



Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



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www.springbrancoaks.com

March-April 2013

APRIL 16 GENERAL MEETING WILL FEATURE SPEAKER FROM MAM

You have probably noticed all the new construction going on at the Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) facility on Blalock. There's a lot going on inside, too!

MAM offers social services to area residents in need, so they can be stable and healthy, with the means to meet their basic needs and improve their economic security. Support comes from 30 area congregations, who provide volunteers and financial contributions, and proceeds from the Resale Shop.

Martha Macris, executive director for MAM, will be the featured speaker at our General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 16. Come and hear how this organization benefits our community in so many ways. You can also learn about ways that you can be part of this ministry partnership.

We will have a snack supper at 6:30 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 7:00. **Child care is provided at all meetings.**

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Both the 311 non-emergency city services number and the 911 emergency phone number now have applications for smart phones that let you request services and receive alerts on your cell phone.

Mayor Parker told local residents recently that the majority of problems with city services such as trash collection, potholes, and water leaks go unreported. Now you can report a problem as soon as you see it, and the request goes directly to the appropriate department. Go to the city's website,

www.houstontx.gov, to download the application.

In addition to the AlertHouston Email Notification System, which sends out e-mail messages in advance of, and during emergency and disaster situations, Houston residents may also sign up for emergency notifications from GHC 911. Visit alert.houstonoem.org to find out how to sign up for both AlertHouston and GHC 911's Emergency Notification System (ENS).



NEW DIRECTORIES ARE HERE

All Spring Branch Oaks homeowners and residents should have received the new 2013 directory by now.

Besides name, address, and phone number of each resident, the directories have a copy of the By-laws, Guidelines, and the Deed Restrictions. Please make it a point to be familiar with these

documents and comply with them, to help protect our neighborhood.

As hard as we have tried to be accurate, we know that there will be mistakes. If you see an error in your listing, please let us know by going to the Association's website, www.springbrancoaks.com, and selecting the "Contact Us" link.

Upcoming Meetings

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

General Membership Meetings

April 16
October 15

Executive Committee Meetings

March 19
June 18
September 17

National Night Out - Monday, October 1

Details will be announced later.

DROCOM

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

Document Shredding
at MAM
MEMORIAL ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

Jan. 26, 2013 - Apr. 20, 2013 - Sept. 21, 2013
9:00 AM - Noon

\$10 minimum donation for service (\$75 value)
documents shredded securely on-site
businesses and individuals welcome
donations benefit MAM programs

www.helperehelpnow.org

NEW BOARD SELECTS OFFICERS

Members of the SBOCA Board of Directors were elected at the October 16 General Membership meeting. On January 8, the board held its first meeting, elected officers, and assigned terms for each.

The new by-laws provide for three-year terms, but in order to provide continuity these first officers will stagger their terms and serve for one, two, or three years.

The assignments are as follows:

President	Sheree Speck	1 year
Vice-President	Carolyn Schooley	2 years
Treasurer	Linda Lochley	2 years
Secretary	Linda Cover	3 years
Board Member	Dan Hollingsworth	3 years

Mr. Hollingsworth will be in charge of special projects. Goals for the coming year were discussed, including the possibility of new entrance markers.

Payments for the annual \$20.00 assessment fee were due on February 28. If you have not made your payment, please send it now to:

Attention: Treasurer
c/o SBOCA
P.O. Box 801562
Houston, TX 77280



TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Friday, March 8
Recycle

Friday, March 22
Recycle

Thursday, March 28
Tree trash

Friday, April 5
Recycle

Friday, April 19
Recycle

Thursday, April 25
Junk trash

Friday, May 3
Recycle

MEMBERS GET AUTO SAFETY TIPS AT JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Sgt. Tracy Hicks, who works undercover in the Houston Police Department's Auto Theft and Burglary Division, gave an interesting talk, complete with PowerPoint slides, detailing some of the statistics related to auto theft in the U.S. and in Houston at the January 15 General Membership meeting. A \$2 fee included in auto insurance helps fund 600 agencies in Texas who target these crimes.

A car is stolen every 43 seconds in the U.S., and every 8 minutes in Texas. It takes only 30 minutes to strip a stolen vehicle, and the parts can be sold for two to four times its value. The Ford F250 pick-up is the most stolen model in Houston. Here, stolen cars

are most often used in connection with other crimes such as insurance fraud, human smuggling, and narcotics.

Tips to prevent your car from being stolen or burglarized:

- Use common sense (lock it, take the keys, never leave it running while unattended)
- Never leave possessions (especially electronics) in view inside the car
- Have an alarm system on the car
- Use immobilizing device like kill switch
- Use vehicle tracking and recovery systems such as LoJack, window etching

Spring Branch Oaks uses the green circle sticker to identify residents' cars. If you do not have one, get it at the next meeting.

SBOCA Officers for 2013

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Linda Lochli	lindalochli@sbcglobal.net	713-461-6504
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