



# Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



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www.springbrancoaks.com

May-June 2013

## MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL

Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association has an "open meetings" policy, and anyone is welcome to attend both General Membership Meetings and Executive Board meetings, to see and hear what is going on in the subdivision.

Homeowners who have a concern or question may voice those at any General Membership Meeting. Executive Board meetings have a fixed agenda, so anyone who wishes to address the Board during one of its meetings should submit a request 10 days in advance. That may be done by contacting any of

the Board members (listed in the directory and on the back of this newsletter) in writing regarding the specific topic and time you need. This will assure that the Board can efficiently work through all the business on its agenda and also be prepared for your concerns.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, and the next General Meeting on Tuesday, October 15. All meetings are held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Latham Hall, 1656 Blalock Road, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

## CITY ACTS ON SOME CHANGES

### Chapter 42: Urban Density

Houston City Council voted April 24 to approve the administration's proposal to change Chapter 42 of the City Code of Ordinances, which will move the urban density boundary from the Interstate 610 Loop to the city limits.

Our representative, Helena Brown, voted against this change in response to overwhelmingly negative comments from area residents. She also proposed an amendment to opt-out District A except for lots greater than an acre. This amendment was defeated.

This new urban classification lowers the minimum residential lot width to just 15 feet across, adds requirements for guest parking that may reduce road width, and mandates shared parking in some cases. Lots smaller than 1,400 square feet will be allowed, as long as the average lot size in a development is 1,400 feet and the density does not exceed 27 units per acre. To opt-out of these requirements, 60% of the resi-

dents of a neighborhood will have to sign a petition.

### One Bin for All

Another proposal presented by Mayor Parker is a new approach to recycling in the City of Houston termed "One Bin for All". Under this approach, citizens would be provided with a single bin for both waste and recyclables. A new standalone facility would process and separate recyclables. Houston was awarded a \$1 million grant for this project, and Mayor Parker is eager to begin implementing it.

While the city administration claims that this new process will achieve high-volume recycling and waste diversion, recycling businesses have expressed concern. Among other issues, recyclers fear that it will displace jobs and negatively affect competition, resulting in lower quality control. Health concerns related to contamination resulting from mixing garbage with recyclables have also been expressed.

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Board Meeting - June 18

An Executive Board meeting will be held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Latham Hall, 1656 Blalock Road, on Tuesday, June 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### General Membership Meeting - October 15

The next General Membership Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 15. This is an important meeting, since new officers will be nominated and elected then. Please put it on your calendar now!

### DROCOM meetings held monthly

Meetings are held on the second Thursday each month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Trini Sosa Community Center, 1414 Wirt at Westview.

### JULY 4TH FUN IN STORE



Instead of a regular meeting in July, we hope to have a fun evening for the neighborhood! Watch for more details on a special celebration for Independence Day.



## TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Friday, May 3  
Recycle

Friday, May 17  
Recycle

Thursday, May 23  
Tree trash

Friday, May 31  
Recycle

Friday, June 14  
Recycle

Thursday, June 27  
Junk trash

Friday, June 28  
Recycle

**Holiday schedule:**  
**Saturday, July 6**  
**Trash and yard waste pickup**

## In Memoriam

Floyd Mills passed away April 10, at age 71. Floyd served in the U.S. Army as a dog handler and was honorably discharged in 1968. He was an avid outdoorsman, and especially enjoyed taking his sons, grandchildren, and friends fishing. Preceded in death by Joyce Mills, his wife of 41 years, Floyd is survived by his sons Jeff and William, and three grandchildren. We will miss this good neighbor.

### WHO OWNS THAT HOUSE?

Do you sometimes wonder? There is a simple way to find out - Harris County Appraisal District. You can visit their site: [www.hcad.org](http://www.hcad.org) to get the name of the owner of record.

## TREES CAN GET OUT OF BOUNDS

In a recent issue of the Houston Chronicle, legal expert Ronald Lipman responded to two questions related to trees which overhang or otherwise encroach on a neighbor's property.

In one case, the roots from a neighboring tree were growing under the driveway and causing it to buckle. In the other, branches were overhanging. In both cases, Mr. Lipman advised that the homeowner has the right to cut the roots or the overhanging branches. However, since cutting the roots or branches of a tree may cause it to die, he advised talking with the neighbor on whose

property the tree stands, and ask for permission first. In any case, the work should be done by a professional tree service company.



Spring Branch Oaks is blessed with many beautiful trees. We want to care for and protect them, while insuring that they do not endanger or inconvenience our neighbors. Discussing any issues you have first is always the best approach.

## CITY COUNCIL: CHANGES COMING

*Continued from page 1*

If you wish to express your opinion on any of the matters before City Council, you may contact our representatives listed here:

Helena Brown - District A  
832-393-3010  
[DistrictA@houstontx.gov](mailto:DistrictA@houstontx.gov)

Stephen Costello - At Large 1  
832-393-3014  
[atlarge1@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge1@houstontx.gov)

Andrew Burks, Jr. - At Large 2  
832.393.3013  
[atlarge2@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge2@houstontx.gov)

Melissa Noriega - At Large 3  
832-393-3005  
[atlarge3@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge3@houstontx.gov)

C.O "Brad" Bradford - At Large 4  
832-393-3012  
[atlarge4@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge4@houstontx.gov)

Jack Christie - At Large 5  
832-393-3017  
[atlarge5@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge5@houstontx.gov)



### WALKING YOUR DOG?

It is great to see so many neighbors out walking their dogs, and there is no better time to get acquainted. Please be considerate of your neighbors' yards, though, and carry a bag to pick up anything that your dog leaves behind.

### SBOCA Officers for 2013

Sheree Speck	shereespeck@speckinsurance.com	713-647-0088
Carolyn Schooley	carolynschooley@sbcglobal.net	713-464-2931
Linda Cover	cover.linda@yahoo.com	713-464-7787
Linda Lochli	lindalochli@sbcglobal.net	713-461-6504
Dan Hollingsworth	haul_e@mail.com	214-585-3140

### Other contacts

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