

University Oaks Newsletter

February 2004

Next meeting of the University Oaks Civic Club: Wednesday February 11th at 7:30 pm
At: U of H College of Architecture Auditorium – open from 7:00 pm

Message from the President

Greetings,

Finally the street lights are being connected. Thank you Shawn for your persistence with the City and Reliant Energy.

Last months Civic Club Meeting was informative and this month will be as well, we shall have a talk from the Houston Police Department on neighborhood watch, a report from John and Evelyn Broussard in regards to a tree workshop they attended and the regular CivicClub matters.

Your President had a lapse of memory and forgot to mention and welcome to the neighborhood Jesse Mendez and Jeanette Morehouse residing at 4509 University Oaks Blvd. Welcome and thank you for the improvements to your home and property.

Also, coming soon, we will have a new section in the newsletter written by the children in our community.

Remember to invoke your right as a resident to send in your nominations for the Board of Directors (see information in the newsletter). Also remember those who serve your community are volunteers.

The last of the paper work from the City of Houston has been cleared and very, very soon you will see a transformation in our islands.

I thank all who participate in our neighborhood and encourage others to become involved. Many things are happening around our community that will affect us all (the widening of Braes Bayou).

I look forward to seeing you at the next Civic Club Meeting and as always you are welcome to contact me at any time.

Lastly, The Board and I wish to express our sympathy to the Flower's family for the loss of their mother.

Yours in Service,

Larry N. Bahn

Message from the Board

AFTER TWO YEARS IN OFFICE, THE BYLAWS OF OUR COMMUNITY REQUIRE THAT THE HOME OWNERS VOTE IN A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THIS NEW BOARD MAY INCLUDE THOSE WHO JUST COMPLETED A TWO YEAR TERM AND/OR SOME NEW PEOPLE. IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE FOR A POSITION ON THE BOARD, PLEASE [MAIL OR DROP](#) YOUR NOMINATION TO WILBERT TAYLOR, 4387 VARSITY LANE, [OR VIA EMAIL AT wtaylor@uh.edu](#).

YOUR NOMINATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 3 SO THAT A LIST OF THOSE NOMINATED CAN BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE MARCH 10 CIVIC CLUB MEETING. VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE DURING AN AFTERNOON NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITY ON MARCH 27. THIS ACTIVITY WILL REPLACE THE BREAKFAST ON THE BAYOU. THE SEVEN PERSONS RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES WILL BE THE OFFICERS FOR THE NEW TERM (SEPT 2004 - AUGUST 2006).

Multicultural Festival this Spring

We are planning a multicultural festival representing the wonderful mix of people that make up our community. This year, this festival will replace the annual Breakfast on the Bayou. Let us know if you would like to identify your ethnic group to make sure it is included. Also, let us know if you would like to volunteer to help on the day of the festival. This festival is currently scheduled for Saturday, March 27th. Please send correspondence to Patricia Wycliff, 713-741-2555 or pwycliff@yahoo.com

CALHOUN, MLK, and WHEELER INTERSECTION

This is to inform those residents who missed last month's meeting of the key topic of discussion.

Mr. Gary Drabek of the City of Houston was present to hear our concerns and complaints about this redesigned intersection, and the resulting "by-pass" that the design has created for vehicles through our neighborhood. Also present was our City Council-member's (Ada Edwards) assistant and Community Liaison, Nzinga Rideaux. Both guests listened patiently to our complaints about the noise, traffic and safety concerns associated with through traffic in UO. One of our off-duty HPD officers was also present and attested to the increase in traffic caused by the intersection. Although speed humps and traffic islands are perhaps part of the solution, these means do not seem to be having the desired effect of prohibiting excess through traffic. Moreover, the last traffic survey conducted by the City (leading to the speed humps and islands) was done before the construction of Spur 5 and before the closing of Calhoun as a through street. Therefore, we do not believe that the City has an accurate assessment of our current problems with traffic.

Overall, our objective is to restore the intersection to its condition before the construction of Spur 5 and the closing off of Calhoun. The Board believes that if Calhoun is once again a thoroughfare, the traffic through our neighborhood will decrease, and pedestrians will not have to dodge cars. We are exploring all of our options in this regard, and will keep the community informed. We are currently waiting for our Council member and the City to provide the contact information for Tex. DOT and U of H, as well as the City, in order that we may streamline the complaint process and present a petition or other request to the appropriate persons or departments. WE NEED COMMUNITY SUPPORT IF WE ARE TO CHANGE THIS INTERSECTION. This affects not only the through streets (Univ. Oaks, Faculty, and Rockwood), but when traffic backs up on these streets, it also affects Varsity, Harvest, Fiesta, Wheeler and MacGregor. Please contact a Board member if you are willing to help with this important cause. Look for further reports coming this Spring...

NEWS FROM THE DEED RESTRICTIONS COMMITTEE (DRC)

The DRC wishes to say THANK YOU to all responsible homeowners who have maintained and improved their properties here. This adds value to all of our homes, which represent the single largest monetary investment for many of us. The DRC also wishes to express its gratitude to homeowners who have promptly made repairs or renovations when notified of a violation. The DRC relies largely upon cooperation and individual responsibility from UO residents and owners. The mission of the DRC is to enforce the restrictions for the benefit of the entire community.

Unfortunately, the condition of some homes detracts from the property values of responsible homeowners. The condition of these homes also has a deleterious effect on the generally pleasant and charming character of our neighborhood. If you have received a notice of noncompliance from the DRC and the condition has not been corrected, or if you have been putting off renovations or ignoring needed maintenance, please follow the example of your responsible neighbors and take the initiative to spruce up your property. In some cases that have not been resolved, the DRC must involve attorneys and, ultimately, the homeowner will be responsible for legal fees. We will all benefit from a proactive approach to repairs and maintenance. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping our neighborhood unique and attractive.

Bargain Books!

Annual Bargain Book Sale at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Saturday March 27 9am-5pm and Sunday March 28 12noon-4pm. Thousands of Books! Hardbacks \$2 and Paperbacks \$1. Bag Day - Sunday only - \$10 a bag.

MOLD, MILDEW AND ALGAE:

This condition that renders many homes unattractive can be attributed to our humid climate. That said, it is easily remedied. Power washing will usually do the trick. In order to provide an incentive to remove mold, mildew and/or algae from many homes, the Board will solicit bids from a professional power-washing company. This is almost always done by painters, too, and a good idea if your home needs to be painted. Please contact Pat Wycliff if you are interested, and once we have a list of names and a rough idea of the number of potential customers, the Board will solicit bids. Hopefully, we can generate enough business to realize a significant volume discount. Please contact Pat for more information.

Our Condolences

You have probably heard that in December, Tom and Velma Whitaker lost two loved ones; their son Kent, who grew up in University Oaks, and his family were the victims of a home invasion. Tragically, the Whitaker's lost a daughter-in-law and grandson. We offer our condolences to them.

In January Mrs. Lallah Flowers passed away after a long illness. Mrs. Flowers lived in University Oaks for many years; and two of her children, Pat Laster and Curtis Flowers, still reside in our neighborhood. We extend our deepest sympathy to them.

I WANT YOUR OLD BRICKS: Have old, unused bricks cluttering up your garage or work shed? I need about 100 to finish a gardening project. All colors and sizes okay. Drop off at 4506 Rockwood. Call 713-440-0960 with questions

LOVE A PUPPY! 6 cute, precocious puppies @ 4506 Rockwood need homes. Heinz-57 (mostly terrier and shepherd). Born 1/31/04, 4 male/2 female. Ready for viewing wk of 2/9/04. Ready for new homes after 2/25/04. Adoption fee applies. If interested, please leave a message @ 713-440-0960.

UOCC Stuff (your help is needed)

As you know, most of the recent meetings have been held at the College of Architecture. We have been planning the meetings there when we expect a large turnout. We are going to try to have speakers at each meeting, but we need to begin to think about having some of the meetings in homes once again. We'll try to plan those meetings when we think the turnout might be somewhat smaller.

Please email me at robynwebb@swbell.net if you would be interested in hosting a meeting. I really do need some new volunteers.

I would also like you to think of a nearby place where we could have our meetings every month. It would need to be large enough to hold at least 100 people.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. See you on February 11 at the next civic club meeting.

Street Directors

There are just 7 streets in this neighborhood with over 200 homes. I'm looking for just 12 people to help deliver newsletters and other important things to the people on your street. I have a few volunteers already, but I'm still looking. Your title would be street director. Don't get worried - we won't overwork you in any way. We just need some help.

If you would like to help, please contact me at robynwebb@swbell.net.

UOCC Open House

The yearly UOCC open house will take place on Sunday, February 22, 2004, from 2:30 - 4:30. Everyone is invited. Please drop in to visit with your neighbors. There will be drawings every 1/2 hour. I know you would like a gift certificate to a really great place.

The location of the open house will be at 4396 Fiesta Lane, the home of Bruce and Robyn Webb.

Watch for your invitation. It will be delivered sometime in February.

(Please don't disappoint the Webb's.)

UOBC

SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY THROUGH JUNE, 2004

Meetings take place the first Wednesday of each month

February 4, THE GARDEN IN THE DUNES, host will be Susan Wegner

March 3, FROM CLAUSSENS PIER, host will be Donna Scott

UOBC cont'd.

April 7, MY NAME IS RED by Porphan Pamuk, host will be Linda Goldstein

May 5, The DA VINCI CODE by Dan Brown, host will be Laura Snyder

June 2, IN THE TIME OF THE BUTTERFLIES, by Julia Alvarez, host to be announced

February UOCC Meeting

The U of H Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture Building is again the site for our February meeting. We have already scheduled from 7 to 10. There is plenty of parking in the lots in front of the building. The meeting will take place in the auditorium.

Parking is available in Lot 18B and 16B (Directly in front of the building) Enter the campus at Entrance 18 off of Elgin Street or Entrance 19 off of Calhoun Road

The Community Services Division of the Houston Police Department is sending an officer to speak about two options which are available for neighborhood residents to become active in lowering crime in University Oaks. One is *Houstonians on Watch* and the other is *Citizens on Patrol*. The two programs require different levels of involvement from citizens, so this is an important opportunity to hear about both and decide how you want to be involved. As you know, crime increased in our neighborhood during and after all of the street repairs. There are definite things that each and every one of us can learn to be more observant and to know what to report and where to report it. These programs have made a huge difference in neighborhoods where they have been implemented. Remember, our police patrolmen hired by the neighborhood are not here all of the time! We need to know how to protect ourselves from crime at those other times!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Newsletter Deadline: Friday of the last week of the previous month.
- Civic Club meeting: 2nd Wednesday of each month. Next meeting is February 11th, to be held at the U of H College of Architecture Auditorium.
- Recycling: every other Tues. (next pickup February 17th)
- Garbage pickup: every Tuesday
- Heavy trash pickup: 2nd Tuesday of each month
- **UOCC Open House Sun Feb. 22**

PLEASE DO NOT PLACE HEAVY TRASH ITEMS ON STREET MORE THAN 3 DAYS BEFORE PICKUP (Next pickup February 10th)

Pet and Baby Sitting in UOaks

Sophomore at HSPVA
Red Cross Certified
University Oaks Resident
Available to Pet- or Baby-sit for UOaks Families; Evenings, and Weekends available.

Contact Merisa at (713) 741-1318 for more information.

Getting Things Done with UH's Help

This is the general UH website page address:

<http://www.uh.edu/>

This is the UH President's contact page within the UH site:

<http://www.uh.edu/admin/president/gogue/pages/contact.html>

Board of Directors and Officers

President	Larry Bahn	713-748-0470
Vice President	Robyn Webb	713-741-2105
Vice President	Tom Burton	713-440-0804
Secretary	Wilbert Taylor	713-747-3347
Treasurer	Shawn Coleman	713-842-7368
Director at Large	Pat Wycliff	713-741-2555
Director at Large	Tom Whitaker	713-748-4380

Mailing address:

University Oaks Civic Club

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713-741-4144

The UOCC NEWSLETTER is now posted online: www.universityoaks.org

Email NEWSLETTER entries to:
mike.barrett@sbcglobal.net
