

The annual meeting of the UOCC will be held on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 PM at the home of John and Nancy Preston, 4383 Harvest.

President's Letter

The present UO board of directors' term of office is coming to an end. This includes my short term as president. I have been a member of the board for many years and have enjoyed being very active in this community. You will be electing the new board this month, and they will take office in May. We are fortunate to have a good slate of candidates. I hope they will be able to maintain the character of UO and will do whatever they can to keep it a good place to live. That has always been my priority.

As I stated in an earlier newsletter, we are planning to complete the collection of the deed restriction revision ballots by the end of May. We want to conclude this process before the new board takes office.

A number of homeowners have not turned in their ballot yet, even though they are in favor of the revisions. Please contact one of the board members if you need another ballot or if you need someone to pick up your ballot. This needs to be taken care of as soon as possible.

A great deal of time and work has gone into preparing the present proposal. There has been much discussion about the pros and cons of each "part" of the revisions. But none of the provisions is so rigid that all residents couldn't live with both of them. Are you absolutely sure you prefer not to vote and let things go on as they are? Houston's inner city neighborhoods have experienced dramatic growth and changes in the last few years. We have more and more rental property that needs to be regulated and there will be more and more speculative building. Like many others, our neighborhood has been discovered and we need to protect it, not by discouraging new development, but by assuring that it is responsible and respectful of the neighborhood. Building restrictions do not discourage new home construction; they give a homebuilder assurance that a neighborhood is looking out for property values and quality of life.

We are encouraged by the University of Houston's decision to sign in favor of the new restrictions for all its properties in the neighborhood. We are getting close to the number of affirmative votes needed for the adoption of these important new covenants. For those of you who have not voted I hope you will carefully consider the issues at stake and give the new restrictions your support.

*-Robyn Webb,
President*

UOCC Board of Directors Election at Breakfast on the Bayou

Breakfast on the Bayou will be Saturday morning, May 6. The Varsity team will be hosting this year, and will try to outdo the Fiesta folks that put on a great event last year.

Our UOCC bylaws paragraph 4.02 specifies that, "... voting for directors shall be held ... at a publicized meeting ... (such as the annual "Breakfast on the Bayou)." Ya'll come and vote for our new Board of Directors! However, to encourage fuller participation, we will be mailing proxy ballots to all property owners this month. (Paragraph 3.06 of our bylaws provides for proxy voting.) For those who can't join us at Breakfast on the Bayou, your proxy ballots may be mailed to:

UOCC, P.O. Box 8365, Houston, TX 77288

to arrive NLT 5 May, or may be hand delivered to any current Director.

It's Expensive to Let Your Property Deteriorate

Last month the Civic Club received a check for a court settlement for \$5,183 in reference to the property at 4402 Wheeler Street. The residence was cited in September, 2003, for peeling paint, overgrown lawn and broken siding. The owner repeatedly promised to correct the situation, but did nothing. The Civic Club filed suit in March, 2005. The court found in our favor in a default judgment, and a lien was placed on the property. Upon sale of the property last month, the judgment lien was collected. The Civic Club was reimbursed for all our legal expenses, interest, maintenance fees, **plus civil damages in the amount of \$1,877.**

Garden Club

The Garden Club met on Saturday, March 24 at 4364 Fiesta and was hosted by Gina Blakemore. It was a beautiful spring day and UO neighbors swapped plants and cutting and had some cake and coffee/tea in the back garden in the sunshine. Everyone had a good time and look forward to the next meeting.

The next Garden Club hosted is Evelyn Broussard at 4380 Rockwood on Saturday, April 29th at 10:00 AM. Please RSVP to Evelyn at 713-748-5177 or davelyn@webtv.net. Come and join us!

UOCC Book Club Schedule

May 3, 2006 – Mermaid Chair by Sue Monk Kidd
Host – Robyn Webb

June 7, 2006 – Gilead by Marilyn Robinson
Host – TBA

July 5, 2006 – Ursula, Under by Ingrid Hill

Host – TBA

August 2, 2006 – Easter Island by Jennifer Vanderbes
Host - TBA

If you are interested in discussing really good books, sometimes fiction, sometimes nonfiction, if you like to go to concerts, go out to dinner, or go to a movie with good friends, you would love the UO book club. Consider coming to one of our meetings. Everyone is welcome.

LAZY GARDENER

Be a good gardening neighbor: grow smart

Make sure what you do doesn't impact others

By **BRENDA BEUST SMITH**

Here are the top 10 don'ts if you want to be a good gardening neighbor:

10. Don't let your front yard negatively impact property values. With a little thought, you can find ways of doing what you want without threatening the financial investments of those around you.
9. Don't blow fallen leaves and pine needles into the street. Pick them up. Even better, blow them into your beds. They're as good or better than any mulch you could buy.
8. Don't plant wide canopy trees on shared property lines without first discussing it with your neighbor, especially if it will shade plantings in his yard that require a lot of sun, such as vegetables.
7. Don't plant "messy" trees where they will canopy over a neighbor's lawn or, even worse, over his swimming pool. Magnolia leaves, for example, are the devil to rake up if you don't want a leafy mulch. Their roots spread sideways, making it difficult to grow much underneath the canopy.
6. Don't plant aggressively spreading plants or vines on shared perimeters. Really annoying are cannas, running bamboo, Mexican petunias and the like — which send out runners from which new plants grow, or which aggressively produce side bulbs or plantlets. Ditto for aggressive vines like passion vine and wisteria. These might spread over your neighbor's plants unless continually trimmed back. Shrubs and perennials that drop a lot of seed can also cause problems. Your neighbor may, or may not, want a yard full of butterfly weed, a plant that spreads from seed and plant shoots. Plant garden "bullies" (as rapid spreaders are often called) closer to your own house.
5. Don't raise the level of your yard, creating drainage problems next door. This is illegal in many areas. If you raise just garden areas, dig drainage canals to carry runoff water onto your yard, perhaps into a lower area where you can plant cannas, Louisiana irises or other plants that like excessive water.
4. Don't use fertilizers or pesticides on windy days. Water-in treatments (including fertilizers) immediately after applying them to make sure it runs into your soil instead of sewer drains. Even on windless days, aim sprays so they stay within your yard. Both organic and chemical pesticides kill beneficial as well as nuisance insects. There is no such thing as a mosquito-specific insecticide. Your neighbor may be gardening organically or allergic to these treatments.

3. Don't use heavy chunk mulches if you live uphill from your neighbor. Heavy rains often wash these away, a loss for you and a nuisance for him.
2. Don't get too close to the neighbor's house with noisy garden ornaments like wind chimes or with strongly fragrant plants like gardenias before asking for his input.

And the most important "Don't" if you want to be a good neighbor?

1. Don't use loud machinery (lawnmowers, electric clippers, blowers) early in the morning, especially on weekends.

Garden Maintenance Schedule - April

1. Remove excess thatch from lawn areas by adjusting mower to lowest cutting height. Rake and remove clippings.
2. Fertilize all trees and shrubs with 2:1:1-ratio fertilizer. If possible, fertilizer should always contain iron, sulfur, and other trace elements. .
3. Begin changing from winter-flowering to summer flowering plants.
4. Plant caladiums.
5. Maintain mulch on planted areas.
6. Remove yellowed or unsightly foliage from plants.
7. Prune broken and dead branches from plants.
8. Stake overly tall plants.

Citizens On Patrol Volunteers Needed

The security committee still needs more volunteers to patrol 1 or more hours each month.

UOCC Security

Date	Time	Location	Offense
01/15/2006	2200	4300 Block of Fiesta	Burglary

Mark Your Calendar

Global Shoes

(Especially for children)

March 1-May 7, Houston's Children Museum

Tue-Sat 9 AM-5PM; Sun noon-5 PM, Mon 9 AM-5 PM

\$5 per person, \$4 for seniors 65 and older

Hands-on, feet-on, multi-cultural exhibition featuring shoes from more than 40 countries sparks curiosity about other cultures. Kids will slip on reindeer boots from Finland, rice straw sandals from Korea and embroidered mules from Morocco.

UOCC Welcoming Club

The University Oaks Welcoming Club hosted a successful welcoming coffee for our delightful new neighbor Jennifer Bell who lives at 4372 Harvest Ln. on March 7. Jennifer wants to send a big thanks to all for making her feel so at home in University Oaks. Donna Scott was kind enough to offer her beautiful home for this event. Thank you Donna for being such a wonderful hostess again! We would also like to thank the following folks for their help to make this special for Jennifer Bell: Patricia Wycliff, Robin Webb and Carole Marcely. The Welcoming Club is composed of volunteers that live in University Oaks neighborhood. We host these welcoming coffees for new homeowners to meet their surrounding neighbors, answer any questions, provide a directory/good guys list/copy of deed restrictions. The feedback has been very positive from everyone. If you or know of anyone that is a new homeowner, please notify us. We want to make sure that we have not overlooked anyone. Please consider joining the Welcoming Club as a way to give back to our community, extend a warm welcome to our neighbors and have fun! Please contact Jennifer Erwing you are interested in helping out, have thoughts, suggestions or questions at 713.440.9205 or jerwing@whproperties.com

UOCC Board of Directors (Board@UniversityOaks.org)

President	Robyn Webb	H: 713-748-0470	President@UniversityOaks.org
Vice President	Doug Erwing	H: 713-440-9205	Vp2@UniversityOaks.org
Vice President	Vacant		
Secretary	Wilbert Taylor	H: 713-747-3347	secretary@universityoaks.org
Treasurer	Jim Marcely	H: 713-440-7995	treasurer@universityoaks.org
Director at Large	Pat Wycliff	H: 713-741-2155	Director1@universityoaks.org
Director at Large	Clyde Leuchtag	H: 713-398-0855	Director2@universityoaks.org

Other Contacts

Architectural Review Committee	ArchitecturalReview@UniversityOaks.org
Deed Restriction Enforcement	deedrestrictions@universityoaks.org
Security	security@universityoaks.org
Welcome Committee	welcome@universityoaks.org
Directory Changes/Updates	directory@universityoaks.org
Newsletter Entries (submit in MS Word attachment only)	newsletter@universityoaks.org
Webmaster	webmaster@universityoaks.org

Heavy Trash Pick-Up: Tuesday 4/11 ; Recycling: 4/11, 4/25