

# Spring Branch Civic Association

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

April 2021 Newsletter

Spring Branch Civic Association

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

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

Facebook: Spring Branch Civic Association

## UPCOMING SBCA EVENTS

- Sunday, May 2nd, 3-5 pm, SBCA Social/Annual Meeting at Lazy Oaks Beer Garden, 10158 Long Point Rd. The first 50 SBCA residents will receive two drink tickets. We are combining a social with our annual meeting because we don't have a good indoor venue option at this time and we really want our community to have an opportunity to get together. We do need to elect SBCA Board Members for this year and ballots will be distributed to residents who have paid their 2021 dues. Ballots will be collected at 4:00. Lazy Oaks has a lovely shaded outdoor space plus beer, a full bar and FOOD! It is kid & dog friendly. For more info about Lazy Oaks, go to <https://www.lazyoaksbeergarden.com/>.
- Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 pm, SBCA Social at our Median Park at 1445 Oak Tree, to introduce the neighborhood to the patch of green in our midst which SBCA "adopted" from the City of Houston. Volunteers have been working on beautification since early January and we hope everyone will appreciate our efforts. SBCA will furnish beverages and will try to get a vendor or two for light bites. Bring your own chairs or picnic blanket or beverages & food and bring a neighbor!

## DEED RESTRICTIONS

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are living in a deed restricted neighborhood. It's important to know your neighborhood and read over your deed restrictions. These can be found, along with maps, on our website – <https://springbranchcivic.com/>. Contact SBCA at our email address if you have any questions.

Deed restrictions are slightly different from subdivision to subdivision. In our last newsletter (a year ago!), it was noted that one of the covenants that we all have in common is that our properties are restricted to residential use **only**. No businesses! That isn't to say you can't work from home for a company. But you can't use the home for a business with employees and customer traffic.

Another covenant we have in common is a minimum building setback – front, back & side. Some of our covenants are enforced on our behalf by the City of Houston Legal Department. Both of the covenants described here are enforced by City Legal.

## FERAL CATS:

From time to time, our neighborhood has had problems with feral cats. Based on comments seen on NextDoor, the general consensus is that we're having an uptick again. First of all, if you have a cat that roams, it is important that your cat be neutered so as not to result in a bunch of unplanned kittens which, as cute as they are, become a problem for everyone! If you are having a problem with cats in your yard that are not yours, the City of Houston has a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program for "community cats" which are defined as any un-owned cat. If you are trying to be compassionate by leaving food & water out for community cats, you must also be actively involved in an effort to trap & neuter the cats, otherwise you are in violation of Houston City Ordinance Section 6-22. Be a part of the solution by getting your cat neutered and/or by participating in the TNR program. For information about this program and also what you can do to deter cats in your yard, go to [https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/trap\\_neuter\\_return.html](https://www.houstontx.gov/barc/trap_neuter_return.html).

## LEAVES, TRASH & OUR STORM DRAINS

While we appreciate the multi-million dollar Briar Branch Creek Drainage Project funded by TIRZ 17, it isn't the answer to all our drainage problems and we should do our part to keep the drainage channels and storm drains clear. When it rains, everything on our streets (from McDonald's bags to beer cans to leaves) is washed to the street gutter and flows toward the storm drains. Leaves and other debris accumulates around the drain and the water flow will slow or maybe even stop completely! Do not throw anything into the storm drain which also means your yard man should not blow yard waste into



the drain either. If we all do our part, it will have a positive impact on the efficiency of our storm drains.

### **OUR NEW "TRAIL", FORMERLY KNOWN AS BRIAR BRANCH CREEK**

For the past two years, some residents have endured construction work on the drainage project that is now almost complete which covered the drainage channel (box culverts for drainage are now underground) and resulted in a "trail" which is actually a maintenance road but can be used by pedestrians.

TIRZ 17, which funded the project, also landscaped the trail which runs from the southern end of Confederate to Gessner. We have asked Council Member Amy Peck to help us get pedestrian crossings at Bunker Hill and at Witte so that we can actually use it for exercise and to access businesses along the way. There is a traffic light and pedestrian crossing just south of the trail at Gessner.

During construction, a wooden fence was removed behind Costco. We've asked for input from residents about whether the fence should be replaced and input has been mostly in favor of replacing the fence. The reasons in favor of the fence are: privacy for the homes that back up to Costco, noise from the busy driveway behind Costco and trash that blows our way from the retail center parking lot. There have been a few residents who prefer the openness of the trail without a fence on the south side citing that it feels safer.

If you have an opinion about this issue, please send an email to [sbcivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:sbcivicassn@gmail.com). At this time, SBCA is working to get the fence replaced.

### **FAVORITE SPRING BRANCH BUSINESSES**

#### **By Caroline Horsley**

While pretty much stuck at home for the last year, we worked hard to #supportlocal #eatlocal for the small Spring Branch businesses trying to survive. Here are some of our personal favorites you might want to check out!

Italian: Fratellis

Coffee lovers: Cambrian Coffee and Buzz 'n Bites

Vietnamese: Roostar (Delicious Banh Mi sandwiches)

Thai: Vieng Thai (also BYOB!)

Greek & Burgers: Simply Greek/Spring Branch Burger Shack (at same location)

Vegan: Cascabel

Korean BBQ: Bori and Korea Garden

Chinese: Café Chopstix

Adult beverages- 4J Brewery, Lazy Oaks Beer Garden and The Branch

Gardening Supplies and Ideas: In the Garden

Donuts: Snowflake Donuts

### **SBCA BOARD MEETINGS**

Our meetings are monthly, usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, and are open to anyone who lives within the boundaries of the civic association. 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 – Caroline Horsley

Vice President – Craig Adams

Secretary – Jonathan St. Romain

Treasurer – Cyd Dillahunty

### **ELECTION OF SBCA BOARD MEMBERS**

Our By-Laws provide for a nine-member board. So, there is room for YOU to join the Board. Elections are held annually at our Annual Meeting which this year will be a very informal affair combined with a social at Lazy Oaks Beer Garden on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3-5 PM. If you are interested in helping your neighbors and supporting the neighborhood, please send an email to [sbcivicassn@gmail.com](mailto:sbcivicassn@gmail.com) and ask to have your name added to the ballot.

### **SBCA MEMBERSHIP – ANNUAL DUES ONLY \$20**

There is a PayPal button on our website ([springbranchcivic.com](http://springbranchcivic.com)), and you can pay your dues via a PayPal account or with a credit card. Or mail a check to SBCA at PO Box 430574, Houston, TX 77243-0574. You can also pay your dues at our Annual Meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please join SBCA to support our efforts to provide venues for neighbors to meet, to help maintain our Median Park on Oak Tree and to keep residents informed of issues relevant to our neighborhood.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS:**

HPD Northwest Substation - (832)394-5500

District A Office (CM Amy Peck) - (832) 393-3010

State Senator - John Whitmire - (713 )864-8701

State Representative – Lacey Hull - (512) 463-0727

**Printing provided by SBCA Board President, Caroline Horsley, who is also a realtor. If you use her services, please mention this newsletter. Thank you, Caroline!!**

**Caroline Horsley, Realtor**

**#runningrealtor**

**Spring Branch Area Specialist**

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