing a good job!

OUTAGE REPORTING: STREET LIGHTS

The District has contracted with SMC Logistics to tour the community and report all street light outages to CenterPoint. In 2013, they reported more than 1,200 outages to CenterPoint.

To assist us in our efforts, you can report litter, graffiti, and street light outages to the Director of Services Allen Goodlow at AGoodlow@5CornersDistrict.org or 713.595.1244.

You may also report at www.5CornersDistrict.org via the **"Submit an Issue"** link on the home page.



SOUTH POST OAK RECYCLING CENTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

IT WAS MAY 1994 WHEN FREDDIE ROBINSON DECIDED TO LAUNCH HIS OWN BUSINESS ON A PATCH OF EMPTY LAND IN THE 14600 BLOCK OF SOUTH POST OAK.

“We were literally in the dirt,” said Robinson, who had previously worked for Reynolds Aluminum Recycling. A building was erected, then several additions were made, and the business of recycling non-ferrous metals and electronics began to thrive. Now, the success of the South Post Oak Recycling Center has led to a second location on Holmes Road.

It’s a family business which Robinson expects to pass along to the next generation when he gets ready to retire. He and his wife, Angela, have three grown daughters: Brandi, Jasmine, and Adia. Brandi Harlow had gone to California for graduate studies and was on an upward career path with well-known companies in the entertainment, retail, and aerospace industries before returning to Houston this past spring. Poised to take over some of the responsibility from her father, she is avidly learning about the business of buying and selling metals for recycling.

The company buys and processes several hundred tons of aluminum cans, window frames, gutters, batteries, copper wire, computers, cell phones, and other salvageable metal materials each year, she said. However, they do not handle paper, plastics, or glass. Metal recycling is a lucrative niche business where the market is rapidly shrinking as other competitors realize the potential and jump onboard, she added.

Customers include local residents looking for a little bit of pocket cash in exchange for their soda cans, plumbers and contractors turning in construction salvage, and commercial and industrial clients like machine shops, Harlow said. Materials are re-sold to foundries and smelters, she added. “The business has an excellent impact on the local community economically,” said Robinson. Residents can bring their materials to the center and receive much needed cash on the spot (a boon during the downturn of the economy from 2008 to 2012). Sometimes, it provides quick money for gasoline or diapers, he added, and some regular customers even build an annual Christmas fund from their recycling savings.

Occasionally, people bring in unusual metal items, like the life-size pair of brass ducks that the Robinsons “recycled” into their office decor. Copper ornaments, pots and vases also show up at their facility, but Robinson is quick to point out that it is illegal to accept any funeral items. Cameras in the warehouse record transactions, and legal documents help ensure that all materials bought from the public are legitimately theirs to sell, his daughter explained.

The Robinsons plan to honor their 20-year anniversary by giving little gifts to their customers throughout 2014, but are mulling the possibility of a big shindig in May, an event where the community can come and help them celebrate.



Four large blocks of compressed aluminum cans, each of which weighs between 800 to 900 pounds.

BOARD REVIEWS FINAL MASTER PLAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

AT THE FINAL 2013 FIVE CORNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN DECEMBER, KEIJI ASAKURA OF THE PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN FIRM, ASAKURA ROBINSON, PRESENTED THE COMPLETED ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN MASTER PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT.

The plan, which Asakura described as “consistent, legible, and easy to maintain,” would cost a total of \$15 to \$22 million to implement, covering branding, commercial development, parks and green spaces, pedestrian and bike trails, street connectivity, and access to Sims Bayou.

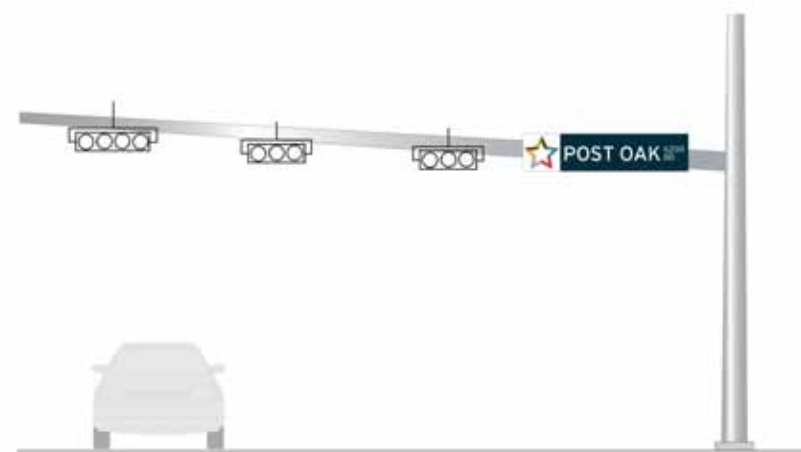
Visibility and branding would be addressed in the form of larger street signs at 24 major intersections or highways and smaller signs in 150 secondary intersections. Branding plates would encourage subdivision developers to keep signage cohesive with the District branding. Directional signs, identifiers, gateway, and pavement markers would be placed at locations targeted for streetscape improvements.

Those targeted streetscape improvements would mark the points where major thoroughfares cross into Five Corners as “district gateways,” the plan outlines. Seven key intersections would be highlighted to create “a quality public realm for businesses and residents.”

Increasing and improving pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the District would reduce residents’ reliance on automobiles and connect neighborhoods to work, school, transit, retail and recreational amenities, according to the report. A District-wide “Safe Routes to Schools” program would support schools that are interested in participating.

The Master Plan includes enhancements to existing parks with adequate signage, lighting, and park amenities. It also addresses the possibility of acquiring land along Sims Bayou for more parks and open space with future development opportunities.

“Pedestrian and bike access is a key component in keeping the community safe and is a wonderful environmental initiative,”
Asakura said. — Keiji Asakura



Eight access points to the bayou were proposed: Hillcroft, Chimney Rock, Croquet Street, Stancliff Street, White Heather Drive, Buffalo Speedway, Almeda Road, and Kirby Drive, each at an estimated budget of \$220,000 to \$350,000. This would include signage, pavement markers, lighting, furnishings, and landscaping for each access point.

Additionally, Asakura proposed the design of four new linear parks in partnership with CenterPoint, SPARK Parks, and local schools at Buffalo Speedway, West Orem Road, CenterPoint Easement west of Hiram Clarke Road, and the West Orem esplanade between Buffalo Speedway and Almeda Road.

To encourage commercial development, the plan recommends encouraging clusters of local retail at key intersections and consolidating parking with new design guidelines to create a comfortable walking environment. It also recommends the development of large-scale commercial business sectors along Beltway 8, SH-288 and South Main Street (US-90A). A developer and land assemblage for a town center near Sims Bayou was also recommended in the plan.

The Board of Directors accepted the plan for further discussion on how to set priorities and fund implementation of the plan.

“We will be challenged with what we can do with what we’ve got,”
— Homer Clark, Chairman

FIVE CORNERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

3RD FRIDAY AT 12 NOON Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center 3810 W. Fuqua

Public Safety 1ST FRIDAY AT 11 A.M. 10103 Fondren, Suite 300

Marketing 1ST MONDAY AT 5 P.M.

Fountain of Praise Life Center -13950 Hillcroft

Environmental & Urban Design 1ST MONDAY AT 6 P.M.

Fountain of Praise Life Center -13950 Hillcroft

Super Neighborhood #39 & #40

BIMONTHLY - 2ND THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.

Hiram Clarke MSC - 3810 W. Fuqua

PIP meetings For more info on dates and times please visit our website at www.5CornersDistrict.org or contact: Officer Johns @713.433.2720

SHCCC 3RD THURSDAY AT 7 P.M. Hiram Clarke MSC - 3810 W. Fuqua
More Info: Linda Scurlock @713.433.5737

CM Green's Bridging the Divide community meeting

4TH THURSDAY 9:30 AM Hiram Clarke MSC - 3810 W. Fuqua

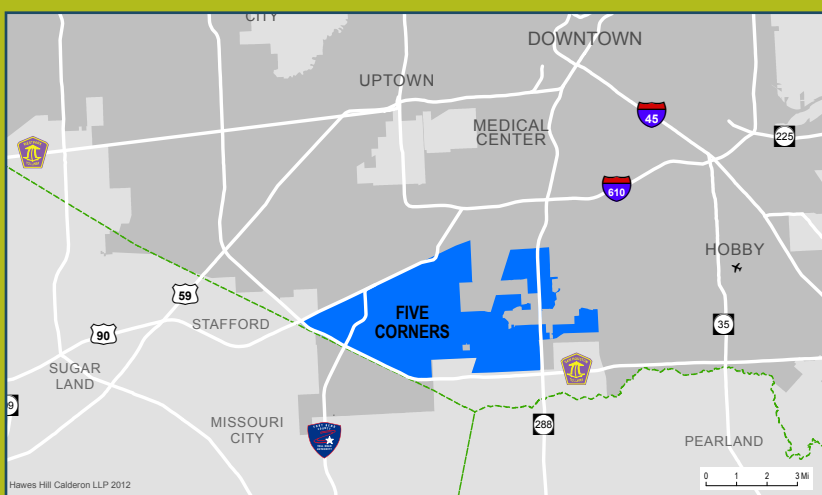
YMCA board meeting 2ND WEDNESDAY AT 6 P.M.

YMCA 5801 W. Orem - More Info: Becky Morris @713.726.1606



www.5CornersDistrict.org

Five Corners District
PO BOX 22167
Houston, Texas 77227



NEW BOARD MEMBER EDNA DEAUVEARO HAS LONG HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

NEW TO THE FIVE CORNERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EDNA DEAUVEARO IS CERTAINLY NOT NEW TO SERVING HER COMMUNITY. SHE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER AND CONTRIBUTOR SINCE SHE GRADUATED FROM TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY WITH A DEGREE IN BUSINESS EDUCATION.



The four-year scholarship she received from the George Foundation carried a stipulation that she major in nursing or education, and Deauvearo said her aversion to the sight of blood made the decision for her. She earned a teaching certificate, but the Simonton native first entered the workforce through the business community.

She spent most of her career in public affairs, public relations, and coordinating special events for the Humble Oil Co. which eventually became Exxon USA. She retired in 2000—the year the company merged with Mobil Oil.

However, even in retirement, Edna Deauvearo was not one to sit still, and decided it was finally time to pay back the scholarship she had received. She spent the next eight years as a substitute teacher, predominately at The Rice

School in the Houston Independent School District, where she watched her first pupils grow from first grade to graduation from the K-8 school.

During that time, and even now, she has been active in the Meredith Manor Civic Club, with 25 years of volunteer service. She has also been a secretary and a mobilizing force within the South Houston Concerned Citizens Coalition for at least 11 years.

“Even when I wasn’t holding an office, I was going down to City Hall with the group to encourage or protest some issue,” she said. Deauvearo is also very involved in her church’s mission group, pulling together food donations to create Thanksgiving baskets for the underprivileged.

She and her husband, RB, have one daughter, Tiffani, who works for the State Attorney General’s office. Married 43 years, the couple loves to travel and recently took a trip to South Africa.

“I LIKE MIXING AND MINGLING WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE,” DEAUVEARO SAID. “THE FIRST IMPRESSION PEOPLE HAVE OF ME IS THAT I’M QUIET AND SORT OF RESERVED—BUT THAT’S JUST THE FIRST APPEARANCE.”

“I’m looking forward to taking an active role,” she said of her newest appointment to the Five Corners Board of Directors. Public safety and urban design are two issues in which she is keenly invested.

“IN ORDER FOR US TO REVITALIZE THE DISTRICT, WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT CRIME IS UNDER CONTROL. ALTHOUGH CRIME IS NOT AS GREAT AS SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE, WE DO HAVE SOME ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.”

Five Corners District

PO BOX 22167 Houston, Texas 77227

www.5CornersDistrict.org

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Homer S. Clark, *Chairman*

Melva Thornton, *Vice-Chairman*

Rita Foretich, *Secretary*

Nina Springer

Vernon N. Smith

Abdu Dula

Edna Deauvearo

District Staff

DAVID HAWES
General Manager
713.595.1209

info@5CornersDistrict.org

ALLEN GOODLOW
Director of Services
713.595.1244

AGoodlow@5CornersDistrict.org

GRETCHEN LARSON
Director of Marketing
713.595.1215

GLarson@5CornersDistrict.org