

# Spring Branch Civic Association

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

January 2018 Newsletter

Spring Branch Civic Association

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

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## MAKING OUR HOME IN SPRING BRANCH

by Jonathan St. Romain, SBCA Board Member

You may have seen us walking down the street with one brown dog and one black, trying to remind them that they are supposed to know how to behave! That would be me, Jonathan St. Romain, and my wife Jennifer with Rodeo (black) and Abby (brown). After growing up in Louisiana and graduating from LSU in civil engineering, I moved to Houston in 2006 where I began my engineering career. After nine years of working on land development projects for a consulting firm, I moved over to the public sector two years ago. My wife and I married in 2013, and that's when we moved to Spring Branch, where we rented on Larston St. for one year before buying our current house on Oak Tree. We love this area with its mid-century homes and big back yards. Much of our time is spent in our back yard, where Rodeo and Abby love to chase each other. Lately we have been fostering dogs from the Harris County shelter while they wait to be adopted, so the foster dogs get to take advantage of our big yard as well. We try our best to maintain a small garden, but the squirrels and birds like it just as much as we do. I have been an SBCA board member for three years. If you see us in the neighborhood, don't hesitate to stop us and say hi!

## UPCOMING SBCA EVENTS

Save the following dates:

- **Sip & Stroll Open House, Sunday, February 25th, 3-5PM.** Bring a bottle to sip and share and/or a bite to share, and stroll on down to the home of Byron & Jacque Groce, 1230 Springrock Ln.
- **Annual Meeting, Tuesday, April 3rd, 7-8:30 PM, Fair Haven United Methodist Church, 1330 Gessner, Trinity Center.** (NOTE WE CHANGED THE DATE FROM THE ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED DATE OF MARCH 27TH.) Our speakers will be from SWA Group, a landscape architecture, urban design and planning firm, who will present preliminary long-

range plans for the beautification of Haden Park and Long Point Rd. Both of these projects are in plans of Spring Branch Management District. Refreshments will be served.

- **Future Events:** SBCA would like to host future events of interest to the neighborhood. Maybe a presentation by a neighborhood master gardener or landscaper who can talk about plants and landscape designs that work best in our climate. Or maybe a presentation by someone from the Department of Neighborhoods who can explain what the process is for addressing issues in our neighborhood. Please send an email to [sbcivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:sbcivicassn@gmail.com) with what interests you.

## REVIVING OUR LANDSCAPES WITH NATIVE TEXAS PLANTS by Victoria Herrin

- Every challenge presents an opportunity, so if the weather has turned your lush, green landscape to an intolerably ugly brown, consider adding one or more of the cold hardy, early blooming Texas natives. Not only do they add color, they provide critically important nectar for the over-wintering and migrating hummingbirds. Some of the shrubs and vines may be available in the local nurseries or you can order seeds for the perennials from Native American Seed. Their website is <http://www.seedsource.com/>.
- Recommended native or adapted shrubs include Cape Honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*) and Texas Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*). Early blooming native vines include Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), Wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*), and Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). Perennials include Gulf Coast Penstemon and Mealy Blue Sage.
- To learn more, visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin or online at [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org). You can also join the Houston

Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas ([npsot.org](http://npsot.org)). The Houston Audubon Society has information about local hummingbirds.

### **SBCA BOARD OPENINGS**

- In the last year or so, we have lost several board members due to either a move out of the neighborhood or retirement.
- Most recently, Barbara Thomas, who served on the board as Treasurer for many years, moved out of the neighborhood. We will miss her on the board!
- By-Laws provide for a nine-member board and there will be four vacancies to fill at our Annual Meeting on April 3rd.
- Board members who are willing to continue to serve are: Craig Adams, Jonathan St. Romain, Caroline Horsley, Virginia Gregory and Mahssa Clark. It would be great if we could get representation from Spring Manor Town Houses, Bunker Hill Forest, Century Oaks and Spring Branch Woods 3.
- If you are willing to serve on the SBCA Board, or if you have any questions about the Board, please send an email to [sbcivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:sbcivicassn@gmail.com).

### **IMPORTANT PRIMARY ELECTIONS MARCH 6TH:**

- Democratic and Republic primaries for numerous offices, **including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State & U.S. Senators and Representatives** will be on March 6th.
- Early voting commences February 20th and runs to March 2nd. During early voting, you can vote at any of a number of locations in Harris County. For early voting locations, click on the following link -- <http://www.harrisvotes.com/EarlyVoting/EarlyVotingLocationsNonIE.pdf>.
- Voting on Election Day, March 6th, is limited to Northbrook High School for the Democratic Primary and St. Christopher's Episcopal Church for the Republican Primary.
- For more information, including sample ballots, go to [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com).

### **TIPS FOR TRASH DAY**

- Per the City of Houston Solid Waste Department, our rolling trash/recycle bins are supposed to be placed "at the curb" (**not in the street**) between 6PM the day before and 7AM on the scheduled collection day.
- Containers must be removed from the curblines and/or public view by 10PM on the day of collection.
- Also, the containers are emptied via hydraulic arms that come out from the truck and wrap around the container to pick it up and dump the contents. So, if

your containers are too close to one another or too close to anything else, the arms can't do their job. And the drivers aren't supposed to get out of the truck to move a bin. So if you've ever wondered why your trash wasn't emptied, this might be the problem.

### **SPEAKING OF FLOODING**

- Keeping storm drains clear help us all when we get downpours.
- All of the leaves are off the trees now and in the street gutters and clogging storm drains.
- It helps us all if everyone would pitch in to keep street gutters and storm drains clear.

### **SBCA BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board meets the 1st Thursday of every month. Meetings are open to everyone who lives within the boundaries of the civic association. (See our website for a map -- [www.springbranchcivic.com](http://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](mailto:sbcivicassn@gmail.com).

### **CURRENT SBCA BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**SBCA MEMBERSHIP:** Annual dues are \$20! 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, we'll do it the old fashioned way, and attached is a membership form and envelope for your convenience. Please join SBCA to support our efforts to provide venues for neighbors to meet and to keep residents informed of issues relevant to our neighborhood.

### **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