

Old 6th Ward Neighborhood General Information

Web Site

www.old6ward.org

More information about the neighborhood can be found on the web site

Neighborhood Association

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:30pm

Meetings are held at the Dow School, 1900 Kane

Please come and meet neighbors

Yahoo Group

Please log on and sign up on the neighborhood chat group for information about the neighborhood and surrounding areas and notices about meetings, heavy trash, recycling:

Old6WardHouston@yahoo.com

Click on subscribe at the bottom of the page

Historic Preservation:

We are a protected historic neighborhood; therefore a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) from the Houston Archeological and Historic Commission is required before any exterior alterations or new construction is undertaken.

http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Commissions/commiss_hahc.html

Trash Pick Up

Trash pick up is every Monday or on Tuesday if Monday is a holiday

Do not place trash bins on the street until after 6pm on the day before trash pick up

Heavy trash pick up is the first Thursday of the month

Even months – non-yard trash

Odd months – yard trash (Christmas trees in January)

Do not place heavy trash out until the weekend before pick up

You may be fined for early trash placement

Recycling

The Old 6th Ward is part of only six neighborhoods participating in roll out bin recycle. We encourage everyone to participate in this great project.

Recycling is every other Monday or on Tuesday if Monday is a holiday

Plastics, all glass, paper and metal cans may be placed in the green bins

Food containers must be rinsed. No caps on plastic bottles

Do not place the green recycle bin on the street until after 6pm on the evening before recycle day

You may take extra recycling materials including batteries to the city recycle centers

Call 311 for more information

There is a recycle center on Harvard (behind the Star Pizza on Washington)

Old 6th Ward Neighborhood Information

The Old Sixth Ward Tax-Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ):

The TIRZ allows residents to advance the improvement of the historic Old Sixth Ward neighborhood by participating in public/private partnerships that foster historically appropriate properties and amenities within the TIRZ. The TIRZ purchased Dow Elementary School at 1900 Kane, so it may be preserved and continually used as an education, community and culture center for MECA and the neighborhood.

Fire Station

The nearest Fire Station is on Washington Avenue, between Studemont and Heights Boulevard. It is Fire Station Number 6, and they have "Old Sixth Ward" on their trucks, with a picture of a horse drawn carriage pulling a water wagon. They know we are an old neighborhood, and respect our history. The senior living apartments at 2100 Memorial are the most common source for sirens in the neighborhood.

Annual Neighborhood Events:

Check the web page and Yahoo page for more information and dates

www.old6ward.org

Old6WardHouston@yahoo.com

January: cheering squad for Houston Marathon and Half Marathon

February: Antique Rose Emporium – annual day trip to Brenham to visit the Antique Rose Emporium

May: National Preservation Month

Neighborhood events scheduled throughout the month

July 4th Picnic

- ☀ Neighborhood picnic at Dow School
- ☀ Best place in the city to watch the fireworks!

October:

Neighborhood Night Out

The neighborhood has an annual picnic at the Dow School starting around 7

Houston Bulb Mart – road trip for the annual bulb/plant sale

Home Tour - on hold for now

- ☀ The neighborhood home tour is one weekend in October every year; 6-8 homes are open to the public.
- ☀ Proceeds are split between the general fund and the funds for low interest loans for home improvement

Annual Christmas Party/Cookie Exchange

- ☀ The neighborhood has an annual Christmas Party
- ☀ Neighbors volunteer their homes and everyone brings a dish

Old 6th Ward Neighborhood Information

Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association

Post Office Box 1682 • Houston, Texas 77251-1682 • www.old6ward.org

Membership in Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association (OSWNA)

Household \$25 Business \$35

OSWNA is a not-for-profit organization; can you help us with a tax-deductible gift? \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Daytime phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

Email address: _____

Neighborhood Not-for-Profit Organizations

MECA – Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts

After school programs are held at MECA – Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts. They are always looking for volunteers.

www.multiculturalarts.org

Avenue CDC – Community Development Corporation

www.avenuecdc.org

Super Neighborhood 22

www.sn22.org/

Garden Club of Houston

www.gchouston.org

Houston Urban Gardeners

www.houstonurbangardeners.org

Old 6th Ward Neighborhood Information

Because we value our historic neighborhood:

The neighborhood is a City of Houston designated Protected Historic District, and as well on the National Register of Historic Neighborhoods. Because we are a protected historic district, preserving the historic character of the neighborhood is our top priority. In order to ensure that the historic character is preserved, demolition of historic homes that are listed as contributing or potentially contributing to the historic district is not permitted.

A Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) from the Houston Archeological and Historic Commission is required before any exterior alterations or new construction is undertaken.

There are design guidelines in place to assist homeowners with their restoration, alterations, as well as design of new construction on vacant lots. Exterior paint colors and interior modifications of a home are not regulated. It is very important that you are knowledgeable about the design guidelines before beginning your design plans. For questions, please feel free to contact the City of Houston Historic Preservation Officer or the Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association's Historic Conservation Officer.

Some blocks are protected by a Prevailing Lot Size (PLS):

A PLS is a protective measure that requires lots to not vary from the average size of lots around it. This is petition driven, and only affects those who live on the following block faces: North & South sides of 1800 Lubbock & 1800 Kane, north side of 1800 Decatur, north & south sides of 1900 Decatur, south side of 1900 Kane, and the corresponding blocks of the cross streets of Silver & Sabine.

Landmark Status

While the Old Sixth Ward is a protected historic district, you still have the option to have your home designated as a protected city landmark. There are tax advantages for owning a protected city landmark and more information is available at the city of Houston's Historic Preservation Office. Go to www.old6ward.org to download forms or contact the OSWNA's Historic Conservation Officer.

Neighborhood Protection:

A "Citizen's on Patrol" participates as a neighborhood crime watch program. We also participate in "Neighborhood Night Out" every August. It gives us the opportunity to talk to the local police who work our neighborhood, and get better acquainted with our neighbors. The nearest Police Storefront is at 910 N. Durham #D, behind the Kroger on 11th & Shepherd. The Houston Police Central Patrol Division is located at 61 Reisner on the eastern edge of the neighborhood, next to the Municipal Courts. The police credit union and police officer's union are both in the neighborhood, so you may see officers traveling to and from those locations, but not assigned to this area. You will also hear the police helicopter overhead – but not from criminal activity – the Municipal Courts building has a helicopter pad atop its building.

Old 6th Ward History

The Houston council of aldermen formally recognized the Sixth Ward in December 1895. The area had been known as Fourth Ward North and a resolution was filed on Jan 1, 1877 to re-name it the Sixth Ward but it was never voted on until 18 years later.

The Old Sixth Ward is the oldest intact neighborhood in the city of Houston, and boasts the largest concentration of Victorian structures in the region, outside of Galveston. The Old Sixth Ward is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a City of Houston Designated Protected Historic District.

Home to approximately 2,000 Houstonians, the area now called the Old Sixth Ward Historic District was originally part of a two-league Mexican land grant made in 1824 to Stephen F. Austin's friend, John Austin. Even though they both shared the same surname and emigrated from the state of Connecticut, no documentation exists if they were directly related. Mr. John Austin died from cholera in 1834 and two years later, his widow sold the lower league of the Austin grant to the Allen brothers, Augustus C. Allen and John K. Allen.

On July 6, 1838, two years after the Allen's founded the town of Houston; S.P. Hollingsworth filed a survey of the future Sixth Ward area in which he divided the land into large, narrow tracts that ran northward from Buffalo Bayou. By January 1839, portions of the Hollingsworth survey that laid in the future Old Sixth Ward had been conveyed to several prominent Houstonians, including: W.R. Baker, James S. Holman, Nathan Kempton and Henry Allen.

Mr. W.R. Baker purchased nearly 85% of the Hollingsworth survey and replatted it with lots averaging 50'x100' each on streets that went from east to west with side streets that went from the south to the north. For many years, W.R. Baker served as President of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad whose route approached Houston from the northwest. The railroad's success greatly influenced the growth of the neighborhood, attracting immigrants seeking employment. Besides having a sales office on Main Street downtown, Mr. Baker also held a satellite office in New Orleans in order to sell lots to people wishing to relocate to Houston.

The earliest Sixth Ward homeowners were German immigrant farmers who owned farms in western Harris County and in keeping with German tradition, they built Sunday Homes on their lots in the Sixth Ward in order to have lodging while in town trading their farm produce, participating in German festivals such as Sangerfests, Maifests, and Turnvereins; or to shop for goods downtown. Long noted for its ethnic and economic diversity, the neighborhood has at various times been home to Swedish, German, English, Irish, French, Swiss, Italian, Polish, Eastern European, Jewish, African, Chinese, Vietnamese, Mexican, Latin American, and Scottish immigrants.

The majority of houses standing today were built between 1870 and 1900 as modest, one-story frame cottages. The area once again is being returned to its past with families restoring their treasured homes.