



# Spring Branch Civic Association

P.O.Box 430574, Houston TX 77243-0574

September 2017 Newsletter

Spring Branch Civic Association

Website: [www.springbranchcivic.com](http://www.springbranchcivic.com)

Email: [sbcivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:sbcivicassn@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook

## **HURRICANE HARVEY** by Cyd Dillahunty

Our neighborhood was spared to a very great extent; however, some SBCA homes were flooded and many neighbors were without power for a couple of days. Most of us were expecting the very worst, especially considering how hard we have been hit by rainstorms in recent years. I posted on NextDoor and also sent out an email asking whether any of our neighbors who flooded needed help; however, no one has raised the white flag. I'm sure there is still recovery going on so don't hesitate to let us know if you need help. Send an email to [sbcivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:sbcivicassn@gmail.com) and I'll get the word out for volunteers.

Following is some storm recovery information from the City's Solid Waste Dept. This info is accurate as of Sept. 12th although there are updates practically daily so for current status please go to their website ...

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html>

-- or call 311.

- Due to disaster debris collection efforts, the only regularly scheduled solid waste service is weekly garbage collection. All other scheduled services – curbside recycling, yard waste recycling and heavy trash pick up – are suspended until further notice.
- You may still take your recycling to any of the Neighborhood Depository Centers or to the Westpark Recycling Center. Hours temporarily extended to 7 days a week, 8AM-8PM,

Also, several zip codes, including part of 77055, are affected by two wastewater treatment plants that flooded. We have been asked to conserve water to the extent possible in order to minimize wastewater overflow. Go to <https://houstonrecovers.org/> for current information.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF USING 3-1-1**

by Caroline Horsley

While most of our neighbors are wonderful people who take good care of their house and property, we do have the occasional owner or renter who doesn't.

Well, good news! We have deed restrictions and City ordinances (such as parking in the yard, tall grass, junk vehicle) which help to keep the neighborhood nice and protect our property values.

Deed restrictions are posted on our website and so is a map so you can identify your subdivision. The City's Code of Ordinances can be found at <http://houstontx.gov/codes/>.

Figuring out whether something is against a City ordinance can be challenging. 3-1-1 is our best friend. If you are unsure whether something is against a City ordinance, 3-1-1 can tell you. You can report to 3-1-1 via phone (dial 311 or 713-837-0311) or via email ([311@houstontx.gov](mailto:311@houstontx.gov)) or online at [houstontx.gov/311/](http://houstontx.gov/311/) or you can download the 311 app on your cellphone. You will receive a service request #. If you are having trouble getting action after reporting to 3-1-1, report it to CM Stardig's office via email ([districta@houstontx.gov](mailto:districta@houstontx.gov)) and reference the # and please copy SBCA on that email.

If you have checked the deed restrictions and think there is a deed restriction violation, please let us know via email. If it is a restriction that is enforced by City Legal, it can be reported online at <http://www.houstontx.gov/legal/dr-complaint.html> or send an email to SBCA for action.

Lately, we've had a lot of new construction, and it is important for us to know what the building restrictions are. All of our subdivisions have minimum building setback lines and minimum lot sizes in the deed restrictions. These covenants are both enforced by City Legal. Please let SBCA know if you suspect there is an issue with new construction. A building setback would also apply to a remodel such as a room add-on and also carports. While there are many older carports that are "grandfathered", City Legal now enforces building setbacks on carports as well.

Please help us keep our neighborhood beautiful and raise awareness that there are deed restrictions and ordinances that are there to protect all of us.

### **UPCOMING SBCA EVENTS** by Mahssa Clark

Listen up neighbors! We have some new and exciting events coming up. Save the following dates:

- **National Night Out, Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6-9 PM.**  
Step outside for our National Night Out. SBCA will gather under the oak trees in the front yard at 1120 Springrock Ln. We will have water, some chairs and tables and coolers with ice. Bring a snack or dessert to share and BYOB.
- **Holiday Open House, Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3-5 PM.** Let's mingle at our annual Holiday Open House in the home of SBCA President, Cyd Dillahunty and her husband Jeff Harris, located at 1120 Springrock Ln. Beverages and light bites will be served.
- **Annual Meeting, Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 PM.** SBCA Annual Meeting. Refreshments will be served. Speaker and venue to be announced.
- **Sip & Stroll, Late February 2018.** We want to organize a "Sip & Stroll". We are looking for neighbors who live between Bunker Hill & Witte Rd. who would like to host a stop. Everyone is invited but we think it is a good idea to keep the host houses in close proximity to one another. SBCA will provide the wine, beer and water and hosts will provide light bites. We are so excited about this new event where we can take advantage of our usually wonderful late February weather, grab a drink and stroll from host home to host home. You can volunteer to host by sending an email to sbcivicassn@gmail.com or contact any SBCA Board member.

### **ARE YOUR STREET HOUSE NUMBERS VISIBLE IN FRONT OF YOUR HOME ?** by Virginia Gregory

The requirements of the City of Houston, Chapter 41 of the City Code of Ordinances, require that all homes have their street numbers visible in front of their homes.

This ordinance is enforced by the City of Houston Department of Public Works and Engineering and Sign Administration and Permits. These numbers have to be "Clearly visible from a public street in front of their homes or on a private driveway". Each residential unit shall have a number posted and maintained within 18 inches of the principle entrance or such greater distance as the fire marshall may approve.

This code was written for the protection of all residents. When emergency services are requested, this is the only way that the City of Houston Fire Department and Police Department, may dispatch assistance.

If your find that your home does not meet these specifications, we hope that you can do error correction quickly, for your own safety.

### **SBCA BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board meets the 1st Thursday of every month. The meetings are open to all who live within the boundaries of the civic association. (See our website for a map -- www.springbranchcivic.com.) The venue rotates every month among the homes of board members so space is limited; however, if you want to attend or have an issue you would like for us to discuss, please send an email to sbcivicassn@gmail.com.

### **SBCA BOARD MEMBERS**

President – Cyd Dillahunty  
Vice President - Craig Adams  
Secretary - Mahssa Clark  
Treasurer - Jonathan St. Romain  
Virginia Gregory  
Caroline Horsley  
Barbara Thomas

**SBCA MEMBERSHIP:** Thank you to all residents who have paid their \$20 dues this year. We have a PayPal account and as soon as we figure out how to add the button to our website (hint: a volunteer would be appreciated), we will set it up so that you can pay electronically. Meanwhile, please send your dues the old fashioned way, to the P. O. Box in our letterhead.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS:**

#### **HPD Storefront**

8400 Long Point (M-F, 8 to 5)  
(832)394-0100

#### **HPD Northwest Substation**

6000 Teague  
(832)394-5500

#### **District A Office**

(832)393-3010

#### **State Senator - John Whitmire**

(713)864-8701

#### **State Representative - Dwayne Bohac**

(713)460-2800