



# Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



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www.springbrancoaks.com

July-August 2012

## GENERAL MEETING WILL FOCUS ON BY-LAWS

The Texas legislature has passed a number of laws in the past few years regulating Property Owners Associations, which includes Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association. For clarity, and to be in compliance with the Texas Property Code laws, our association needs to update some of our policies.

**Proposed new by-laws** have been prepared by our attorney and will be presented to the property owners for adoption or revision at the General Meeting on Tuesday, July 17. Among the changes which are included in the new by-laws are:

- the Executive Committee is replaced with a Board of Directors who will serve rotating three-year terms
- a quorum of 10% of the property owners will be required for conducting business
- secret ballots will no longer be used for association voting

The full text of the proposed by-laws has been posted on the SBOCA web site, <http://www.springbrancoaks.com/>. Click on the Documents tab to download a copy.

Also at this meeting, a **Nominating Committee** will be elected to present a slate for election at the October Annual Meeting.

Although the offices to be filled will remain the same, if the new by-laws are adopted nominees will not be assigned to a specific office. They will be elected to the Board of Directors, who will then determine the position to be held

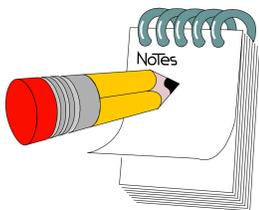
by each director. Terms of the new board will be staggered, so that not all will rotate off in any one year.

**Block Leaders** will meet with Carolyn Schooley at 6:30 p.m., prior to the business meeting. One item for discussion is the collection of current information from residents for an updated directory.

**This general meeting will be an important one, so please make every effort to attend. A light supper will be provided at 6:30, with the business meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m.**

Block leaders are still in the process of collecting current information from neighborhood residents for an updated directory. If you have not already filled out an Information Form (attached to the last newsletter), please complete it and return it to your block leader or to Carolyn Schooley, 9393 Livernois, by Tuesday, July 17.

**Names and addresses will be printed as they appear in the current directory if no new information is provided.**



## Upcoming Meetings

### General Membership Meetings

July 17  
October 16

### Executive Committee Meetings

September 18

All meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Latham Hall, 1656 Blalock Road, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### National Night Out - October 2

Details will be announced later.

### Houston Police Department - Northwest Community Meetings

**July 17 - Law Enforcement to the Mentally Ill.** Did you know the Harris County Jail is the state's largest mental health facility?

**August 21 - Gangs 101** - Learn what a gang is and get in-depth info.

**September 18 - The Art of Interrogation** - See techniques used to capture homicide suspects.

Meetings are held in the Faith Center Sanctuary, 8009 Long Point, beginning at 7:00 p.m. (6:30 – COP )

## DROCOM PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PROTECTING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association deed restrictions are one of the most valuable tools that we have in protecting the character and safety of our subdivision. And our Deed Restriction Oversight Committee (DROCOM) is the primary way in which these restrictions are monitored. The committee is made up of volunteers from among our residents, and James Beuchele was elected to serve as chairman at the January General Meeting.

Anyone who has a concern about violation of the deed restrictions - which could include such things as trash put on the street ahead of schedule, multiple families in one

home, commercial operations, unsanitary conditions, nuisance animals, or parking/storage of vehicles not commonly used for personal transportation - may contact James at 713-973-9312.

Also, please contact James if you wish to serve as a member of DROCOM or have other questions. See the SBOCA website for full explanation of the deed restrictions and the committee's duties.

Additional guidelines will soon be in place to supplement the deed restrictions, in response to certain new state laws.

These new laws permit residents to have such things as rain barrels, solar panels, and flag poles, but they also allow homeowners' associations to restrict them in order to preserve the appearance of the neighborhood.

Provisions for residents to have access to association documents and to provide payment options are also included.

Guidelines covering eight different categories are being filed with Harris County and will be posted on the SBOCA website.

## TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Friday, July 13     | Recycle            |
| Thursday, July 26   | Tree trash pick-up |
| Friday, July 27     | Recycle            |
| Friday, August 10   | Recycle            |
| Thursday, August 23 | Junk trash pick-up |
| Friday, August 24   | Recycle            |
| Friday, September 7 | Recycle            |



## DON'T BE A BANDIT!

We have all seen them - those small signs on stakes, placed along public spaces such as esplanades, sidewalks, and curbs - advertising everything from garage sales to real estate to political candidates. **They are often referred to as "bandit signs", because placing these on any public property is prohibited by the City of Houston Sign Code.**

**If you are putting out signs for a garage sale, association meeting, or other event, please be sure to place them on your own property!**

## SBOCA Officers for 2012

|                 |                  |                                |              |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| PRESIDENT:      | Sheree Speck     | shereespeck@speckinsurance.com | 713-647-0088 |
| VICE PRESIDENT: | Carolyn Schooley | carolynschooley@sbcglobal.net  | 713-464-2931 |
| SECRETARY:      | Linda Cover      | cover.linda@yahoo.com          | 713-464-7787 |
| TREASURER:      | Linda Lochli     | lindalochli@sbcglobal.net      | 713-461-6504 |

## *In Memoriam*

Spring Branch Oaks resident Bob Batten passed away on Friday, June 8. Bob moved to Houston in 1945 after returning from Germany at the end of World War II. He met, fell in love with, and married his wife Iris while stationed in England.

We extend our sympathy to Iris and to their family.