



The Park Press

6309 Edloe Avenue ♦ Houston, TX 77005

www.firetruckparkfund.org

Spring 2017 Edition

Friends and Neighbors,

The 5th Winter Carnival is always “rain or shine” and this year it was RAIN! Luckily lots of Southside residents and other friends and neighbors braved the weather and came out on



Saturday, December 3rd to support Fire Truck Park! We moved the carnival inside to the Clubhouse and deck and although we couldn't have the snow, everyone still had a great time!

The carnival raised over \$10,000 for the Southside Fire Truck Park Fund, which will go toward improvements to Fire Truck Park and the surrounding grounds.

Families enjoyed carnival games, an obstacle course, a bouncy house, a giant slide, a mechanical bull, face painting, a balloon artist, confetti eggs, and photos with Santa. There was a great silent auction, a shopping bazaar, pizza, Chick-fil-a and Kona Ice.

We extend our thanks to our generous corporate sponsors: Frost Bank, Abejas, John Daugherty Realtors, Fit2Live, Madden Dental, Molina's Cantina, C&K Properties, West University Dance Centre, Little Matt's, LifeCycle Pilates, Avenu, Kumon, Fajitas A Go Go, Water's Edge Community Church, Harper Street Treats, Tiny's No 5, Dan's Vitamin House and Imagination Toys.

In addition, we are so grateful for our family sponsors! Thank you to the Michael, Zlotnik, Athon, Balachandran, Byers, D'Cruz, Dellinger, Edmond/Weber, Fehr, Gyszly, Haas, Jordan, Kelly, Lewis, Marshall, Moss, Provenzano, Richert, Rovelli, Sim, Sun-Janssens, Talarico, Treleaven, Brooks, Chan, Clancy/McCullough, Fink, Fitzpatrick, Gatto Risoli, Goodgame, Lapin, Nichol, Stanley, Tilton, and Pickard families!

We are so thankful for the amazing support of our wonderful community each year to make the Southside Winter Wonderland Carnival a huge success!



Winter Wonderland Carnival was a huge success due to the hard work of Melissa Byers and Alyson Haas, thank you for everything.

Special thanks to Alyson Haas, Georgina Armstrong and Marilyn Somers who will be chairing the 2017 Winter Carnival.

See you all on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017 - rain or shine!

2017 Summer Camp & Swim Team

Registration for Southside Summer Camp and Swim Team is now open at www.southsideparks.com. Come check out the new, streamlined website and registration process today!

CAMP

Jeff Carrus, Allison Akers and Gabriela Olivero and your other favorite counselors are back for another exciting year of camp! This year's camp sessions will be June 5-27 and July 6-28 from 10am to 4pm. Camp is open to Southside residents age 4 and up. Younger campers will have plenty of fun with art projects, story time, park visits, dress up parties, tons of playtime with their friends and more. Older campers can



expect high-energy activities and fast paced games like scooter races, foosball, cool art projects and visits to the park and tennis courts. All will be able to enjoy special activities, such as bobbing for donuts on a string, water slide and dunk tank day, a visit from the Kona Ice truck, fun Friday lunches and everyone's favorite dodgeball game, Survival! Please contact camp@southside-place.org with any questions.



SWIM TEAM

The Southside All-Stars Swim Team is ready to kick off another awesome season! Led by Sydney Marvin, a veteran All-Stars team member and coach, swimmers will gain tons of experience and advance their skills through weekly practices and regular swim meets. This year, we'll be holding practices at the Jewish Community Center (JCC), where our kids will swim alongside our league teammates. Our Southside coaches will be running the practices and they'll feel much like they do at our own pool. The season will



start with a fun pizza party on May 14th where swimmers can get to know their coaches and see their swimming friends. And, of course, we'll end with our annual swim banquet, where we can celebrate our swimmers' many accomplishments! Be sure to be on lookout for these amazing Southside swimmers at our gorgeous new pool later this summer! Please contact Swim Team Coordinator Samantha Smith at samantha.smith.j@gmail.com with any questions.



Update From the City

Dear Southside Place Residents,

The scheduled mid-May 2017 pool opening will be taking place a month later than expected. Weather delays associated with another project have pushed back the pool subcontractor schedule with us. Fromberg Construction and Progressive Pools will be working diligently on the pool foundation and walls during the month of April. The masonry walls of the pool house building will be constructed soon with roofing set for completion in mid-May.

A grand community pool celebration with food, drinks, and games is being planned for Independence Day, July 4. Southside Place anticipates a citizen tour of the pool and pool house a few days before the grand opening. Dates and times will be announced as the pool nears completion. Pictures of the pool construction activity are located on the city website under the heading Spotlight.

Registration for the 2017 Summer Camp and the Southside All-Stars Swim Team continues on the website. A link to the new park software on the city website will direct you to the registration and payment site. The 2017 swim team will be holding practices at the JCC and special stroke clinics at the West University Recreation Center this summer as the pool will still be under construction. The swim team pizza party will be held on May 14. In addition, both summer sessions of camp will be held at the clubhouse and associated Southside Place facilities.

Construction parking still remains limited around the park grounds for the next few months and the city sewer plant is being utilized as a staging area. Construction working hours will continue Monday-Saturday from 7:30 AM-7:30 PM. City staff and public safety personnel are more than happy to discuss and answer questions about the project throughout the remaining months of construction time. Please feel free to call us at 713 668-2341 (city hall) anytime. Future city council meetings will be held on April 11, May 9, and June 13. -- Sincerely yours, David Moss, City Manager

Southside Place Civic Club Progressive Dinner

On Saturday, February 11, 2017, the Southside Civic Club held the annual Progressive Dinner, a longstanding Southside tradition. Our neighbors welcomed us into their beautiful private residences as the dinner progressed through the neighborhood.



Abuso Catering, a favorite of Southside residents, provided the food for the event again this year, and they have the nuances down associated with delivering food to 8 different homes to make the Progressive Dinner work smoothly. 96 people attended the event this year. Three groups of 32 people each were directed via email to one of the three homes hosting appetizers: Jamie and Jeff Byrd on Darcus, David and Heidi Gerger on Jardin, and Megan and Chris Reed on Jardin. Appetizers included miniature tarragon chicken crepes, brie in puff pastry and cheese trays. During this opening stop of the Dinner, though, the focus is much more on conversation (and wine) than on the canapes. Even though Southside is a relatively small and contained area, the Committee always works the logistics to attempt to keep the distances that people must travel between appetizers, dinner and dessert to a minimum, and the Committee was lucky this year to find volunteer host homes primarily in the north half of Southside. As always, Jardin St. residents consistently step up to the plate to volunteer. The name tags for each person at the appetizer home showed where they were to go for their entrée. The 96 people attending were split into 5 different groups of approximately 20 for dinner. The five host homes for entrees were: Karisha and Rory Madden on Edloe, Meredith and Ben Marshall on Garnet, Carol and Cliff Pearson on Harper, Joan and Louis Pucher on Jardin and Alana Spiwak and Sam Stolbun on Auden. The dinner menu was a spring mix salad (with raspberries, pine nuts, chevre and vinaigrette dressing), chicken cacciatore (hunter style), Texas stone ground polenta (with aged parmesan) and sautéed Tuscan vegetables. The final stop of the evening was the clubhouse, where everyone met up for dessert. One of our hosts for entrees, Sam Stolbun, graciously donated dessert for the Dinner. Sam is the President of CGI Desserts, a Sugarland bakery. Among other things, the desserts included the perennial favorites, cheesecake, carrot cake and chocolate cake.



The crowd this year was a mix of people who just moved into Southside, eager to meet new neighbors, and well-seasoned veteran Southsiders, eager to see familiar faces. The unbeatable combination of old friends and new neighbors, fabulous furnishings and art, and tasty food and wine ensured that the 2017 Southside Progressive Dinner was a success and achieved its goal of strengthening bonds within the community. This year's Progressive Dinner Committee was led by Vicki Piper and included Jen Fink, Melissa Hachen, Annie Kelly, Karen King and Aria Tatelman. Congratulations to the Committee for creating a memorable evening!



Southside Place 2017 Spring Movie Night



Neighbors gathered at the Clubhouse on Saturday, February 17th to watch The Secret Life of Pets on a huge inflatable screen. Kids, parents and grandparents enjoyed popcorn, cookies, candy and drinks. The weather kept everyone indoors, but we hope to be outside on the field for the next movie night!



Since its inception in February, 2013, the garden has grown into a beautiful parklike greenspace. While it is not officially a park, the community garden functions as a community gathering space and a productive vegetable garden. Given the use of the north lot, we installed nine raised beds, a pergola, and a shed. The south lot has remained basically as it was-- grass and weeds. On February 14, 2017, the representatives from the Southside Place Community Garden presented to

City Council some ideas on how to beautify the second lot by constructing a bocce ball court for the community.

Construction of a bocce ball court is simple, similar to building a simple raised bed. Wooden rails rim the perimeter of a long rectangle filled with crushed granite and topped with a smooth layer of oyster shell flour. Architect Joe Przybyl designed a bocce ball court near the pergola and crushed granite path lined with trees in the center of the second lot. A curved, built-in bench with a narrow planter sits near the bocce ball court. A living fence of grapevines shields piles of compost and soil from view. Two bids have been submitted for the excavation and construction of this design.

Please let us know what you think about this plan to develop the second lot at 6309 Edloe. Please email jbabcocktx@gmail.com to comment on this second lot plan or to join the garden.

Garden work days are the first and third Saturday of each month 2:30pm; and the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8am. Website: www.southsideplacecommunitygarden.org

Calling all High School Seniors - Class of 2017



Please send us the full first and last name of the 2017 senior, the high school you are attending, and the university you will be attending. We would like to celebrate your accomplishment in the 2017 summer edition of the Southside Place Park Press. Please send your information to firetruckparkfund.org@gmail.com or andycchan@gmail.com. Deadline is May 24, 2017.

Southside Place 2017 Upcoming Events

April		May		June
16	Easter Egg Hunt 3:30 - 4:00 PM	12	Swim Team Registration Ends *	5
23	Annual Garden Party 4:30 - 8:30 PM	14	Swim Team Kick-off Party 5:30 - 6:30 PM	
		26	Summer Camp Registration Ends *	July
				4
				July 4th Parade and Pool Grand Opening

* Late registration is available with additional late fees

Fire Truck Park Fund

The Southside Fire Truck Park Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps raise funds for the asset improvements of parks and green spaces in our neighborhood. The Park Press is a quarterly newsletter published by the Fire Truck Park Fund. The volunteers that make up the 2016-2017 Board of Directors are Melissa Byers (President), JC Al-Uqdah and Mindy Rippstein (Co-Heads of Development), Sue Sim (Secretary) and Jeremy Monthy. Other officers are Gina Luther (Treasurer) and Andy Chan (Communications).