

# Spring Branch Civic Association

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

November 2018 Newsletter

Spring Branch Civic Association

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

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



## 2018 Holiday Party

**Our neighborhood party is here! Tell a neighbor, grab a neighbor and on Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-5pm, come mingle for some holiday cheer. This year's party is hosted by SBCA board member Jonathan St. Romain and his lovely wife Jennifer at 1413 Oak Tree. We will have plenty of food and drinks, but if you have a favorite dish or snack you would like to share, by all means bring it!**

## Local Elections

The recent mid-term elections were highly publicized and drew much national and even international attention. However, the results of several local elections will bring about a change of leadership in our area neighborhoods. Most notably, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett was upset by newcomer Lina Hidalgo. Emmett provided leadership to Harris County for eleven years, including during both Hurricanes Ike and Harvey. Another change to Harris County Commissioners Court will be that of new Precinct 2 commissioner Adrian Garcia, who won election over current Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman. Precinct 2 covers much of northeastern Harris County down into the Pasadena area. Precinct 4, which covers the SBCA area, reelected Commissioner R. Jack Cagle.

In the statewide race affecting our area, District 138 Representative Republican Dwayne Bohac was reelected. Nationally, Texas' 2<sup>nd</sup> House District seat, previously held by Ted Poe, was won by Republican Dan Crenshaw. Republican Ted Cruz was reelected to the US Senate in the high-profile race.

Both City of Houston propositions on the ballot passed. Proposition A continues Rebuild Houston; the pay-as-you-go, dedicated fund that has rebuilt or improved more than 1,000 lane miles of city streets and nearly 500 miles of storm drains. Proposition B amends the city

charter to provide Houston firefighters pay parity with city police officers.

## Fall is here!

Remember to keep leaves out of gutters and storm sewers. Leaves can clog storm sewers and reduce the capacity of our drainage systems. Rake and bag your leaves, or mulch them with a good mulching mower. You can also report to 311 any landscaper that you see blowing leaves, or other yard debris, into the street or storm sewer. If you bag your leaves in city approved compostable bags (can be purchased at Lowes and Costco), you can leave them on the curb along with bundled small limbs, for yard waste pick-up by the City every Friday. On the topic of trees, it has been noticed around the neighborhood that some of our beloved trees have become diseased or nearing the end of their lifespan. A few common signs of disease or distress are:

- Discolored patches growing on the trunk-typically these patches are hard and gray
- Small piles of saw dust around the base of the trunk-if you see these piles, look closely at the trunk and look for tiny holes. These are typically made by ants that destroy the tree by burrowing into the trunk
- Peeling bark on the trunk or branches

This can be a hazard not only to our own house, but also to our neighbor's, streets, and power lines. For the safety of our neighbors and our neighborhood, it is advised to have trees inspected by a licensed arborist. An arborist can recommend remedies for improving the health or extending the life of your trees. Many arborists will not charge to inspect trees and give quotes, if remedies are necessary.

## 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 in the spring (date, time, and venue to be announced).
- Board members who are willing to continue to serve are: Craig Adams, Jonathan St. Romain, Caroline Horsley, Cyd Dillahunty, 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.

### **Holiday cheer:**

Ready to enjoy a seasonal beverage? Instead of serving eggnog at your party, try milk punch, a New Orleans favorite:

- 1 ½ quarts half and half
- Half bottle good bourbon or brandy
- 3 tbsp vanilla
- Simple syrup (¾ cup sugar, ¾ cup water)
- 1 nutmeg and grater

This will need to be made ahead of time to allow the right consistency. Combine the ingredients, then freeze. Defrost slightly and serve slushy. Alternatively, you can put in freezer for about four hours, making sure to stir every 30 minutes to get the slushy consistency. When ready for guests, pour into punch bowl for serving. Garnish with nutmeg (the actual nut and a grater are much better than the already ground powder). A cinnamon stick is a nice addition as well.

- Jonathan St. Romain

### **Speaking of the holidays**

The holidays are here! Along with family and cheer, safety is key and remember to be on high alert for thieves and criminals. Some safety tips:

- Park vehicles in garages at night
- If a vehicle must remain in the driveway, then be sure to remove ALL valuables from inside the car. A few quarters in your cup holder can end up costing you hundreds in repair costs
- Connect outdoor lights carefully and safely, using only cords, connections and decorations designed to be used outside
- Before lighting up that toasty fireplace, be sure to clean out your chimney flue. Build up can be a fire hazard

- It is common, nowadays, to know when package deliveries are made. Plan for your packages to be picked up off your doorstep ASAP to reduce chances of theft
- Let's remember that we are neighbors. If you know you have a package delivery and will not be able to receive it, ask your neighbor for help; then find a way to help them back. If you see any out-of-the-ordinary occurrence at your neighbor's house, keeping your own safety a priority, offer them help, call them to see if everything is normal, or call the HPD storefront or substation at the numbers listed below. With FedEx, UPS, and USPS you can sign up to have the package delivery held for you to pick up at a later date.

### **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.

### **CURRENT SBCA BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**SBCA MEMBERSHIP:** Annual dues are \$20! We have a PayPal button on our website ([springbranchcivic.com](http://springbranchcivic.com)), and you can pay via paypal or credit card. Or, you can do it the old fashioned way, and mail a check to SBCA at the PO box address listed in the header of this newsletter. 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