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# Mandell Park Musings

friends of  
Mandell Park

SPRING  
2017

Welcome to Mandell Park for spring 2017, where we have lots of things planned in the coming months. There will be events for kids and for adults sponsored by Friends of Mandell Park, ongoing free events by other organizations, gardening events, a volunteer maintenance event and likely other private events like the one shown below. The articles in this newsletter describe upcoming events in more detail.

Our mini-prairie should be coming into full bloom in the next several weeks. Thanks to the untiring work of Don Verser, the prairie is well controlled, has plant signage and



Wedding in the Park



*The new Horsfield Pathway*

demonstrates what the tall grass prairies of the middle of the United States once looked like. All but 1% of these prairies have been destroyed, so our little plot keeps alive a reminder of what once was.

If you have visited the park recently you will have noticed a new pathway (see picture above) that crosses the bioswale near the swing. Our thanks go to Dr. Matthew Horsfield for his very generous contribution that provided the funds for this pathway. The pathway honors Matt's parents, Penn & Peggy Horsfield.

We are planning a volunteer workday on Saturday, March 11. Everyone is welcome to join us as we trim plants hurt by the freeze, work on the compost to remove larger pieces of wood, remove weeds before they get a head start, and do other maintenance as needed.

Speaking of weeding, our profit and loss statement is included in this newsletter. This statement represents financials for our current fiscal year which began on July 1, 2016. The bottom line is that we have spent almost \$4,000 more than we have taken in so far. The largest portion of our expenses not covered by a gift

was for park maintenance. Almost \$11,000 was spent for mowing and weeding of the bioswales. Hopefully, our efforts to reduce the weeds will lead to fewer weed problems this coming growing season.

I invite each of you to visit Mandell Park often, if not for an event, then just to enjoy this remarkable green space in the center of the Museum District. It is a place to view the variety of crops in the Meredith Gardens, to learn about prairies, to read a book, to find a butterfly, or simply to relax in the outdoors.

One last comment: as a wholly volunteer organization, Friends of Mandell Park relies upon the generosity of its friends and volunteers. Without this support, we could not have created the current park and as our mission has changed, we still need this support to provide events and to maintain Mandell Park in an inviting and safe manner. We thank you for your previous support and ask that you consider either financial support or volunteer time, or both.

*Skip Almony, President/Treasurer*

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# Calling All Kids

Children from surrounding neighborhoods and beyond enjoy a wide variety of special events in the garden on Saturday mornings in the spring, early summer and fall when Houston temperatures are ideal for outdoor activities. Enjoyable and entertaining, the programs are geared toward educating our young people about our natural habitat and the rewards of planting a garden and watching it thrive.

KIDS GROW events, where children are invited to plant vegetables, herbs, and sometimes flowers, are held quarterly. The young gardeners and their families are encouraged to come back and enjoy the results of their labor, picking fresh lettuce, cabbage, herbs, carrots and more to be enjoyed back at home.

Other events celebrate the season, with Easter egg decorating in the spring and pumpkin decorating in the fall. And still others instruct and deepen our appreciation for the nature surrounding us; birds, butterflies, ladybugs, earthworms and prairie life are all topics that are featured in the garden program.

All of the events are held Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. This year's schedule is as follows:

## SPRING/EARLY SUMMER

KIDS GROW, March 25  
Birds, April 1  
Easter Egg Decorating, April 15  
Butterflies, April 29  
Ladybugs, May 13  
Earthworms, May 27  
KIDS GROW, June 24

## FALL

Pocket Prairie Census, October 14  
KIDS GROW, October 21  
Pumpkin Decorating, October 28  
KIDS GROW, November 4

*Earthworms at Mandell Park*

## FRIENDS OF MANDELL PARK

### Profit & Loss

*July 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017*

*Cash Basis - Unaudited*

### Income

Individual, Business Contribution	\$8910.00
Grants	3350.00
Investments	127.02
Special Events Income	250.00

**Total Income** **\$12,537.02**

### Expense

Contract Services	\$4410.00
Fundraising	220.75
Park Grounds Maintenance	6533.29
Garden Maintenance	417.44
Tools	100.49
Entertainment Equipment	989.79
Supplies	332.81
Bank Fees	-.24
Insurance	1983.00
Events Expenses	1523.04

**Total Expense** **\$16,510.04**

**Net Income (Loss)** **\$(3,973.35)**



**JOIN US**

More than 30 gardeners and about 20 volunteers — from Master Gardeners to people who find it relaxing to work with plants and dig in the dirt — maintain Meredith Gardens and tend its winding plots. (They also manage the compost and pull weeds.) A plot is also reserved for the Mandell Park’s KIDS GROW program that introduces children to community gardening. The kids enjoyed their first harvest this winter.

The fun of gardening in a community is being able to learn from others and experiment with new plantings. Another reward is getting to eat what you grow. Join us if you are interested in digging in the dirt with some neighbors on a regular basis.

New gardener applications are

available at [FriendsOfMandellPark.org](http://FriendsOfMandellPark.org), or contact garden coordinator Holly Smith at [gardens@mandellpark.org](mailto:gardens@mandellpark.org).

**LOCAL GARDENING ROCK STAR**

Dr. Bob Randall, one of the best known and most respected gardening experts in Houston, will be at Meredith Gardens on March 4 and will discuss the ins and outs of spring planting in raised beds, like the ones at Meredith Gardens, and other gardening topics.

Meredith Gardens gardeners were delighted with the prospect of hosting the much-in-demand Dr. Randall, author, educator, and co-founder of Houston’s Urban Harvest. He also served Urban Harvest executive director for 21 years, until he retired in 2008. Many local

gardeners consider his best-selling book — “Year Round Vegetables, Fruits, and Flowers for Metro Houston” — an invaluable resource.

Over the years, Bob Randall has had a hand in the blooming community garden movement, both locally and across the country. He has also championed school gardens, farmers’ markets, organic gardening classes and organic landscaping. In doing so, Randall has helped the local food movement take root and produce high-quality produce for tables in restaurants and homes throughout the Houston area for decades.

**MANDELL PARK  
WORK DAY**

**March 11, 2017  
8:00 AM – NOON**

**Volunteers welcome!  
Coffee & pastries provided**

**Contact:  
[President@mandellpark.org](mailto:President@mandellpark.org)**

**MUSIC AT TWILIGHT  
IN APRIL**

Planning is underway for *Music at Twilight* in April at Mandell Park. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for four Wednesday night performances that month – April 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 7:30 pm. We’ll bring back some of your favorites, and we’re also looking for some new talent.

If you know a local group your neighbors should hear, send Bill Haase at [whaase@mac.com](mailto:whaase@mac.com) your contact info and information about the band. Invite your friends and neighbors to have a picnic on the berm and enjoy some neighborly good times.



# Contributors

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following for their contributions to our efforts. Every donation helps as we maintain Mandell Park and provide events for the public. Corporate contributors are listed in bold. Please remember these businesses when you are looking for products or services. The following donations were received between August 1, 2014 and January 31, 2017.

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## **Friends of Mandell Park Newsletter**

Skip Almoney, Editor

### **COMMENTS**

Contact us via email at  
[fomandellpark@aol.com](mailto:fomandellpark@aol.com).

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Download membership form  
at [FriendsofMandellPark.org](http://FriendsofMandellPark.org).

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