



# Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



Vol. 24 Issue 3

www.springbrancoaks.com

July-September 2015

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL WILL BE JULY 21



It's too hot for a picnic, but we will be cool inside on Tuesday, July 21!

Instead of a regular business meeting, this will be a just-for-fun meeting, with a chance to visit

with your neighbors and enjoy some sweet treats.

The Social will begin at 6:30 p.m., at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, with ice cream and yummy toppings. Mark your calendar now!

## Message from the President

As many of you may be aware, earlier this year the SBOCA Board spearheaded an effort to establish a Special Minimum Lot Size designation for the Spring Branch Oaks and Saddle-Spur neighborhood with the City of Houston Planning & Development Department.

In essence, the designation would established a minimum allowable lot size within the neighborhood, which would prevent the existing lots from being divided into an area smaller than the size established by the designation. The main reason for seeking this designation was to preserve the character of the neighborhood and to prevent redevelopment of the lots into town-

homes. Despite a positive response by many property owners, the effort to establish the Special Minimum Lot Size designation for the neighborhood was not successful, as the required percentage of votes from the property owners of the neighborhood in support of the designation was not received by the City Planning & Development Department.

While we are disappointed with this result and cannot bring forth another application for the designation on behalf of the neighborhood at this time, the City of Houston does allow applications for the Special Minimum Lot Size designation to still be made on a

"block" basis, as opposed to on behalf of the neighborhood as a whole.

Currently, several residents within the neighborhood are attempting to establish Special Minimum Lot Size designations for their particular streets under the "block" basis. Streets where the designation is being pursued are Spring Branch Drive, Livernois, Walterville and Willowview.

I wanted to take a moment and say that I support the efforts made by residents to seek Special Minimum Lot Size designation for their particular streets, and it is my hope that if you are a property owner on a street that is seeking this designation, you give your support for the designation.

## Upcoming Meetings

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

**General Membership Meetings**

**July 21  
October 20**

**Board of Directors Meetings**

**September 15**

**National Night Out -  
Tuesday, October 6**

Details to be announced later.

While our deed restrictions do provide some protection against efforts to subdivide existing lots and redevelop existing lots for townhomes, I believe the establishment of minimum lot size designations provides a greater level of protection for the neighborhood.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## THANK YOU, BLOCK LEADERS!

“Boots on the ground” is a phrase we often hear, and it expresses the importance of people in our neighborhood. We depend on the Block Leaders spread throughout the subdivision to keep up with what is going on, to greet new residents, and help us stay in touch.

Would you be willing to fill that place for your block? Thanks to those of you who have already volunteered! Our vice-president, Matthew Harkrider, is hoping to have someone for every street in the subdivision.

Please contact Matthew at 832-656-0962 or 832-646-5584 or email [mhark@alertlogic.com](mailto:mhark@alertlogic.com) to

## President's message

*(Continued from page 1)*

If you have any questions regarding the Special Minimum Lot Size designation process and/or you are interested in starting the application process for the street on which you own a property, you can find general information regarding the program on the Planning & Development Department website located at [www.HoustonPlanning.com](http://www.HoustonPlanning.com) and/or you can contact Chris Andrews at the Planning & Development Department at 832-393-6520.

Thank you and have an enjoyable summer,

*Brian Gehring*



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YARD-OF-THE-MONTH WINNERS

Congratulations to Shane Sealy on having his home at 9345 Walterville selected as May Yard-of-the-Month!

Lawrence and Martha Doffing's yard at 9354 Rosstown was chosen for June. The Doffings are on the corner of Rosstown and

Benbow, so they have lots of yard to keep looking nice.

For July, the winner is Jim and Elizabeth Majsterski, at 9342 Rosstown.

We appreciate being part of Cornelius Nursery's

Good Neighbor program from April through September. Each month a home in our subdivision is selected for Yard-of-the-Month and receives a gift certificate from the nursery.

## DISTRICT A SATELITE OFFICE OPENS IN SPRING BRANCH

On Thursday, June 18, 2015, Brenda Stardig hosted the grand opening of her new District A Satellite Office at the Freed Park Community Center, 7020 Shadyvilla Lane. Freed Park is located just north of Westview, between Antoine and Silber.

Beginning this summer, this office will be open on Fridays and by appointment the rest of the week. This will allow district residents to meet with them in a convenient location without having to deal with the inconvenience of driving downtown. It is good to

see our city council representative working to improve relationships in the community.

To contact her office, phone 832-393-3010 or email [districta@houstontx.gov](mailto:districta@houstontx.gov).

## PLANNING A GARAGE SALE?

Summer seems to be the season for garage sales. We all like to find a bargain and to clean out unwanted items. If you are planning to hold a sale, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- The **Office of the State Comptroller** regulates sales of this type. Residents are allowed to have only two such sales within a twelve-month peri-

od. Any more than two and the resident is recognized as a business and must obtain a sales tax permit from the state.

- Posting signs to advertise your sale is permitted, but please be sure to remove them once the sale is over.
- During your sale, insure that people park so that traffic on the street is not obstructed.

- If you are aware that someone is holding garage or yard sales more frequently than twice a year, please remind them of this regulation and report it to 311 if necessary.



# HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE—ARE YOU READY?

There has been lots of rain, and a few of our neighbors experienced flooding and storm damage in May. We know that—in spite of a quiet start—it is Hurricane Season. So now is a good time to be thinking about preparedness.

## What to do now:

- **Tame Mother Nature**  
Trim trees to reduce potential damage from falling limbs.
- **Clear out gutters**  
Clean rain gutters and keep them free of debris. Clogged drains and gutters can lead to flooding.
- **Get rid of clutter**  
Pick up things around your yard that you are no longer using, such as empty plant pots, etc.
- **Shield glass**  
Purchase storm shutters or plywood to protect windows, glass doors, and skylights in the event of a storm.
- **Lay in supplies**  
Bottled water, canned goods, candles and batteries are good things to have on hand in case

of power outages, which often accompany storms.

## What to do before the storm hits:

- **Gas up**  
Keep your car ready to leave quickly if necessary.
- **Rearrange belongings**  
Move valuable items away from windows.
- **Bring the outdoors in**  
Bring lighter-weight outdoor items indoors, such as trash cans, patio furniture, plants and toys. Secure other objects that could be picked up by the wind.
- **Shelter your car and other vehicles**  
If you have to evacuate and plan to leave a car, boat, or motorcycle behind, put it in the garage or on higher ground. Avoid parking it under a tree or on a low-lying street where it could be damaged by water.
- **Evacuate**  
Leave the area if necessary to protect yourself and your family. Always comply with man-

datory evacuation by civil authority.

## What to do after the storm:

- **Wait until the coast is clear**  
If you evacuated, listen to the radio or TV news stations and wait until the area is declared safe before returning.
- **Don't flip the switch**  
Once you return home, don't turn on the power right away if the area of your home is flooded. Have an electrician inspect your home first. You should have your gas lines inspected—avoid open flames or candles until you do. Also, have the plumbing checked.
- **Create a documentary**  
Record or photograph any damage to your home and belongings—before repairs are made or claims are filed. Protect your property from further damage and keep all receipts for these costs.



Don't wait for a hurricane to threaten. Get ready now!

## NEW DIRECTORIES IN THE WORKS

It has been two years since our last Spring Branch Oaks directory was published, and we all know that lots of changes have taken place in the neighborhood since then. Your Board of Directors is planning to publish an updated directory, which will include homeowners' names and phone numbers, deed restrictions, by-laws, and other helpful information.

The new directories will be handed out at the October General Meeting, so you will want to be sure to attend.

To help us get the most accurate listings, our block leaders will be stopping by to check. If you are willing to help with this project, please contact Linda Cover at 713-464-7787 or email [cover.linda@yahoo.com](mailto:cover.linda@yahoo.com)

## TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE



Friday, July 10	Recycle
Thursday, July 23	Tree trash
Friday, July 24	Recycle
Friday, August 7	Recycle
Friday, August 21	Recycle
Thursday, August 27	Junk trash
Friday, September 4	Recycle
Friday, September 18	Recycle
Thursday, September 24	Tree trash
Friday, October 2	Recycle

## 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

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL WILL BE TUESDAY, JULY 21, AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

