

# University Oaks Newsletter May 2005

## President's Letter

Greetings,

Spring has arrived and I have never seen so much re-doing of yards. I firmly believe that it is contagious and I thank you for taking an interest in improving your property and the community.

Last Wednesday was Arbor Day and there was a dedication at MacGregor Park. Please take the opportunity to see all the improvements thus far—new trees, re-paving of the roads, etc. Remember that is a city park and belongs to all of its citizens.

I don't know if you saw the article in the newspaper about many of Houston's historical buildings being destroyed in this city. If you have a concern, please call or write to councilwoman Ada Edwards, or the Mayor's office.

We lost a couple of large oak trees on Fiesta Lane. Please make every effort to have your trees checked for disease, pruning, etc. Also remember you can replant trees.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have had Breakfast on the Bayou. I want to thank all those who made it a success, especially our host street Fiesta. THANK YOU.

Wish you the best and I look forward to seeing you at the next civic club meeting.

Yours in service,

*-Larry N. Bahn  
President*

Next meeting of the UOCC:

Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

Location: 

Home of Horace & Rosemary Gray,  
4381 Fiesta Ln.



## Community Concerns

### Street Safety

Soon the neighborhood will have bright orange cones to block off streets for neighborhood activities. This will happen as a result of eight wonderful residents who donated money toward this cause. Those residents are Lucrecia Cox, Doug Erwing, Willie Bright, Barbara Daniel, Larry Bahn, Nathan Blocker, Wilbert Taylor, and Ruth Horn. I want to thank all of them for their generous donation.

### Feeding Stray Animals

Did you know that if you feed and water your pets outside, other critters may be taking advantage of this free food? This also may mean that your pets may not be getting enough to eat. If you look out after dark, you may see raccoons, possums, pack of

dogs, undomesticated cats, and even rats out and about the neighborhood. They see food outside, they take it, and then make a note of where to get it again when they are hungry. According to animal control, raccoons are carriers of rabies and can be vicious. They get up into attics, eat whatever they can scavenge, and bite. If you feed animals outside, please stop. Hopefully this will help to discourage these wild animals from hanging around and being a danger to children and everyone else.

## Super Neighborhood Meetings

If you are interested in what is happening in this area, not just in this neighborhood, please attend the Super Neighborhood meetings every second Monday of the month. The meetings begin at 6:30 at the Smith branch library on Scott Street and are usually no more than one hour. The city is divided into many super neighborhoods with ours being the North MacGregor Super Neighborhood. It includes all the civic associations along Brays Bayou and along Almeda. The importance of this organization is to give more strength with projects that affect the whole area. Some of the projects have included the infringement of TX Medical Center into a vibrant neighborhood, dealing with getting sidewalks and street lighting, Metro issues, schools, safety and security, bike and hike paths, to name a few. There is always a guest speaker who works with the city in some capacity and who is there to answer all questions. If you are concerned about any of these issues, or if you have questions about issues affecting this area, please attend one of the meetings.

## Loud Noises

Most of you are aware that there is a noise ordinance in the city. If not, it can be found under the Code of Ordinances City of Houston, Chapter 30, section 30-2 and reads as follows:

### **Sec. 30-2. Maximum permissible sound levels.**

No person shall conduct, permit or allow any activity or sound source to produce a sound that is discernible beyond the property lines of the property on which the sound is being received that when measured as provided in section 30-8 of this Code exceeds the applicable dB(A) level listed below for the property on which the sound is received:

(1) *Residential property:*

a. Sixty-five (65) dB(A) during daytime hours. (daytime hours are defined as 7am – 10pm)

b. Fifty-eight (58) dB(A) during nighttime hours. (nighttime hours are defined as 10pm – 7am)

This is considered a sound nuisance and is defined by the city as any sound that otherwise unreasonably disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others within the limits of the city.

There have been parties and other activities in several homes in our neighborhood that are clearly violating the above noise ordinance. If you are throwing a party that will violate this ordinance, just think about your neighbors who find the resulting noise very disturbing. Be a good neighbor, be considerate, and cut the noise to the appropriate level after 10pm.

## UH Parking

About the middle of May, Tom Burton and Robyn Webb met with Dr. Anderson and Dave Irvin, both of whom are administrators at UH. The discussion was mainly about plans UH has that affects our neighborhood. The following is a summary of that meeting.

The parking lot that will be constructed at the corner of Rockwood/Wheeler will have a fence that will be set back and landscaping will be put in between the sidewalk and the fence along Rockwood. The fence that was put up already will be moved back.

UH will be looking into putting up an 8ft fence along the backs of the houses on UO which back onto the parking lot at the corner of Calhoun/Wheeler. They will also oil the surface more often. This will eventually become a permanent parking lot and at that time will have a permanent surface put in.

For security, each of these parking lots will have security cameras and lighting. The lighting in the Rockwood parking lot will be on lower poles not invasive to the homes nearby.

The intersection at Wheeler/Calhoun/MLK was discussed and UH will be working with the city to rectify this situation. We again spoke of a "no left turn" at Wheeler/UO and decided on signage that says "no through traffic". The need for some sort of sign will be essential when the parking garage (for 1500 cars) is completed. This means that 1000 more vehicles will be leaving that parking area, and many of them will be trying to get to 288, possibly through our neighborhood. We might need to rethink the "no left turn" onto UO.

As we discussed what is to be done with Wheeler, widening the street came up. No problem there. They said that their plan for the lots backing

up to Varsity is to eventually make it into green space.

## Deed Restriction Updates

Our neighborhood is growing in a way we never suspected only a few years ago. What is beginning to happen is that as houses are being sold, they are being torn down and new construction is going up. What we have now a beautiful neighborhood which contains all sorts of architectural design, many different colors, varied landscaping designs, and all (except for one house) maintaining a common set back. What many people are concerned about is new construction that does not, at least, conform to the established setback. At the present time, the deed restrictions are being revised and will soon go to the attorney to put it into the proper legal terms. Once that is accomplished the revised deed restrictions will go to the residents for a vote. I hope we are all on the same page in wanting new construction but not wanting our neighborhood to be ruined by uncaring developers. We want to be the ones to tell the developers what we want and not the developers to tell us what they plan to do.

## University Oaks Book Club Schedule

June 1 or 3, *The Time Traveler's Wife*

July 6, *Crossing Over* by Ruben Martinez  
Host: Linda Goldstein

## UO Garden Club

We will start meeting at 10:00 AM on a chosen Saturday each month. Please email Gina on [Legge\\_blakemore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Legge_blakemore@sbcglobal.net) or call 713-741-8877 to get on the contact list.

## UO Little Guys

Come and meet the little people in UO. Join the Mommy & Me playgroup once a month on Monday mornings. Babies to Pre-K. Please email Gina on [Legge\\_blakemore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Legge_blakemore@sbcglobal.net) or call 713-741-8877.

## Spring Cleaning

Does your house need to be power washed???

Last year, I was able to get a group rate for approximately 14 houses in the neighborhood. I'm willing to do this again. If you're interested, please give me a call @713-741-2555.

-Pat Wycliff

## Volunteers Needed

A volunteer is needed to organize an HPD neighborhood watch program. Please contact Clyde Leuchtag at: [clyde@leuchtag.com](mailto:clyde@leuchtag.com)

Additional volunteer web masters are needed to help complete upgrade to new UOCC website. Please contact Clyde Leuchtag

## UO Homes for Sale or Lease

The following UO homes are currently for sale or lease:

For Sale:

- 4359 Fiesta (new construction)
- 4375 Fiesta (sale pending)
- 4372 Harvest
- 4509 University Oaks
- 4359 Graduate Circle

Note: This information is based on MLS listings and may not be inclusive.

## Reminders

### "Pooper-Scooper" Law

Here's the wording of the 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 owner of the premises, or the owner's agent of the premises, where the dog or cat deposits the feces.

- (d) (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)

Maintenance of islands at the entrances to the sub-division is performed by a yard crew at the expense of the UOCC. Please do not prune plants or perform any other work in the islands.

## Classifieds

### Baby Sitting & Pet Sitting

Red Cross certified, University Oaks resident  
References available.  
Ilana (M) 832-439-8107

Reliable resident/student (25) available to sit for your children, pet or home. References available.  
Call Helena @713-480-8264

### Pet Sitting

Available to pet sit during the summer. Call Julia @713-741-2555. References available.



## Community Calendar

**Newsletter Deadline**: Friday of the last week of the previous month.

**Civic Club meeting**: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Next meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> at the home of Horace & Rosemary Gary, 4381 Fiesta Ln.

**Recycling**: every other Tuesday (May 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>)

**Trash pickup**: every Tuesday

**Heavy trash pickup**: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month (next pickup May 10<sup>th</sup>)



## Contacts

### Mailing address:

University Oaks Civic Club  
P.O. Box 8365  
Houston, Texas 77288-8365

### University Oaks fax line:

713-440-6492

### University Oaks webmaster:

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

### Email Newsletter entries to:

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

### The UOCC Newsletter is posted online:

[www.universityoaks.org](http://www.universityoaks.org)



## Board of Directors and Officers

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Vice President	Robyn Webb	713-741-2105
Vice President	Doug Erwing	713-440-9205
Secretary	Wilbert Taylor	713-747-3347
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