



Spring Branch Civic Association

Summer 2016 Newsletter

Website: www.springbranchcivic.com

Email: sbcivicassn@gmail.com

Facebook: Spring Branch Civic Association

YARD OF THE MONTH

So far this year, six yards have been chosen by our committee for recognition:

- March – 9770 Tappenbeck & 9826 Larston
 - May – 1379 Bullock & 9805 Larston
 - July – 9840 Westview
- Even though the heat is up and we've suffered through some days without an afternoon shower, these yards are still brightening our neighborhood.

MOSQUITOES ARE ALWAYS AROUND! by Helene Mertz

The rains may have stopped but we still need to be vigilant to keep mosquitoes from breeding and to protect our neighborhood. Please help us by taking steps to reduce potential breeding sites near your home.

- Eliminate all standing water from your property
- Remove all trash because mosquitoes can breed in areas as small as a water bottle
- Make sure to empty water from discarded tires and , when you put tires out for heavy trash on junk waste months only, separate them from the rest of your trash pile to allow the city employees to properly sort the materials.
- Report illegal dumping sites by calling 3-1-1.
- Utilize the Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Center at 14400 Sommermeyer (Gessner & Hempstead), the closest location to our neighborhood, to dispose of heavy trash if you miss the collection date.
- For more information, go to www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/ or call 3-1-1, the City of Houston's Customer Service Hotline

Thanks to everyone in advance for helping to keep us all safe and healthy!

RECYCLING GLASS by Cyd Dillahunt

For those of us who are into recycling, it was disappointing when the City announced that glass would no longer be accepted in our green bins for pick up every other Friday. There are some alternatives however.

1. City recycling centers accept glass. The closest one to us is at 14400 Sommermeyer, close to Gessner/Hempstead. Open Wed-Sun 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Go to www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/ for more info.

2. There is also a Waste Management recycling center at 1200 Brittmoore (Westview/Brittmoore) which also accepts glass. It is open Mon-Fri 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Saturday.
3. A company called Hauling Glass was started by a 3rd grader and his brother-in-law to pick up glass for recycling from their Heights area neighbors. They have expanded to other zip codes, including ours. Go to their website for more information – www.haulingglasshouston.com.

LANDSCAPING & TREES by Victoria Herrin

Everyone knows it's cooler in the shade, but did you know that shading the street keeps air temperatures cooler, even after sunset? Pavement stores heat from the sun, and then releases it overnight. Neighborhoods with shady, tree-lined streets not only look better, they begin the morning several degrees cooler, and stay cooler throughout the day.

That's one reason Houston has the Tree Ordinance. It protects trees within the public right-of-way which generally extends from the curb toward your house several feet. (A good rule of thumb: water meters are typically located in the public right-of-way.) Anyone damaging or removing a 'street tree' within this protected area without authorization is subject to a \$500 fine, plus the cost to replace it with a similar sized tree.

With street names like Long Branch, Oak Tree, Pine Lake, Cedardale, and Oak Point, it is clear that our neighborhood was named for its trees, but many have been lost over the years. If the street in front of your home isn't shaded, consider planting street trees this winter. If you witness the removal of a street tree, keep your cool! Call 311 or direct to [832-395-7100](tel:832-395-7100) immediately – the line is answered 24 hours a day.

"TAX DAY" FLOOD

If you suffered damage in the "Tax Day" Flood, the deadline to register for FEMA assistance is July 29th. Register for help at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-3362 (FEMA).

SPRING BOARD CIVIC POOL by Jennifer Thorpe

Have you ever wondered about the pool at the corner of Pine Lake and Witte? Did you even know there was a pool there? Well, there is and we are always accepting memberships. Spring Board has been a staple in this community since 1956. We are a family friendly pool that relies on memberships and accepts memberships from neighbors in our community and others. We are not connected to an HOA or your civic association dues. The pool is open for regular hours Memorial Day through Labor Day and weekends through the end of September. We offer a full sized swimming pool, baby pool, sand volleyball court, basketball court, corn hole, ladder golf, tether ball and 4-square. We have multiple BBQ pits and tables and chairs in the sun and the shade. We also offer early morning lap swimming, private parties and have a lot of fun. If you would like to visit Spring Board, email us at swimspringboard@yahoo.com and let us know. We would love to show you around.

Upcoming Pool Events:

- Spaghetti Pot Luck and BINGO: Saturday, July 30
- 60th Birthday Party: Saturday, August 13
- Sporting Clay Tournament: Saturday, September 17 at American Shooting Center

Go to our website (www.springboardcivicpool.com) or email us for more information on any upcoming events or more information about the pool in general.

We hope to see you at Spring Board and welcome you into our family.

HEAVY TRASH

On heavy trash pick up day on July 27th (the 4th Wednesday of the month), the City will pick up TREE WASTE ONLY!! They will not pick any junk waste. The tree waste will be recycled, so now is the time to do some heavy cutting back if you need to clean up your yard. Guidelines:

- Heavy trash can be placed on the front curb for collection as early as 6:00 pm the Friday before collection day.
- Trash should not be stacked under low electrical wires or close to signs or mailboxes or other obstructions that would hamper collection.
- Should not be placed in the street or on the sidewalk or in any manner which would interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- See www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/ for more information and details.

WOODVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our neighborhood school (on Bunker Hill between Pine lake and Cedardale) has a walking trail on the west side of the school property and also a playground on the Cedardale side. These grounds are known as a SPARK Park (School Park Program) and are open to the public when school is

not in session. **The SPARK Park is the only public green space within SBCA!**

Woodview has been approved to receive grant money to upgrade the playground -- a total of \$170,000 which includes \$5,000 to be raised by Woodview.

To contribute to Woodview's SPARK Park project, go to www.sparkpark.org then click on "Donate Now". Next, click on Woodview Elementary School and fill out the form for your donation which will also purchase a brick or a bench for the park. Option: drop a check off at the school! Opportunities to help Woodview:

- Volunteer in the library. Training in the library on 9/29 at 4:30 pm. If you want to volunteer but are unable to make that date & time, please send an email to Principal Pennington at pamela.pennington@springbranchisd.com.
- Volunteer as a reading tutor or mentor. If you can participate on a weekly basis, the school will schedule training for you. Again, just send an email to Principal Pennington.
- Woodview collects Box Tops for Education stamps that are found on many frequently used products. You can turn them in to the school office at any time during the year.

FREE SPAY/NEUTER

Available for owned pets of City of Houston residents. Please take advantage of this service if your pet has not been spayed or neutered.

- Saturday, August 13th, check-in 6:30 am – 7:30 am, at Tidwell Community Center, 9720 Spaulding St.
- Tuesday, August 16th, check-in 6:30 am – 7:30 am, at Acres Homes Multi-Service Center, 6719 W. Montgomery Rd.
- Friday, August 19th, check-in 6:30 am – 7:30 am, at Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center, 4014 Market St.
- REQUIRED: Current ID and a current utility bill.
- You must live within the City of Houston to qualify for the service.
- Pets must be 4 months or older.
- Dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier.
- Cats must be in a carrier or pillow case.
- Limit of 3 cats and 3 dogs per household.
- For more information, call BARC at 832-395-9003.

City ordinance requires that your pet be registered, vaccinated for rabies, wears a collar with an ID tag and always be leashed when outside a fenced enclosure.

RESIDENTS AGAINST FLOODING: In May, RAF filed a lawsuit against the City of Houston asking for a remedy to our flooding problems. Go to their website for more info – www.residentsagainstoflooding.org. If you want to be on their email list to receive information, send an email to drainage.coalition@gmail.com.

JOIN SBCA

The cost is only \$20 per year to support SBCA's efforts to keep the neighborhood informed and build a community. Mail your check payable to SBCA to P. O. Box 430574, Houston, TX 77243-0574. Please include your contact information and email address. I

SUPPORT SBCA

If you are willing to volunteer or write an article for this newsletter or want to receive "News & Events" emails from SBCA, send an email to sbccivcassn@gmail.com.

SBCA BOARD MEMBERS

President – Cyd Dillahunty
Vice President - Craig Adams
Secretary - Jessica McCreary
Treasurer – Jonathan St. Romain
Barbara Thomas
Virginia Gregory
Bob Tucker
Caroline Horsley
Meredith Mata

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Spring Branch Civic Association: Next meeting Thursday, August 4th, 7:00 pm. Send an email to sbccivcassn@gmail.com if you wish to attend.
- Spring Branch West Super Neighborhood: Will NOT meet in August. Next meeting will be Thursday, September 8th, 7:00 pm. The super neighborhood has been meeting at HCC for several years; however, the venue may change commencing in September. An email notice will be sent out prior to the meeting date regarding the venue. To confirm the meeting, send an email to springbranchciv@aol.com.
- TIRZ 17 Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 26th, 8:00 a.m., Four Points by Sheraton, Wycliffe Room, 10655 Katy Freeway. Agenda will be available on the TIRZ website prior to the meeting – www.houstontirz17.org.

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I Know Houston...I Know Your Neighborhood
You need a professional that knows how to list your property and bring in buyers for the money your property deserves. Call me.

Current Spring Branch Civic Assoc. neighborhood statistics as of 06/22/16:

of Homes for Sale: 24

Avg. Days on Market: 49

Avg. \$ per Square Foot: 173

Avg. Sale Price: \$328,427

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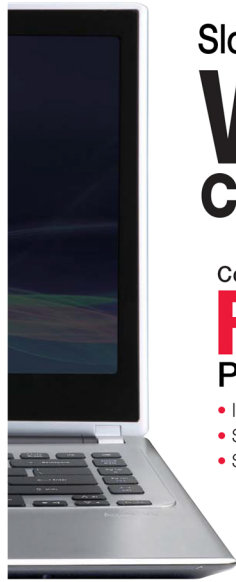
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