



Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



Vol. 26 Issue 3

www.springbranchoaks.com

July-September 2017



JOIN US FOR
SOMETHING COOL!
TUESDAY, JULY 18
6:30 P.M.
LATHAM HALL AT
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
CHURCH
1656 BLALOCK

It's too hot to be outside, so we will be **INSIDE** for the Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, July 18. Instead of a business meeting, this

will be a good opportunity to just visit with your neighbors and enjoy a treat. Ice cream and toppings will be provided.

If you know of someone who is new to Spring Branch Oaks, invite them to come along!

APRIL MEETING HEARS NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS

DROCOM Chairman Jerry Fowler spoke at the April 18 General Meeting about the importance of enforcing our Deed Restrictions. He will be concentrating on identifying and addressing any businesses which are operating in this residential neighborhood. If you are aware of anyone conducting a business (other than those allowed by our deed restrictions), please contact Jerry at 832-477-7817.

Traffic on our cut-through streets is a constant con-

cern to everyone who lives in Spring Branch Oaks. Michael Lewis has been in contact with Brenda Stardig's office and the city's planning office, and he reported that we are "on the list" for traffic calming devices. Benbow and Crownover seem to be the streets with the most problems, so we hope that funding for speed humps or similar deterrents will be in our future soon.

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ARE YOUR TRASH CANS OUT OF SIGHT?

Spring Branch Oaks deed restrictions say, "All storage containers **shall be kept out of sight from the street....**"

Many of our new residents may not be aware of this regulation, as we are seeing more dumpsters parked in front of garages or in view from the street. Please help keep our subdivision looking nice by storing your recycle and trash cans out of view.

Upcoming Meetings

General Membership and Board meetings are held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Latham Hall, 1656 Blalock Road, the third Tuesday, beginning at 6:30 p.m. They are open to all residents.

General Membership Meetings

July 18
October 17

Board of Directors Meetings

June 20
September 19

National Night Out
Tuesday, October 3
6:00—7:30 p.m.
Held at the park on the corner of Campbell Road and Spring Branch Drive



A huge “Thank You!” goes out to all the folks who helped update our SBOCA directory!

The directories should be ready to distribute in July.

We hope all of you met some new neighbors and made them feel welcome.

KEEP COOL THIS SUMMER

Our “feels like” temperatures are starting to reach the 100’s. Summer is officially here. Here are some tips from TXU Energy for keeping cool during the hot months:

Cool off your summer electricity costs.

The scorching summer months mean your A/C has to work overtime, and your bill takes the heat. But if you focus on keeping yourself cool, your A/C doesn’t have to do all the heavy lifting. These simple tips will help you beat the heat and lower your electricity bill — be-

cause no one should get burned by high summer bills.

Close out heat.

Reduce incoming heat by up to **33%**. Simply close your blinds and turn them face up during the day.

Enjoy six degrees of savings.

Set your thermostat at 78°. You’ll spend **6 – 18%** less on cooling than if you kept it at 72°. You can also set it higher when no one’s home.

Keep the savings in.

Seal air leaks with caulking and weather stripping. It’s one of the most cost-effective ways to save on cooling.

Ditch incandescent bulbs.

They radiate 90% of their energy as heat. Replace them with LEDs — these bulbs radiate **75% less** heat and last up to five times as long.

Sleep cool from head to toe.

Rest your head on a cooling pillow — your head gives off more heat than you think. Also, use cotton sheets; they’re lighter and offer more ventilation.

Dive into relief.

A kiddie pool is an inexpensive way to keep both your little rascals and furry friends cool and happy all summer long.

Scrub faster. Save more.

Take shorter showers to reduce the amount of energy your water heater uses. And be sure to use the bathroom fan to get rid of heat and humidity afterward.

Feel fantastic.

Set your fans to run counter-clockwise, keeping the warm air higher up. Also, fans cool people, not empty rooms. Turn them off when you leave and **save up to 8%** on cooling costs.

Additional Tips

- Wash your clothes in cold or warm water to cut energy usage per load in half. Hang washed clothes outdoors or lay flat to dry inside.
- Air dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher’s drying heater.
- Keep your fridge temperature between 35-38° and your freezer at 5°.
- Use an automatic timer on your pool pump and limit to 8 hours of pumping per day.
- This summer, go big on BBQ. Grilling outside keeps your kitchen cool and electricity costs down.
- Change your filters at least once every three months and have your A/C equipment checked by a professional every year.

It’s nice to see the United States flags flying on neighborhood homes, especially on July 4. The Community Associations Institute published the guidelines below to remind us of the proper way to handle our flags. If your flag is worn out and needs to be replaced, you may contact a local Boy Scout troop to have your old flag “retired” properly.

guidelines for displaying OLD GLORY

- Display the flag in public from sunrise to sunset.
- Flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness.
- The flag should not be subject to weather damage.
- The flag should be displayed often, especially on national and state holidays.

#SummerSafely www.caionline.org

YARD-OF-THE-MONTH WINNERS SELECTED



Summer really brings out the most colorful plants in our neighborhood! In spite of the summer heat, folks have been out keeping their yards looking nice.

Congratulations to these residents who received Yard-of-the-Month awards for the past two months:

May	Michele Petrucci	9318 Livernois
June	Jose & Juliana Velazquez	9402 Willowview

Cornelius Nursery sponsors this monthly award, and each homeowner receives a \$25 gift card via the nursery's Blooming Rewards Loyalty program. Yard-of-the-Month selections will continue through September.

You can see photos of their homes and past winners on our SBOCA website.

HELP KEEP PETS AND PEOPLE SAFE



Please help keep our neighborhood safe by keeping your dog in a fenced yard or on a leash. It is a requirement of our deed restrictions, for the safety of all residents.

We love our pets and want everyone else to love them too!

If you see a dog running loose, contact the owner immediately or contact BARC, the City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Facility if you do not recognize the animal.

Licensing your pet is the law. **The City of Houston Municipal Code** requires that anyone who owns a dog or cat four

months of age or older must have his or her pet licensed and vaccinated against rabies every year.

Contact Pet Licensing at 713.229.7300 Ext 1 or **WayHome** @houstontx.gov.

A pet license identifies and protects your pet in case it becomes lost. Even indoor pets can get out and become lost. You are required to renew your license yearly and to keep your license updated when you move and/or your pet is given away, lost, stolen or is deceased.

BARC also offers a spay-neuter clinic.

TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Thursday, June 22	Junk trash
Friday, June 23	Recycle
Friday, July 7	Recycle
Friday, July 21	Recycle
Thursday, July 27	Tree trash
Friday, August 4	Recycle
Friday, August 18	Recycle
Thursday, August 24	Junk trash
Friday, September 1	Recycle
Friday, September 15	Recycle
Thursday, September 28	Tree trash
Friday, September 29	Recycle

For reminders on your phone, get the **Rollout!** App. It is available for download in the **iTunes** and **Android** app stores.

MEETING HEARS CONCERNS

(Continued from page 1)

There was some discussion of a possible walking trail along the easement between Spring Branch Drive and Willowview, but many residents expressed their concerns and opposition to this. We listened to you, and the suggestion will be dropped from consideration.

The new SBOCA directories are in the final stage of preparation, and we hope to have them ready to distribute at the July General Meeting (Ice Cream Social). If you are not able to attend

this meeting and would like to receive a new directory, contact Linda Cover at 713-464-7787 or cover.linda@yahoo.com.

Two new members of the Board of Directors will be elected at the October General Meeting. A Nominating Committee consisting of Donita Ayotte, Brenda Butcher, and Lois Stromberg was elected to present two names. If you know someone who would be a good candidate for the board, please contact one of them.

SBOCA Board of Directors for 2017

Matthew Harkrider	President	mhark@alertlogic.com	832-656-0962 or 832-646-5584
Sheree Speck	Vice-President	shereespeck@speckinsurance.com	713-385-0290
Patricia Fowler	Treasurer	tricia.fowler@aglife.com	832-477-7816
Linda Cover	Secretary	cover.linda@yahoo.com	713-464-7787
Donita Ayotte	Board member	DAyotte@lucasgroup.com	832-819-8369
Michael Lewis, Sr.	Board member	mslewis.lu@gmail.com	832-265-6429
Other contacts			
DROCOM:	Jerry Fowler	sbodrocom@gmail.com	832-477-7817
COP:	Jim Majsterski	JimMajsterski@aol.com	713-973-0740

GENERAL MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, JULY 18 AT 6:30 P.M.

*Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association
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