



Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



Vol. 26 Issue 4

www.springbranchoaks.com

October-December 2017

Please join us for
National Night Out
Tuesday, October 3
6:00—7:30 p.m.

In the park at Campbell Road and
Spring Branch Drive

The civic association will provide hot
dogs, chips, drinks, and ice cream.

BYOC—Bring Your Own Chairs



This fall has been a stressful time for our city and neighborhood! We hope that you all were not seriously impacted by Hurricane Harvey. All of us have stories about the storm.

Now is a good time to get together and have some fun! We will celebrate

National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (The rest of the country observes this in August, but it's too hot in Texas!)

We will get together in the pocket park at the corner of Campbell Road and Spring Branch Drive. It's a family affair, so

bring the kids and some bug spray.

Come have a bite to eat and hang out with some new neighbors. We will have a visit from City Council members and some local police officers, too.

See you there!

COUNCILMAN MIKE KNOX WILL SPEAK AT OCTOBER 17 GENERAL MEETING

City Councilman Mike Knox will be our speaker at the SBOCA General Meeting on Tuesday, October 17. We are looking forward to hearing from him about what is going on at city hall and also hearing how the city can help with issues of crime and traffic which are concerns in our neighborhood.

At this General Meeting we will elect three members to the Board of Directors. Matthew Harkrider and Linda Cover have completed their three-year terms and will rotate off. Donita Ayotte is moving from Spring Branch Oaks and has resigned from the board; her replacement will serve a two-year term.

If you are interested in serving on the board or on DROCOM, or know someone who would be a good candidate, don't miss this meeting. Be sure to have permission from anyone you wish to nominate.

We will also select judges for the Christmas Decorations contest coming in

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Upcoming Meetings

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

General Membership Meetings

October 17

Board of Directors Meetings

January 9, 2018

National Night Out -
Tuesday, October 3
6:00—7:30 p.m.

Due to Hurricane recovery, the only regularly scheduled solid waste service is garbage collection. All other scheduled services – curbside recycling, yard waste and junk/tree waste – are suspended until further notice. Please do not put your green cart with recycling or yard waste bags out, they will not be collected.



This "doggie" is brightening up the road for those driving down Livernois.

Are you receiving email announcements from Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association?

If not, just go to our website, springbrancoaks.com, and click on the "Sign Up" button in the top right corner to register.



New directories will be available to pick up at the General Meeting on October 17. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may call or email Linda Cover (713-464-7787 or cover.linda@yahoo.com) to get a copy.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR DELIVERIES

As the holidays approach, more of us will be ordering for home delivery. Here are 5 tips from the CAI newsletter to help prevent theft:

If UPS, FedEx or USPS delivers a package, you as the consumer are responsible for it if it's stolen.

1. Lock boxes: You can build or purchase a rugged lock box for your porch. Bolt it down to a permanent surface. Install a simple combination lock on the box and then share that combination when you purchase something online. Nearly every delivery service has a "special instructions" section during online checkout.

2. Security Services: The emergence of "Porch Piracy"

has created an entire industry determined to prevent these thefts. Instead of a package being delivered to your porch, the packages arrive at a nearby location, where they're placed in a secure compartment.

3. Timely Package Collection: Pick up your package as soon as it's delivered or have a neighbor collect it. UPS, FedEx and the USPS all have tracking services. This allows you to monitor the progress of a shipment very closely by tracking it online and even by receiving email or text alerts. You can be notified the moment your package is delivered and then make arrangements to have the package collected. Porch Piracy

is a crime of opportunity. If the package doesn't sit on your porch for long the opportunity to steal it is vastly decreased.

4. Security Cameras: Security cameras are a tried and true deterrent for all manner of criminal behavior. Thieves are very aware of cameras and often look for them before attempting a theft. Also, if you do ever have a package stolen, you have video evidence to pass along to police and online stores. Camera packages can be purchased relatively inexpensively and come with a wide range of options, including wireless capabilities

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MAKE SURE YOUR TREES ARE SAFE

Thanks to one of our neighbors who raised this concern. The following is adapted from her email:

In light of the recent hurricane and the devastation it caused, this is a good time to be aware of old trees that probably should be removed from our properties. You may want to ask a tree company to take a serious survey of your front and back yards

to check for weak and/or old trees that are either leaning towards your house or towards your neighbor's home.

Many trees in Spring Branch Oaks are quite tall and large enough to damage our homes should they fall in our yard. Should they fall or snap, it could demolish a home, not to mention possibly result in loss of life as

well. Falling trees are one of the major causes of death after a hurricane and/or tornado.

While homeowners' insurance would pay for damages to our homes, that is not the issue. Fixing a problem after it happens is much more costly than preventing it from occurring. We should make a joint effort to make our properties safe for everyone.

GENERAL MEETING WILL UPDATE CONCERNS

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December and hear from DROCOM chairman Jerry Fowler. Proxy forms for anyone who cannot attend the meeting are available on the

SBOCA website under the Documents tab.

This will be our last General Meeting for 2017, so please plan to be there!

We will begin with refreshments and a chance to visit with your neighbors at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

LATEST YARD-OF-THE-MONTH WINNERS SELECTED

Our Yard-of-the-Month awards have ended for this year. Thanks to Cornelius Nursery for sponsoring them! Pictures of the winners are posted on the SBOCA website. Congratulations to these most recent winners:

August

Ruben Guillen
1815 Benbow

September

Brenda Butcher
9317 Greensward

Christmas decorations

We will have judging for our outdoor Christmas Decorations Contest the week before Christmas.

If you would like to help with judging, you can volunteer at the October General Meeting or just contact one of the Board members. Cash prizes will be awarded for this contest, so make sure your lights are on!



TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE



The following is from the City of Houston Solid Waste Department website:

"Houston residents, please remember that due to the disaster debris collection efforts, **the only regularly scheduled solid waste service is garbage collection.** All other scheduled services – curbside recycling, yard waste and junk/tree waste – are suspended until further notice. **Please do not put your green cart with recycling or yard waste bags out, they will not be collected.**

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we all recover together. You may still bring your recycling to any of the Neighborhood Depository and Recycling Centers; or to the Westpark Recycling Center; all of which are open 7 days a week for your convenience." The nearest center to Spring Branch Oaks is Sommermeyer Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Center, 14400 Sommermeyer, Houston, TX 77040 (near Windfern and old Hempstead highway). See the City of Houston Solid Waste webpage for more details.

SECURITY TIPS

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which make them easy to install. Some systems have the ability to remotely monitor your home from mobile devices like tablets and cell phones.

5. Security Signs: If all of the previous options seem too expensive consider posting a sign in your yard informing the would be Porch Pirate that your home is under video surveillance or has security alarms. Many criminals are not going to take the time or the chance to call your bluff and proceed with their theft. Again, this is a crime of opportunity, and thieves may not see your package as a great opportunity if they think there is a chance they might be recorded - even if they can't immediately see the security cameras.

Brenda Stardig is hosting a community event in our area. You are invited to join her and other community leaders for food and information.

THURSDAY OCT. 12 5 pm - 8 pm
VFW POST 8790
 1560 Foley Street
 Houston, TX 77055

5 pm - 7 pm	Open House/Catered BBQ
7 pm - 8 pm	Public Safety Program

Special Guests:
 Mayor Turner
 HFD Chief Peña
 HPD Chief Acevedo

Appearances by:
 Mounted Patrol "Star" & "Smash" and K9 "Billy Ray" Demonstration
 HPD Helicopter
 Body Camera Demonstration
 HFD Ladder Truck & "High 5" High Water Rescue Vehicle
 HFD Smoke Simulator/Fire Extinguisher Demonstration
 ...and much more!



Are you on Facebook? Check out the group, *Spring Branch Oaks Neighbors*. You can get news, post events, and share tips on reliable contractors.

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
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, OCTOBER 17 AT 6:30 P.M.

Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association
P.O. Box 801562
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