



# Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



Vol. 24 Issue 2

[www.springbranchoaks.com](http://www.springbranchoaks.com)

April-June 2015

## MINIMUM LOT SIZE PETITION FAILS

Apathy on the part of many homeowners in Spring Branch Oaks caused the application to establish a minimum lot size in our subdivision to fail. Part of the new city ordinance designed to protect neighborhoods against high-density construction, this would have added a layer of

protection to our deed restrictions.

Approximately 40% of the eligible voters supported the measure, far short of the 55% needed to send it on to the Planning Commission. Less than half of the property owners even returned their ballots.

A follow-up option is still available for individual streets. Residents may apply for a Minimum Lot Size Block designation, which would cover all property on that street.

We will include discussion of this outcome at the General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21.

## GENERAL MEETING WILL BE APRIL 21

Our quarterly General Membership Meeting will be held at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 1656 Blalock, on Tuesday evening, April 21.

Come at 6:30 p.m. for coffee and cookies and a chance to visit with your neighbors. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

We hope to have a representative from Councilwoman Brenda Stardig's office speak at the meeting. Other business will include a report and discussion on the recent Minimum Lot Size Area application, a report from the Audit Committee, and discussion of a new subdivision directory.

Come with your ideas on how we can make our neighborhood even better!



Please update/register your email and phone information on the SBOCA website!

## ARE YOU CONNECTED?

Did you get the message?

Reminders of upcoming meetings and other announcements go out regularly to those who are registered on the Spring Branch

Oaks website—[www.springbranchoaks.com](http://www.springbranchoaks.com).

If you are not already registered, please visit the website and give us your contact information. Look for the "Sign Up" button in the

top right-hand corner of home page.

While you are there, check out the other helpful information that our website provides—including local history, deed restrictions

and other Association documents, officers' names and contact information, and resources provided by the city and county.

## 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.

### General Membership Meetings

April 21

July 21

October 20

### Board of Directors Meetings

June 16

September 15

### National Night Out - Tuesday, October 6

Details will be announced later.

## YARD-OF-THE-MONTH PROGRAM BEGINS AGAIN IN APRIL



### *In Memoriam*

We were saddened to lose two of our Spring Branch Oaks neighbors recently.

Mimi Knighton died on Tuesday, January 20. Many of you may remember Mimi as the owner of the Burton Vacuum Cleaner shop on Campbell Road.

Ed Umbright Jr. passed away at a local nursing home on Wednesday, March 25. He had been in failing health, but still enjoyed waving to neighbors out walking. Our condolences go to his children Ed, Susan, Jan, and Joan.

SBOCA will again participate in Cornelius' Good Neighbor program from April through September. Each month a home in our subdivision will be selected for Yard-of-the-Month and will receive a gift certificate from the nursery.

Congratulations to our April winner, Joyce Golub, at 9306 Rosstown!

Drive by to see her lovely yard and be watching on our website for pictures of the winners.

We were sorry to see the Cornelius Nursery on Dairy Ashford give way to new construction. Their store at 2233 S. Voss is still open daily, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., and it is bursting with beautiful blooms.

We love to spread good news! If you know of an important event in the life of one of our neighbors, please share the news with us by emailing Linda Cover at [cover.linda@yahoo.com](mailto:cover.linda@yahoo.com) or calling her at 713-464-7787.

## CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID!

Congratulations to David Postma, who was named Houston West Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Volunteer of the Year. His company Genesis Photography

takes all the photos of chamber events.

The award goes to someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty as a chamber volunteer.

## TRASH TALK

New dumpsters in place for recycle

We were happy to receive the new green rolling dumpsters for RECYCLE materials, replacing the small bins. In addition to cans, paper and cardboard, and plastic, these will accept glass containers, which were not permitted before.

The collection schedule will remain the same. Containers should be set on the curb by 7:00 a.m. Be sure to leave three feet between each cart and other objects such as cars, trees, and mailboxes, so the SWMD trucks can pick them up quickly and easily.

Please remember that these are for recycle only (no trash, styrofoam, or plastic bags), and are to be kept out of sight from the street, along with your regular garbage dumpster, except on collection day.

Collection assistance for the physically challenged

Did you know that the City of Houston Solid Waste

Management Department offers physically challenged customers assistance at no additional cost to them? To receive this assistance, please call the city's help line at 311 to place a request.

After placing the service request, you will be required to submit a form showing a physician's certification that the individual is physically challenged and unable to place the container at the curb or collection. That form is available on-line at [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/swd-disabilities.pdf](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/swd-disabilities.pdf).

Upon receiving the request, a SWMD inspector will come to your home and confirm that the individual or individuals are physically challenged. Special collection assistance will begin within 7-10 days of receipt of the physician's certification and the home inspection.

If you have neighbors who may need this assistance, please let them know that the city provides it. Thanks to Beth Woolf for alerting us to the service.

## Trash collection schedule



Friday, April 3	Recycle
Friday, April 17	Recycle
Thursday, April 23	Junk trash
Friday, May 1	Recycle
Friday, May 15	Recycle
Thursday, May 28	Tree trash
Friday, May 29	Recycle
Friday, June 12	Recycle
Thursday, June 25	Tree trash
Friday, June 26	Recycle

## BARC LAUNCHES NEW PET APP

Brenda Stardig's recent newsletter contained information about the new pet-finding service which is now available for all Houstonians, introduced by BARC and Friends for Life.

Finding Rover is a free service for identifying lost and found dogs in real-time with facial recognition technology accessible through the smartphone app and website. It helps reunite more dogs with their owners by enabling anyone to instantly identify a missing dog simply by taking a photo of the dog. It's matching capability is 98% accurate.

Registration is easy through Facebook or email—all you need is a picture of your dog and a zip code. Your information remains private. You provide preferred contact information to be published only when creating a lost or found dog poster.

Users can view the shelters in their area to see if their lost dog has been impounded. People will also be able to view adoptable dogs from their local shelters and rescues right on Finding Rover.

To register or learn more, visit their website:  
[www.findingrover.com](http://www.findingrover.com)



# Finding Rover

Protecting our best friends

FREE service to help save lost dogs available now

1) Download the app or visit the website

2) Register by snapping a photo



3) Report dogs lost and found

4) Check for matches, and save a life

## Facial recognition for dogs

98% accurate | Push notification alerts | FREE

[FindingRover.com](http://FindingRover.com)

## ATTORNEY IS SPEAKER AT JANUARY MEETING

Assistant County Attorney Jorey Herrscher provided an interesting talk at the General Membership Meeting on January 20. He described the work of the Nuisance Abatement Department, which deals

with issues such as game rooms, prostitution, illegal immigrants, and drug houses. Anyone who suspects that illegal activity is occurring in the neighborhood is encouraged to

contact his office at 713-274-5283.

Following Mr. Herrscher's presentation, there was lively discussion relating to some neighborhood concerns.

## GET INVOLVED—APRIL IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

All residents—long-time homeowners, new residents, and even renters—can contribute to making our community a great place to live by volunteering a few hours a month on any one of several association projects.

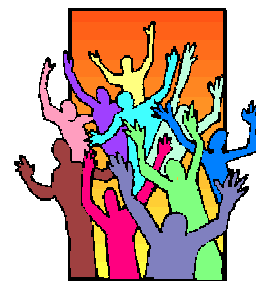
The next time you're looking for an activity or a way to meet your neighbors, consider participating on an association committee or task force or volunteering to plan a casual neighborhood social gathering.

Block Leaders, Deed Restriction Oversight Committee (DROCOM), Citizens on Patrol, and National Night Out are just a few of the ways to be involved. Your ideas, time and effort will be a valuable contribution to making a neighborhood event successful.

Your neighbors aren't the only ones who'll benefit from your volunteer endeavors. According to [HELPGUIDE.org](http://HELPGUIDE.org), volunteering can reveal untapped

talents, teach new skills, introduce you to new activities, and increase your self-confidence. Participating in a community activity also can provide networking opportunities that can benefit your career and your social life.

Contact an association board member soon to ask how you can get involved in our community. Who knows? There may even be a need that should be filled by someone just like you.



Our neighborhood needs you!

## SBOCA Board of Directors for 2015

Brian Gehring	President	Brian.Gehring@dnw.com	832-275-6149
Matthew Harkrider	Vice-President	mhark@alertlogic.com	832-656-0962 or 832-646-5584
Linda Cover	Secretary	cover.linda@yahoo.com	713-464-7787
Greg Rudichuk	Treasurer	grudichuk@sbcglobal.net	713-827-0103
Ryan Klaus	Board member	ryan.klaus@spectrumhhi.com	832-312-9091
Sheree Speck	Board member	shereespeck@speckinsurance.com	713-385-0290
<b>Other contacts</b>			
Ryan Klaus	DROCOM	sbodrocom@gmail.com	832-312-9091
Jim Majsterski	Citizens On Patrol	JimMajsterski@aol.com	713-973-0740

GENERAL MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, APRIL 21 AT 6:30 P.M.

Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association  
P.O. Box 801562  
Houston, Texas 77080

