

# CHERRYHURST PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

This Saturday, a group of concerned neighbors and friends of Cherryhurst Park gathered to form an action committee to keep this community center open. While understanding that tightening the city budget means services will be cut back, we do not believe the Cherryhurst Park Community Center meets the city's criteria for closure, and therefore should remain open.

REF: <http://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/press/20110519.html>

*"The Houston Parks and Recreation Department is closing eight swimming pools and seven community centers. **These facilities have the lowest usage, are in need of repairs or are within at least two miles of another City pool or community center.** One additional pool will be closed due to renovation. Despite these closings, many of the department's popular offerings, including youth tennis, the summer food service and summer enrichment camps will continue at the centers that will remain open. All City-funded youth sports leagues are being eliminated. Youth baseball will continue due to funding provided by the Houston Astros. The department will work with the privately-funded youth sports leagues for continued use of City playing fields. Other reductions are being made in the areas of grounds maintenance."*

--THE BUILDING IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE: In addition, a brand new, efficient air-conditioner was installed this month.

-- RENTALS: Frequently other community centers steer the public to the Cherryhurst Community Center to book the space for weddings and other group functions because it is in much better shape than most.

--HOURS OF OPERATION: Cherryhurst has an active schedule serving the community and is open for more hours than listed on the city's website for Fall/Winter Spring Hours:  
2:00pm to 8:00pm Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
10:00am to 8:00pm Monday & Wednesday

--AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: Daily Wilson Elementary students walk two blocks across quiet neighborhood streets to the center after school. Some of these children are from lower income families who might not be able to provide transportation to another facility.

--TEEN PROGRAM: Daily young teens come from high schools nearby and some from as far as Lanier. Students of this age can safely ride the Westheimer bus by themselves.

--MOTHERS & TODDLERS PROGRAM: Weekly, self run program.

--CLASSES OPEN TO PUBLIC: Karate Classes (Children 2 x week) & (Adults 3 x week); Both Yoga and Dancing for Fitness groups are currently applying to provide classes.

--PUBLIC GROUP MEETINGS: Neartown Association meets monthly. Cherryhurst Civic Association meets here 3-4 times a year.

--SAFETY: Community Center Staff add a continuous element of safety to this public park that keeps the environment safe for children. Without them, nighttime camping & drug use may very well continue in the park throughout the day.

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