



# Cherryhurst Civic Club Newsletter

March 2001

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## *Next Civic Club Meeting Tuesday March 6th*

The next meeting of the reconstituted Cherryhurst Civic Club will be Tuesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. in the newly-remodeled Cherryhurst Park Clubhouse.

The meeting will involve the discussion of a revised, simplified committee list and the filling of its positions. We are blessed to have a few residents who have the time and energy to get deeply involved in the improvement of Cherryhurst. Please join us to see what is going on and find if you care to get involved in some way.

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## *Civic Club Officers Elected at February Meeting*

Elections were held February 15th for 2001 Cherryhurst Civic Club officers. Former president Kevin O'Brien passed on the baton to Ian Gordon, who ran on a campaign on personal involvement, use of the newly remodeled Cherryhurst Park Building and implementation of a Cherryhurst Park landscape plan. Jeffrey Kuchar was elected Vice President, and Mark Johnson was elected Treasurer.

The following Saturday, the City of Houston held an opening ceremony for the Park Building attended by the Mayor, Parks Commissioner Spillman and other city officials and park staff.

The first activity was held at the building last Thursday from 6:30 to 8 pm, "Dance & Diet", and will continue every Thursday hereafter. It was an enjoyable workout - come join us.

--Ian Gordon

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## *March Yard of the Month*

Yard of the Month for March goes to 1705 Missouri. It is well maintained, with pretty blooming plants, ferns and caladiums....

--Lynn Pannill

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## *City Completes Renovation of Park Building*

by Hampton Burt

### **Opening Ceremony Details**

If you have ever seen an official ribbon cutting ceremony, you know that cutting the ribbon is not the main thing. It is what goes on around the ribbon cutting that really matters. And Saturday when the ribbon was cut, the shiny new floor swarmed with kids trying to slice the grey and blue ribbon with their long, swordlike balloons, and scrambling to get into the middle of things, and asking if they could be allowed to cut the ribbon, and they were allowed to cut it.

About a dozen pairs of scissors were distributed among the participants, and as the officiators struggled to position the Official Ribbon--finally, snips occurred, and it fell. The mayor and his troupe continued to show off their smiles. And the opening was official.

But first came the speeches. Brief. Followed by applause. Most of it went not to the Mayor but to Marshall Broadway, the Facility Supervisor. Oliver Brown, Director of Parks and Recreation, remarked about that. So there was more laughter.

Essentially, Mayor Brown said that he is for neighborhood oriented government, that Cherryhurst is a Gem, that Cherryhurst Park is a gem in that gem. Lee Brown said that he is for

safe, clean, good parks, good schools, and that he wants to make Houston the best city in the world. He added that he wants opportunities for young people, though, as a child he himself lacked them. "Children are our most precious assets," he said--he has 10 grandchildren himself.

Three live musicians played music, one on a silver plated flugelhorn. The Houston Library was present, handing out cards, library tattoos and library stickers. "We want to put a library card in every child's hand," the mayor said, and nobody disagreed with him.

A man and a woman were there from the Lansdale Community Center, presenting examples of some of the uses to which a community center can be put, and displaying objects their children had made (prettily painted clay bowls, I think, slightly misshapen perhaps, but convincing, and various other things, all of the same high quality that young children are famous for all around the planet.)

Ian Gordon, newly elected Cherryhurst Civic Club President, took the stand and pointed to the future.

Landscaping is in the works. And maybe there is money to do it. But we might need your help.

Can we count on you?

### **Mayor's Traveling City Hall Comes to Civic Center Opening**

Mayor Brown's Travelling City Hall is a, light blue, recreational vehicle kind of outfit with a roll-out awning on the entrance side, underneath which two of his assistants help his visitors fill out forms. Each has room for one long question, and the visitor's name and address are required. Ten minutes for any one visit is the absolute maximum, I was told, and one or two minutes is the norm.

Each visitor is admitted alone.

Mayor Brown sits, back to the wall, and two men, one to either side of the mayor, also sit, one writing notes onto a pad atop his own slanting lap, while the other man watches the visitor.

Lee Brown greets you smiling and gives you a handshake like a familiar cousin, asks you politely to sit, and waits as you summon your thoughts and form your nervous question into words.

While you do this, he listens.

Then he may tell you why he thinks as he does. And it is an unambiguous picture that he paints, obviously a matter he has thought about long and hard. "Here is why I am for it," he may say, and then he tells you, and it all sounds thought out. I made a comment about city spending. Then, against the rules, I mentioned speed humps. "For it or against it?" he asked, still smiling. Caught off guard thus, and wordless, I only managed to frown slightly, and I shook my head, though not much, but he got the message.

Outside again, the sky was still overcast, there was rain somewhere, probably on its way here, and the experience of having talked to the mayor face to face is a memory, fading quickly, but real nonetheless.

Whether he will do anything about the issues I raised, probably not. Thousands have raised them before me. But there is something satisfying anyway with having at least said something about them to someone, in fact even to the mayor. Maybe someday someone braver will do more. And now as I write this the sun is shining and I feel better, having done something -if little- to improve the world I live in. At least I feel like I did.

In short, the experience is painless, quick, and the next time you see the mayor on TV you can tell yourself that, yes, you and he talked face to face, and maybe he would even say he remembers you, because that would help you feel comfortable. It is an

experience we should all make sure that we get, every chance we have. - hb

### Civic Center Activities

To the more-or-less south end of the newly finished Cherryhurst Park Recreational Center is a small room that can crowdedly hold perhaps twenty people all standing. It is nicely finished, with pleasant paint in soft hues and it has bright windows. You can throw your birthday party there. Marshall Broadway said that he is eager to schedule it (Call 713-284-1992). As Facility Supervisor, he is on the site five days every week from one to eight PM.

Though too small for a neighborhood art show perhaps, since there are so many artists in the neighborhood, the new South Room is already scheduled to be used for a poetry reading, and maybe that will work, since most poems, even long ones, are smaller than most paintings, and whereas a painter will sometimes end up with a whole house full of paintings even if he is no good, an outstanding poet can work all of his life and produce only a book. It is a good room and will serve lots of useful purposes.

Computer classes for kids is next, provided someone will donate computers. And they -the computers- will be stored in another new small room, behind a lockable rolldown metal door that is next to the new South Room. Games and in fact any activity that a small room can possibly be used for are the kinds of things that Marshall said the new South Room is for. Yes, even you and I can use it for those purposes, if we want to.

The main room of the facility is now fresh and bright, all the fixtures are shiny, the windows are clean, the paint fresh, the floor refinished, the ceiling redone, the acoustics are alive, and the doors all fit and open quietly and close solidly. The L-shaped kitchen is where the new kiln will be housed, for the pottery classes that are anticipated.

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## Cherryhurst Civic Club

### Officers 2001

President..... Ian Gordon  
*HecGordon@aol.com*  
Vice President ..... Jeffrey Kuchar  
*jeffreyk@morganpersonette.com*  
Treasurer ..... Mark Johnson  
*mtjohnson@omnisky.net*

### Committees

Benevolent Actions..... Beth Johnstone  
Deed Restrictions..... Sydney Moen  
Greeting ..... Pauline Edgar  
Newsletter ..... Mark Johnson  
Park Improvements ..... Peter Begin  
Security Patrol Contact ..... Randy Pike  
PIP Representative ..... Ian Gordon  
Recycling ..... Jana Wright  
Yard of the  
Month..... Lynn Pannill  
*lpannill@wt.net*

### Block Captains

California ..... Wayne Otway  
Cherryhurst ..... John Foster  
Fairview ..... Judy McMillian  
Haver ..... Syd Moen  
Mandell ..... Joe Stine  
Missouri ..... Peter Begin  
Michigan, Indiana,  
Maryland & Welch..... Fran Farrell  
Ridgewood ..... Shirley Wallace  
Windso ..... Jana Wright  
Yupon ..... Patty Armstrong

### Send Us Your E-Mail Address!

If you're one of the Officers, Committee Members or Block Captains listed and would like your e-mail address published, please e-mail it to [markthomasjohnson@csi.com](mailto:markthomasjohnson@csi.com). --Editor

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## Newsletter Notes:

Thanks to Ian Gordon, Hampton Burt, Lynn Pannill and Frank Salzhandler for the articles in this month's Newsletter. Your comments and letters about the Newsletter are welcome! To send articles or letters to the Newsletter Editor, contact:

Mark Johnson  
Box 541632  
Houston, Texas 77254-1632  
Voice - - - - - (713) 520-8902  
FAX - - - - - (713) 520-9040  
E-mail - - - markthomasjohnson@csi.com