

# University Oaks Newsletter

March 2004

**Next meeting of the University Oaks Civic Club: Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm  
At: Evelyn & John-David Broussard's, 4830 Rockwood**

## Message from the President

Greetings,

Spring has arrived in University Oaks and I must personally say that I am glad. The new islands are an addition to our environment and added beauty for the spring.

My mother came for a visit and was very impressed with the beauty of our community. The friendliness of our residents and how quiet it was here. My mother is 80 years of age, and is an active Gardner and does everything by the Farmers Almanac. She will return later this spring for another visit and to enjoy the full beauty of our community when things are really in bloom.

I want to remind all the residents that elections and nominations for officers is fast approaching. Please exercise your right as a member of the community to nominate and vote. Remember that those that serve do so as volunteers.

The past two years that the current Board of Directors has served, many things have been accomplished. Through the efforts of Tom Whitaker and past members of the Board, who began the project, we have seen the fulfillment of our street project, thanks to the hard work of Shawn Coleman. Attendance at meetings has improved, more people have become involved, the activities of the community have increased, our interest and participation in things outside the community, which affect our community, have really increased. The island project is complete and beautiful. Most importantly, the enforcement of the deed restrictions has dramatically improved the appearance of our community. In addition, there are other projects on the drawing board.

Ken Hillstrom and Linda Lord, 4601 University Oaks Blvd., are moving from our community. I, along with the Board of Directors want to thank Ken and Linda for their years of service to the

community. We wish them well and hope they will always remember University Oaks. I urge all of you to send them a note of appreciation and best wishes for their move.

Thank all of you for your words of encouragement and as always, feel free to call or write me about your concerns.

Yours in Service,

Larry N. Bahn

## Message from the Board

Dear Residents and Owners,

Annual maintenance fee bills have been sent out. The increase passed with a 51 to 37 vote. There were 88 votes cast of the possible 223 current eligible properties. Due to the payment to the landscaper for the irrigation and the planting the current reserves not including the monies in certificates of deposits is below \$3,000. I would like to ask you to pay these maintenance fees as quickly as possible so that we will not have to withdraw one of our certificates early and be assessed a penalty.

Shawn Coleman  
Treasurer

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## Breakfast on the Bayou

**2004's Breakfast on the Bayou will take place on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Bring your favorite treats to share, or just come and meet your neighbors!**

## **Do you know the Number 1 cause of Street flooding in Houston?**

The answer is not the amount of rainfall in an hour; it is debris in the storm water system. The number one type of debris is from leaves and small branches that build dams inside these pipes. Finally we have new streets and storm water drain pipes in our neighborhood. We are already establishing the future flooding of our streets because some people are not keeping the streets clear of debris. This debris ends up in the storm water system, then into Brays Bayou, into Galveston Bay, the Gulf, and finally into the ocean.

Please do not blow or push debris in to the storm water system. Even though the debris is organic and will decay, it will take months, even years to denigrate. Until that happens, where it is brittle enough and fragile enough not to cause impediments to the flow of water there will be problems. We need to keep our street gutters clear of all debris including leaves, branches, trash bags, etc. We must keep the flow of water from backing up on the streets and getting clogged in the storm water pipes underground.

When these pipes get clogged, the city will first try to flush the line with high pressure water. If they cannot get the blockage free, they will tear up streets and yards to remove the blockage. This will cause a major inconvenience to all the residences in the neighborhood and possible flooding of some of the lower elevation homes, since the water will have to travel over land to get to the bayou.

If we find that the streets are not being kept clear, the University Oaks Board will levy a fee to maintain the streets. This is very important since

we now have completed the drainage and street project. Everyone's cooperation is needed. We as residents have a responsibility to each other as friends, acquaintances and neighbors to look out for each other and do our part in maintaining our safety, well being and the standard of life that we enjoy in University Oaks.

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## **Multicultural Festival**

We are planning a multicultural festival representing the wonderful mix of people that make up our community. 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 with planning or implementation of the festival. The date and time for the festival is not yet scheduled.

Please send correspondence to Patricia Wycliff, 713-741-2555 or [pwycliff@yahoo.com](mailto:pwycliff@yahoo.com)

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Neighbors,

Later this month you will receive a separate flyer with details about a new program we hope to start in the spring. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors", will be a volunteer work corps project.

Unfortunately Grabba Java has closed but next door, at 3511 Elgin the International Dessert Factory and Cafe recently opened. Visit their website at [www.DessertFactory.net](http://www.DessertFactory.net) to find out more about them. They offer more than desserts.

Pat Wycliff

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## **Notable Quotes**

***"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."***

***- Marian Wright Edelman***

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## **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.

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## **“POOPER-SCOOPER” LAW**

Here is the wording of the new city ordinance applying to all pet owners:

### **Sec. 6-24. Defecation by dogs or cats.**

- (a) It is the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by such dog or cat.
- (b) It shall be the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to be in possession of materials to remove feces left by such dog or cat.
- (c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the person in control of the dog or cat is the owner of the premises, or the owner's agent of the premises, where the dog or cat deposits feces.
- (d) Violation of this section is unlawful and any violation shall be punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less than \$75.00 or more than \$500.00. Each act in contravention of this section is a separate offence.

(Ord. No. 03-1275, § 1, 12-17-03)

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## **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.

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## **UOCC Stuff (your help is needed)**

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](mailto:robynwebb@swbell.net).

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## **UOBC**

SCHEDULE FOR APRIL THROUGH AUGUST, 2004

Meetings take place the first Wednesday of each month

April 7, MY NAME IS RED by Orhan Pamuk, host will be Laura Snyder

May 5, ATONEMENT by Ian McEwan, host will be Linda Goldstein

June 2, READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN by Azar Nafisi, host will be Pat Wycliff

July 7, DI VINCI CODE by Dan Brown host will be Gina

August 4, CRIMSON PETAL AND THE WHITE by Michael Faber host to be announced

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## **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.

Feb. 18, 2004, 6:10AM

## Heavy trash day may get overhaul

### City will try on-call program in effort to cut budget gap

By KRISTEN MACK

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Mayor Bill White's first attempt at budget-cutting will begin next month when the city starts a pilot program offering on-call heavy trash pickup.

But with Houston facing an expected \$150 million budget gap in the next fiscal year, the savings from the "You Call, We Haul" program may end up looking like a pretty small haul.

White has touted the program as one of the steps that he hopes will narrow the shortfall for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

City solid waste Director Thomas "Buc" Buchanan said Tuesday, however, that it may help to save only \$150,000 to \$300,000 per year if it is adopted citywide.

The budget for heavy trash pickup was \$4.7 million for this fiscal year, Buchanan said.

"Whether or not the (pilot) program is determined to be successful will be based on whether it costs us any more to do it than it does now," he said.

The new on-call effort will start March 15 in a section of the Third Ward, on the city's south side. Heavy trash pickup normally is set once a month.

Residents in that community who want large items such as worn-out appliances and furniture picked up will be able to call the city's 311 line, Buchanan said, and the trash will be removed within five days.

"This will allow the customer to call the shots," he said.

Most people don't know when heavy trash pickup is scheduled in their neighborhoods, Buchanan said. As a result, large items that regular solid waste crews won't collect often end up sitting on roadsides or in vacant lots for long periods, creating eyesores and health hazards.

City officials hope the "You Call, We Haul" program will keep trash from piling up on streets and reduce the amount of illegal dumping. Residents will, however, be limited to three calls each during the three-month pilot program.

To get the word out to the affected community, the city will put informational inserts in the March water bills, slap decals on residents' trash cans and hold a meeting at 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Third Ward Multi-Service Center, 3611 Ennis.

The mayor has mentioned other possible options for helping to reduce the upcoming budget shortfall, including selling some of the city's surplus real estate.

The largest cost-cutter, however, is likely to come from layoffs of some of the city's estimated 20,000 employees. Chief Administrative Officer Anthony Hall said last week that layoffs are inevitable, although the administration has not decided how extensive they will be.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Newsletter Deadline: Friday of the last week of the previous month.
- Civic Club meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Next meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup>, to be held at Evelyn & John-David Broussard's, 4830 Rockwood
- Recycling: every other Tues. (next pickup March 16th)
- Garbage pickup: every Tuesday
- Heavy trash pickup: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of March – **see article above**
- **Breakfast on the Bayou Sat. Mar. 27**

**PLEASE DO NOT PLACE HEAVY TRASH ITEMS ON STREET MORE THAN 3 DAYS BEFORE PICKUP (Next pickup March 9th)**

## City of Houston Public Meetings for This Week for District D!

The City of Houston will conduct combined public meetings on the City's FY2005 Annual Operating Budget, FY2005 Capital Improvement Plan, and 2004 Annual Consolidated Plan. Since 1984, the City has held public meetings to obtain citizen input before preparation of the operating budget and capital improvement plan. These meetings provide citizens the opportunity to participate in the budget process through contributing comments and suggestions about needed services and improvements.

Saturday, March 6, 2004 – 2 – 4pm – Houston Community College Administration Building – 3100 Main

Monday, March 8, 2004 – 6 – 8pm – Houston Community College – Willie Lee Gay Campus, 1990 Airport

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### 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>

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## 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

P. O. Box 321324

Houston, TX 77221-1324.

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### University Oaks webmaster:

[wfryar@universityoaks.org](mailto:wfryar@universityoaks.org)

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### University Oaks fax line:

713-741-4144

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The UOCC NEWSLETTER is now posted online: [www.universityoaks.org](http://www.universityoaks.org)

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Email NEWSLETTER entries to:

[mike.barrett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mike.barrett@sbcglobal.net)

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