



Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association



Volume 22, Issue 6

www.springbrancoaks.com

November-December 2013

BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AND CANDIDATES INTRODUCED AT OCTOBER MEETING

The Spring Branch Oaks Civic Association held its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. Several candidates for the City Council District A seat came to meet residents and present their platforms. Helena Brown, Ron Hale, Mike Knox, and Amy Peck all showed up to introduce themselves. Be sure to vote on Tuesday, November 5! Early voting begins October 23 and runs until November 1.

Board election

The meeting also included election of members to the Association's Board of Directors. One position was open, and Sheree Speck was elected to fill it. Brian Gehring was also a candidate, and sentiment at the meeting was that another position should be created, in order to allow Mr. Gehring to serve also. Since our by-laws stipulated that the Board should consist of no less than three or more than five members, a motion was made and passed

to amend the by-laws, removing the maximum number. Mr. Gehring was then elected to serve as a sixth member on the Board of Directors. This will allow for two members to be elected each year. Welcome to the Board, Brian! Officers for 2014 will be determined at the Board of Directors' meeting on January 7.

Other business

The duties of the treasurer have been increasing, and the Board has discussed employing a management company to assume some of these responsibilities.

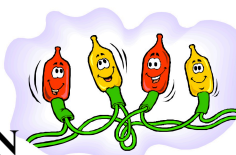
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Take Note...

**Next General
Membership
Meeting will be
Tuesday,
January 21,
2014**

**The Board of Directors will
meet on Tuesday, January 7.**

CHRISTMAS DECORATION CONTEST TO BE HELD



Are you ready for Christmas? It will be here before we know it! ...and SBOCA will again be awarding prizes for outdoor decorations.

Judges will be making the rounds of the neighborhood during the weeks of December 13-23, between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. Cash prizes of \$50, \$40, and \$30 will be awarded for first, second, and third place, with two honorable mentions. Be sure to have your lights turned on!

MINIMUM LOT SIZE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

When Houston City Council passed the Chapter 42 ordinance, extending the urban designation out to the city limits, it also made provision for neighborhoods who do not want high-density housing to take action against it. One of the tools provided to subdivisions is the Special Minimum Lot Size designation.

SBOCA Secretary Linda Cover recently met with members of the city Planning Department to discuss this option for us. Spring Branch Oaks and Saddle Spur do meet the requirements to apply for such a designation. If approved, this would establish a minimum lot size for any future construction inside the subdivision as that of 70% of the existing homes. Property already built would not be affected, only new construction.

While our deed restrictions do limit housing to single-family dwellings and offer some other protection, this would prohibit townhouse and other such

dense construction as is happening in nearby areas.

Residents will be asked to sign a petition to apply for this designation. Once the Planning Department receives a petition signed by 10% of the homeowners, they will schedule a public meeting in the area to explain the process further and get input from residents.

After the public meeting, every homeowner will be mailed a ballot to vote on the proposal. **It requires approval of at least 55% of the homeowners for the application to be accepted and sent on to City Council for final approval.**

This process was mentioned briefly at the October Annual Meeting and discussion will be a main item of business in January. It will be important for every resident to be involved in this process to insure that our neighborhood retains its suburban nature.



COME FOR BREAKFAST

You're invited! Ladies in Spring Branch Oaks will be getting together on Saturday morning, December 14, for a Christmas Brunch at Linda Cover's home, 9215 Spring

Branch Drive. We'll start about 9:30 a.m. Drop by for a bite to eat and a chance to visit with your neighbors before heading off for shopping...

Give Linda a call at 713-464-7787 or email to cover.linda@yahoo.com if you plan to be there.

You may find that it's so much fun you will want to join the monthly get-together at Mytiburger, 9405 Kempwood (at Blalock), usually on the third Saturday each month. Gwen Hancock is the organizer for these. You can email her at flying2success@prodigy.net to be added to the reminder list.

TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

HEAVY TRASH AND REGULAR TRASH/RECYCLE PICK-UP WILL BE DELAYED ONE DAY FOLLOWING THANKSGIVING BUT ON REGULAR SCHEDULE IN DECEMBER.

Can't wait for heavy trash collection? Residents who wish to dispose of Tree Waste or Junk Waste before their scheduled once-per-month collection may use one of six Neighborhood Depository/ Recycling Centers. Visit their web page (<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/depositories.html>) for details.

Friday, November 1
Recycle

Friday, November 15
Recycle

Friday, November 29
Tree trash

Saturday, November 30
Recycle

Friday, December 13
Recycle

Thursday, December 26
Junk trash

Friday, December 27
Recycle

Friday, January 10
Recycle

PARKING PROBLEMS



The Deed Restrictions Oversight Committee (DRO-COM) has received a number of complaints recently about vehicle parking. Please be aware that both our Deed Restrictions and city ordinance have some regulations on when and where vehicles may be parked in our subdivision. They include the following:

- Vehicles may not be parked or stored on easements, lawns, grassed, or dirt surfaces.
- No large truck, bus, trailer, boat, or mobile home shall be parked or stored within the subdivision except in a garage or parked on a hardened surface behind the building set-back line.
- Parking, storage, or other display of commercial vehicles is prohibited.
- Inoperable vehicles shall not be stored on any residential lot, roadway, or easement.
- No trailer, recreation vehicle, or motor home may be used as a residence.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and follow these guidelines. You may see a complete copy of the Deed Restrictions in the neighborhood directory and on the website, www.springbranchoaks.com.

OCTOBER MEETING: CHANGES COMING

(Continued from page 1)

Dan Hollingsworth has been investigating this possibility and gave a brief report on his findings. One additional benefit of adding professional services would be the ability to accept credit card payments for the Association's annual assessment.

Linda Cover spoke about her meeting with the city Planning Department and circulated a petition to begin the application process for a Special Minimum Lot Size designa-

tion for our subdivision (*see related article on page 1*). These issues will be addressed in more detail at the January 21 General Meeting.

COP Chairman Jim Majsterski reminded everyone that the Citizens on Patrol program can count any time you are out and around the neighborhood - walking the dog, jogging, biking, or just riding around. Please send your times to him at the end of each month.

SBOCA Board of Directors for 2013

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