CITY OF HOUSTON ACRES
WINTER NEWSLETTER 2013

City of Houston Acres
P.O. Box 206098
Louisville, KY 40250-6098
www.facebook.com/HoustonAcres

Meetings: Last Thursday of each month at McMahon Fire House

ROADWORK NOTICE

OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARING

The Houston Acres City Council will conclude all discussions on the repaving effort February 28th, 2013 at 7:45PM in the McMahon Fire House. The February 28th meeting is the official public hearing. The deciding vote will be March 28th, 2013. The Council has heard a number of opinions and discussed an array of options with residents and contractors. This final discussion and vote will settle the issue and a plan for progress will be established. An additional opportunity for open discussion will be the January 31st City Council meeting. As always, you are welcome at the City Council meetings. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your suggestions and opinions. **FINAL DISCUSSION WILL BE FEBRUARY 28th, 2013.**

Message from the Mayor

We start the New Year of 2013 with a newly elected Board of Commissioners, dedicated to making our City an even better, safer place to live and raise our children. Houston Acres has long had the reputation of being a beautiful, quiet and safe place to live. For these reasons property values have remained steady over the years even when the national and local economies have pulled back. The new Board of Commissioners intends to continue this decades old tradition of quality and high standards for life in our City. Each of us as residents and neighbors has the responsibility to contribute to this quality and these standards by making every effort to do our part. This begins by living by those standards set forth in our City Ordinances, for instance, controlling barking dogs, keeping properties clean and in good repair, observing speed limits and stops signs. Thinking of even the smallest effort goes a long way in maintaining and improving life in our City. Something as small as picking up a piece of trash along the street or returning a neighbor's trash cans to the house shows concern for and appreciation of our neighborhood. There is no substitute for lending a helping hand to a neighbor and for treating others as we would like to be treated. 2013 is going to be a good year because we will all make the effort to make it so.

Good Neighbors

This city is full of good neighbors. We see them every day. They pull our garbage cans back from the street; they pick up our newspapers, take in our mail and watch our houses when we're gone. A number of neighbors really go out of their way to assist. For that, your neighbors are grateful. You make this more than a collection of houses. If you'd like to share Good Neighbor story in the newsletter, please call Scott @ 727.3154 or e-mail HoustonAcres@gmail.com

Keep Up With Houston Acres

Did you know The City of Houston Acres has a Facebook page and an email group? Just point your web browser to www.facebook.com/HoustonAcres (a Facebook account is required to access this site). Our email group provides monthly meeting agendas for the City Council as well as up to the minute updates on crime issues. You can point your browser to this address: http://groups.google.com/group/houstonacres or email HoustonAcres@gmail.com for assistance.

Awareness / Crime Report
We have received a few questions about street lights. Any issues with malfunctioning street lights should be directed to Louisville Gas and Electric: 502-589-3500.

The STOP sign on Martha at Houston has been replaced. A few young people were seen pulling on signs prior to the STOP sign going missing. Defacing, damaging and stealing street signs can cause serious accidents. Individuals responsible for removing signs can be held liable for accidents occurring while the sign is missing. Not only is this dangerous, it costs the city to replace or repair. Please don't hesitate to call the police if you witness anyone tampering with or attempting to remove a sign. Please report any missing or damaged signs to Ed Hardison.

Junk Pickup / Yard Waste
Rumpke accepts one large item a week at the curb such as a chair, couch, and box-spring. Refrigerators need a designated tag from a technician certifying that all Freon has been removed and disposed of properly. A best practice is for residents to call Rumpke prior to pick-up so that a ticket can be generated for the driver letting him know of the extra items to expect. The drivers are expected to take a reasonable household amount each week. If there is an extraordinary amount out to the curb due to a move, the resident can pay for a junk pick-up separately and would need to call Customer Service (1.800.582.3107). A few extra bags are generally picked up at no cost.

Throughout January, February, and March, the yard waste collection is the second Thursday of each month (February 14, and March 14). Normal yard waste collections will resume on Thursday April 4th.

Road repaving options explained (Repeated until a decision is finalized)
The first set of options would start paving in the summer of 2013. The second would continue patching and repairs for as long as possible until repaving is no longer avoidable. The primary concern in the "waiting" option is the cost of repaving WILL increase the longer we wait PLUS the cost of annual repairs and maintenance.

Regardless of the schedule chosen, there are three options to pay for the road improvements.

1. **"Residents will be billed their part of the total cost to be paid in 30 days."** This option would take the total amount left after the City Council contribution ($60,000) and divide it by 225 households. Each homeowner would receive a bill for roughly $850 to $1000 (the expected shortage of funds). Every homeowner would be bill the exact same amount.
2. **"A tax assessment will be made on all properties allowing the cost to be paid ofer a period of 10 years."** Similar to the first option except the $850 to $1000 would be spread out over 10 years and that amount would be collected via an additional tax bill. This separate bill can still be paid via escrow (if that is your current method of payment for taxes / hazard insurace, etc.), but cannot be counted as a write-off on your taxes. This additional bill would expire after 10 years and would pass to any future homeowner if the house is sold before the 10 year period expires.
3. **"Raise property tax .10 to .15 per each $100 of house value to cover the cost which would allow the owner of the property to claim a tax deduction."** The property tax increase would be added to your current tax bill (not an additional bill). The amount added to each homeowner's tax bill would be based on the current taxable value of their house. This option would not expire. Overages, after the road repaving project is funded, would cover future projects in the city.

Mayor
- Charles Bartman 454-3355 — Daily Operations

Commissioners
- Steven Schlotter 417-0039 — Landscaping / Rumpke
- Scott Medley 727-3154 — Newsletter / Communications / Snow Removal
- Ed Hardison 548-2078 — Police, Permits, City Safety

City Clerk
- Donna Duvall 451-0654 — City & Public Records

Treasurer
- Eustace Fernandez 671-5333 — Financial and City Taxes

Lincolnshire Police
- Mark Jones 376-9983 — Police Chief

GARBAGE Pickup Spring 2013

January: 28
February: 4, 11, 18, 25
March: 4, 11, 18, 25
April: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

RECYCLING Pickup Spring 2013

February: 4, 18
March: 4, 18
April: 1, 15, 29

Yard Waste Pickup Spring 2013

February: 14
March: 14
April: 4, 11, 18, 25