It won’t be long until park-goers can explore Houston’s newest garden paradise. Hermann Park Conservancy’s largest Park improvement project to date, the McGovern Centennial Gardens, are scheduled to open Saturday, October 18. The $31 million Gardens commemorate Hermann Park’s 100th birthday this year.

The entryway to the Gardens, the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, is taking shape. Designed by Peter Bohlin, famed architect of Apple stores worldwide, the pavilion will offer visitors their first peek at the lush, new garden beyond. An event space in the contemporary building will be a great resource for the community starting in January 2015.

Construction is complete on the structure of a unique, 30-foot garden Mount. The Mount, with a delightful waterfall cascading down the front, features an ADA-accessible concrete path leading to a spectacular birds-eye view from the top. Following the completion of The Mount, concrete was poured as a base for a special art installation by Houston artist, Randy Twaddle. The artwork will stand atop The Mount as a long-lasting tribute to the Park’s first hundred years.

Continued on page 3
It has been a joy to watch the community celebrate Hermann Park’s centennial year with us. Children kept their eyes on the sky at the inaugural Hermann Park Kite Festival and visitors have delighted in the contemporary art installations sited around the Park as part of the centennial celebration. And now, excitement is growing for the October 18th Grand Opening of the McGovern Centennial Gardens.

The Conservancy has created new staff positions to manage the Gardens and events. Jane Curtis joins the Conservancy as director of horticulture for the McGovern Centennial Gardens. While new to the staff, Jane’s involvement with the Gardens goes back more than 20 years to her work on the Park’s master plan as part of the renowned landscape architecture firm led by Laurie Olin. She has served on the Conservancy board, including as chair. Jane earned a master’s degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia, and has served on the Conservancy’s Projects Committee, which has guided the process of creating the Gardens from planning stage to final construction. In her new role, she will implement the transition to an operating garden by supervising gardeners, horticulturists, and maintenance workers. Jane brings continuity to the Gardens, ensuring that the intent of the original garden plan is honored while overseeing a vibrant, new venue for Park visitors to enjoy.

On the event side, Linda Black joins the Conservancy as venue manager for the McGovern Centennial Gardens and the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion. Linda is a graduate of the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston and brings years of event planning experience to the new position. As venue manager, Linda will oversee the rental and operations of the Gardens’ event spaces. She will also meet with potential clients and serve as their liaison to the venue, manage event staff, and coordinate with vendors. Linda will also coordinate fundraising events for the Conservancy.

Here in the office, Veronica Marisett is taking over as the Conservancy’s accounting manager. A driven accounting professional with over 18 years of experience, she successfully managed a law firm for 10 years. Veronica branched out as an independent contractor offering accounting services to companies. After years on her own, she decided she was ready for a new challenge and was pleased to accept the accounting manager position at the Conservancy. As we welcome Jane, Linda, and Veronica to the staff, we invite all of you to join us on Saturday, October 18 to celebrate the Grand Opening of the McGovern Centennial Gardens.

See you in the Park,

Doreen Stoller, Executive Director

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Countdown to McGovern Centennial Gardens Grand Opening
Continued from page 1

The Celebration Garden and the Family Garden were the focus of construction in August. Recently, trees and large shrubs were added to enhance the natural ambience. The Celebration Garden will no doubt become a favorite venue for weddings and other special events. The interactive Family Garden’s vegetable and fruit beds are now in place. The garden will offer an educational opportunity for parents and children to learn about edible plants and gardening techniques.

In addition, the pavilion has been relocated to its permanent site on the Tudor Family Pine Hill Walk after temporarily perching in a parking lot during construction. A new parking lot fronting on Hermann Drive is now open and provides convenient access to Miller Outdoor Theatre and the heart of the Park.

Join us to celebrate the Grand Opening of the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Following a dedication ceremony at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, lectures, activities and tours will take place throughout the day, including children’s art and educational activities sponsored by Macy’s. To find out more about booking the Celebration Garden and the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion in 2015, contact venue manager, Linda Black: lblack@hermannpark.org, or call 713-524-5876, ext. 335.

Join Hermann Park Conservancy Today!

Join Hermann Park Conservancy today as a Centennial-level member for $100. Centennial-level members will receive an invitation to a members’ preview of McGovern Centennial Gardens, a commemorative Centennial window sticker, a commemorative t-shirt with the Centennial logo, discounts in the Shop and Cafe, and boat and train tickets. Members at the $250 level will also receive a cotton hat with the Centennial logo and members at the $500 level and above will receive a canvas tote. Membership is important to Hermann Park as it helps support daily operations critical to care and maintenance. Please consider joining — or renewing — your membership today at www.hermannpark.org to be a part of this exciting year in Hermann Park’s history!

Vouchers for Centennial membership items will be mailed. Items are available for pick up in the Hermann Park Gift Shop on Lake Plaza.
The Conservancy Welcomes New Board Members

1. Morgan Garvey is the mother of three small children and lives near Hermann Park. Her family loves to walk around the Park, ride the train and play on the playground. They also enjoy the Park’s stocked fishing pond. Morgan was co-chair of the very successful Hermann Park Kite Festival last March and will serve in the same position for next year’s festival.

2. Linda Kelly grew up in Lake Forest, IL and moved to Houston with her husband thirty-seven years ago. She attended Boston University majoring in Art History. Linda is interested in the arts, sports and gardening and she is a member of The Garden Club of Houston. Linda and her husband have three grown children.

3. Marley Lott, a founding member of Friends of Hermann Park and long-time Projects Committee member, rejoins the board after a three-year hiatus. A recently retired senior partner at Baker Botts, LLP, Marley continues to focus her “extracurricular” interests on art, parks, and architecture. She has served on the boards of Contemporary Art Museum Houston and Houston Architectural Foundation.

4. Anne C. Mendelsohn has many years of experience in television programming as a researcher, writer, and producer. She received her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College in Chemistry. While working with Polaroid as a chemist, she helped develop Polaroid color film and is listed on two Polaroid patents. While in New York, she served on many boards and councils. Anne moved to Houston in 1996.

5. Robert C. Robbins, M.D. is the President and CEO of the Texas Medical Center. Prior to that, he was professor and chairman of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Stanford University. He is an internationally recognized cardiac surgeon focusing on the surgical treatment of congestive heart failure. Robert has lectured extensively and published 292 peer reviewed articles. He is active on several local boards.

6. David Enrique Ruiz serves as Senior Vice President and Marketing Manager for Bank of America in Houston. He leads the local grant-making process and is responsible for leveraging the sponsorship portfolio to drive revenue growth and brand favorability. He also serves as champion for low- and moderate-income communities and manages relationships with community leaders and organizations.

Welcome to the newest members of the HPC board of directors!
Shell Intern Creates New Tree Guide

Shell Oil funded an eight-week internship allowing Texas A&M student, Nicolette Lee, to update and map Hermann Park’s tree inventory adding approximately 1,700 trees to the dynamic maps of the Lake Picnic Area and Brays Bayou slopes in Bayou Parkland. Nicolette also built a tree database for the Conservancy website to showcase the top 10 trees in the Park, including their description, and cultural and maintenance requirements. Look for the top 10 trees on our “Take a Tour” section on the Conservancy website homepage.

Father, Son Team from Japan Enhance the Japanese Garden

In the spring, Hermann Park’s Japanese Garden received its latest check-up from our garden team from Japan. For nine days, Hiroshi Iwasaki and his son, Taiki, worked tirelessly to build a bamboo fence to keep feet from trampling the flower beds. The two also trimmed trees and shrubs and worked with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) gardening staff, demonstrating Japanese-style gardening techniques.

Youth Job Shadow Program

Each summer, youth brave the heat to learn what it takes to manage a public park, and this year was no exception. This summer our Job Shadow youth volunteers participated in a wide array of projects: planting shrubs, marking invasive plants, inventorying tools, deadheading roses, maintaining trails, weeding garden beds, checking for water leaks, removing new growth, helping to refurbish a bench, painting fence posts and helping with a Conservancy membership drive. Wow! This special program combines learning, nature and volunteerism. One participant said, “Quite a few of my teachers have tried teaching me what I have learned in the job shadow program to no avail. I suppose I just needed actual experience…” while another said that it is “unbelievable how out of touch with nature we are.” One more noted, “One of the most important things I learned through this program is teamwork.” This hard-working group worked well as a team, and they had a good time doing it.
Evening in the Park 2014

This spring’s Evening in the Park was a celebration one hundred years in the making. Chairs Mo and Ric Campo, Anne and Albert Chao, and Andrea and Bill White hosted a sensational party for nearly 800 guests toasting Hermann Park’s centennial. Arriving at Lindsay Plaza, some guests boarded the Hermann Park train for Molly Ann Smith Plaza to mingle over cocktails. Others strolled along the Jones Reflection Pool, stopping to eye Louise Bourgeois’ bronze Spider standing watch over the party-goers.

Guests were treated to dinner from City Kitchen Catering in the elegantly decorated tent overlooking McGovern Lake. As guests enjoyed a delightful array at the dessert bar, they were wowed by a spectacular light show provided by Nic Phillips and L.D. Systems casting beams of colored light across the iconic live oaks. Dancers in white from Suchu Dance entertained with larger than life balloons, and, thanks to the Miller Outdoor Theatre Advisory Board, Austin Bike Zoo’s colorful butterfly bikes enchanted the party guests. The record-setting event raised over $750,000.

Thank you to everyone who supported this special evening benefiting the Conservancy.

Photos by Priscilla Dixon Photography and Wilson Parish
Urban Green’s Birthday en Blanc

Urban Green, the Conservancy’s young professionals group, toasted happy birthday to Hermann Park at Birthday en Blanc on Thursday, May 15. Over 350 guests joined chairs Jennifer Hobson, Gregory Kaldis, Kelly and David Leonard, and Jon Sanfelippo to raise over $22,000 for the Conservancy. Local restaurants provided food, Saint Arnold Brewing Company and Izkali Tequila supplied beverages, and DJ Mav and DJ M-Cue kept people dancing. Houston Facepainting added some color and sparkle to the white palette and guests bid on packages donated by local businesses and individuals. The big ticket package included four sideline tickets to a Houston Texans game and a JJ Watt signed football.

Learn more about Urban Green at hermannpark.org/urbangreen.

Run in the Park 2014

Hermann Park Conservancy is excited to host the 11th Annual Run in the Park on Saturday, November 8, 2014. The fun, yearly tradition features a 5K Run/Walk, a Kids’ Fun Run, and a celebratory post-race party. The race begins at Hermann Park’s Molly Ann Smith Plaza and winds throughout the Park on the Marvin Taylor Trail. The 5K run will be chip timed and the overall male and female winners each will receive awards.

For more details: hermannpark.org/run.
**Molly’s Hats in the Park Party**

Molly Daly, daughter of Jennifer and Jon Daly, celebrated her third birthday in Hermann Park with her own adorable Hats in the Park party. Molly is the great-granddaughter of Molly Ann Smith, a Park supporter and the namesake of the Molly Ann Smith Plaza. The elder Molly loved the Hermann Park train and often told others, “Just have fun.” The kids did just that as they decorated their hats then enjoyed box lunches and birthday cake. Little Molly’s favorite part, though, was riding the train, just like her great-grandmother.

**Dr. David Schmoll, in Memoriam**

Dr. David Schmoll, a friend and amateur photographer of Hermann Park, passed away on July 16, 2014. He practiced dentistry for 30 years but also loved photography. He shot this iconic photo of the Park after the Heart of the Park renovation. We offer our condolences to his family.

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**Centennial Campaign Donor Wall**

Don’t miss your chance to be a part of Hermann Park’s history! Join other Conservancy donors for a once-a-century recognition opportunity on the Centennial Campaign Donor Wall in Lake Plaza at Kinder Station. This special donor wall, which has been on temporary display since 2009, consists of Conservancy donors whose cumulative giving for any purpose totals $50,000 or more.

Want to learn more about the donor wall or just how close you are to qualifying for listing? Contact mmiller@hermannpark.org or 713-524-5876, ext. 339. Deadline to be included on the wall is 12/31/14.
Save the Dates!
Hermann Park Conservancy Calendar of Events for Fall 2014

Park to Port Bike Ride
Saturday, September 13, 7 a.m.

McGovern Centennial Gardens and Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion Grand Opening
Saturday, October 18, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Details at hermannpark.org

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Thanks to the Houston Chronicle for being a sponsor of Hermann Park’s Centennial!

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The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of $100 or more between March 5 and June 30, 2014, as well as all donors and income gifts to Hermann Park Conservancy.

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