



THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2019

You're invited to the BOCA Easter Egg Hunt! Saturday, April 20, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Broadacres Park

(between North Blvd. and South Blvd. by the Tennis Courts)

Join us for this wonderful neighborhood event, now in its 29th year!

All BOCA neighbors welcome!

Special guest visit and photo-op with the
Easter Bunny

Don't be late! The hunt begins promptly at 10 a.m. There will be areas for children of different ages. Arrive a few minutes early to find a good launch spot.

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments, help with decorating, set-up and take-down, take photos, stuff a piñata with goodies and candy, or help clean up the Park before the hunt. Contact Bonnie at optimist@gmail.com if you can help.

Those helping with setup or takedown should arrive on Saturday morning by 8:45 a.m. Volunteers are also needed to help hide eggs beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is a great activity for children age 10 and up.

Sponsors needed. Please mail checks to BOCA, PO Box 540331, Houston, TX 77254, or send a message to info@BoulevardOaks.org with your pledge information. Sponsors will be thanked on posters at the hunt and in the BOCA Newsletter.

Special thanks to our sponsors to date:

Andrew McCain with John Daugherty Realtors

The Garwood Family Glo Trigg & George Melton The Rigby Family

Sheila & Keith Owen The Coffman-McMillan Family

(Thanks also to the neighbors of Broadacres for graciously permitting the use of their historic park.)

Traffic Taskforce

A Traffic Task Force has been formed to address current and future traffic challenges in the neighborhood. Interested neighbors are welcome to attend. This group hopes to meet regularly and address issues including speeding, cut-through traffic, Metro projects, and neighborhood impact of the US59/69 & I-45 expansion which begins in 2020. If you would like to participate or be notified of meetings, send a message to info@BoulevardOaks.org.

Alley Gas Line Replacement

According to the contractor, MJ Sheridan Inc., CenterPoints' gas line replacement project in the alleys between North and South boulevards is nearing completion. The new line installation is complete, and crews are now in the process of connecting the new line to gas meters. Expected completion is the end of April. Restoration of damaged concrete and asphalt will take place in May.



Greenbriar Reconstruction Update

Weather and utility related delays have pushed the completion date of the Greenbriar reconstruction project (Holcombe to Rice Blvd.) from September to December 2019. Barring unforeseen weather and utility issues, the schedule for Phase 5 is as follows:

- Phase 5A - University Blvd. to Rice Blvd. - (East side of Greenbriar) - early May to mid-June
- Phase 5B - University Blvd. to Rice Blvd. - (West side of Greenbriar) - mid-June to early August

A much-needed sidewalk will be constructed from Bolsover to Rice Blvd. on the east side of Greenbriar during Phase 5. The city has given its assurance that no significant street trees will be damaged or removed to accommodate the sidewalk. A city Forester will monitor sidewalk installation and tree protection.

Water Line Project Update



The prolific orange construction barrels on South Blvd. won't be there much longer. The South Blvd. water line project is approaching its final phase and is wrapping up in most parts of neighborhood.

City inspector Dale Brown reports that crews for contractor Aecom have been working from Morningside to Parkway to restore the 36" diameter iron water line that supplies West University Place. The crew will open one final major pit Parkway and South on Monday. That pit may be open longer than others due to its size and underground utility conflicts.

During the second half of April, the other 14 excavation pits will be filled and restored, and the streets repaired. Signs will begin to come down in early May, along with restoration of grass and shrubs.

Verizon Sub Responsible for March 20th Traffic Snarls

On March 20, a contractor for Verizon hit a major water line on Bissonnet between Mandell and Parkway, shutting down the street and forcing traffic through North Blvd. and South Blvd. for over 8 hours. The rerouted traffic included Metro buses and large trucks. Witnesses reported several accidents and many near-misses on Mandell at South Blvd. during the closure.

The subcontractor, Horizon Telecom, was installing pipe for highspeed internet and phone. The water line damage resulted in a hold being placed on the subcontractor's permits, but they are expected to be reinstated in June and installations along Bissonnet for Verizon will continue.

This subcontractor is one of many that are installing cable and 5G throughout our area. The city does not require providers to notify neighborhoods of installations in advance, only management districts such as Upper Kirby receive such notice. If you encounter installations on your block, please let us know immediately.

Neighborly Reminders

- **Drive friendly!** Please watch your speed and come to a complete stop at all stop signs. Now that it's warmer, Children are outdoors playing. Let's keep them safe!
- **Pick up dog waste.** Be considerate of your neighbors and pick up after your pets.
- **Keep Sidewalks clean and free of hazard.** For the safety of pedestrians, clean leaves, mud and debris from sidewalks.
- **Parking** is one of the most common neighborhood irritants in Boulevard Oaks. While it's not illegal to park on a public street, please park in front of your own home whenever possible is best. Neighbors will appreciate your thoughtfulness and consideration.
- **Keep gutters and storm drains free of leaves.** It's illegal to put anything into a storm drain other than clean water. Please do not rake or blow leaves into storm drains or allow your yard crew to be lazy. Leaves clog storm drains and contribute to street flooding. Contact 311 if your storm drain needs a clean out.
- **Place bags at curb no earlier than 6 pm the evening before collection.** Per city ordinance, bags and bins may not be set out until 6 pm of the evening before scheduled collection. Contain leaves and yard clippings in city-approved biodegradable bags. Avoid sending leaves to the landfill altogether by setting up a leaf composting area with wire mesh or pallets. If mulching yard waste isn't practical for you, have the yard crew haul bags away or place them behind your gate and out of view.

Errata on Shepherd Drive

In the November 2018 Newsletter we reported that the Upper Kirby District is gearing up to rebuild Shepherd in the first half of 2019, but we failed to clarify that only the segment from US59/69 to Westheimer is slated for reconstruction. There are no plans to rebuild the 15-year old section of Shepherd running through Boulevard Oaks.

City Glass Recycling Resumes



The City of Houston announced that it will resume glass recycling as part of its automated collection program beginning in April. For homes in BOCA with City of Houston trash service, collection follows the Tuesday B recycling calendar, and will take place on April 16 and April 30.

The city suspended recycling of glass in 2016 due to budget cuts. Those of you who have been dutifully carting recycling to the recycling center can scratch that errand off your list, and gently place glass containers in your green bin for collection on April 16. Customers may continue to drop off recyclables, including electronics, at neighborhood depositories. The closest is the Westpark Recycling Center near Fountainview.

Subscribe to eNews & Crime Alerts

All neighbors are invited to subscribe to our electronic news and crime alert list. To subscribe, send a message with your name and physical address to info@BoulevardOaks.org.

City Trash Reminders

- Place city trash container and recycling bins at the curb and at least 3 feet apart in compliance with city collection requirements.
- If possible, avoid parking on the street on trash collection day. If you must park on the street be sure to leave enough space between your vehicle and trash container for crews to safely collect trash. Cars blocking bins may result in missed collection.
- Call 311 as soon as possible to report missed collection.

City Trash Schedule

Questions? Call 311

Automated curbside collection Tuesdays
 Yard Waste (bagged) Tuesdays
 Recycling (Tues. B schedule):... every *other* Tuesday
 April 2, 16 & 30 June 11 & 25
 May 14 & 28 July. 9 & 23



Bins and yard waste bags may be placed at the curb after 6 pm the evening before collection. Please remove them by 10 pm the day of collection.

City Heavy Trash

Place items on the curb after 6 p.m. the Sunday before pick-up. Tree debris is collected every month. Junk waste is collected in even months only.

Junk Waste/Tree Debris Collection:
 Blocks East of Greenbriar:1st Friday
 Blocks West of Greenbriar:3rd Monday

Private Trash Schedule (Edgemont and Broadacres)

WCA Waste: 713-526-1536
 Curbside & alley collection... Tues. & Fri.
 Recycling Fridays
 Yard waste..... Tues. & Fri.
 Heavy Trash pick-up.....By appointment

Cherokee: Trash and recycling collection for the 5300 blocks of Cherokee and Mandell is provided by Texas Pride Disposal (713-705-3534)

Boulevard Oaks 2018 – 2019 Officers & Directors (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

<i>President</i>	Richard Holt
<i>President-elect</i>	James Cogan
<i>Vice president</i>	Sue Lawson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Wright
<i>Secretary</i>	Helen Toombs
<i>Past President</i>	Sue Payne
<u>Directors</u>	
2018 – 2021	Trey Christensen Julie Mastroianni Don Reid Radu Tutos
2017 – 2020	Jennifer DeLange Cece Fowler Jean Jenner Geoffrey Walker
2016 – 2019	Steve Grossman Norm Rund Trey Christensen James Vick
<u>Committees</u>	
<i>Deed Restrictions</i>	Julie Mastroianni
<i>Historic Districts</i>	Geoffrey Walker
<i>Public Works</i>	John Cutler
<i>Trees</i>	Hank Segelke Wallace Hooker Dave Shine
<i>Website</i>	Vacant
<i>Spring Mixer</i>	James Cogan
<i>Night Out</i>	Bonnie Coffman
<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>	Vacant
<i>4th of July Party</i>	Stephanie Pedigo & Shannon Allen
<i>Caroling Party</i>	
<i>Executive Director</i>	Evalyn Krudy

2018-19 Membership Drive Continues

Support the effort to make this a great neighborhood. Join BOCA today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership \$50.00 Regular

Levels: \$100.00 Sustaining

\$200.00 Patron

Auto Decals

1 Decal 2 Decals

Make checks payable to "BOCA" and mail to PO Box 540331, Houston TX 77254

Flood Plain Revisions May Alter Character of Boulevard Oaks

Boulevard Oaks was fortunate to have been spared the devastation of the recent major floods. Not since TS Allison in 2001 have parts of the neighborhood with very low elevation flooded, thanks in part to Project Brays, a federally funded series of drainage improvement projects targeted at providing flood relief for Brays Bayou neighborhoods and the TMC. But the city's revised floodplain ordinance (Chapter 19) could alter the character of the neighborhood in years to come.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, City Council approved revisions to the Chapter 19 to mitigate future flooding impacts. The ordinance requires new construction and substantial improvement projects to be elevated at 2 ft. above the 500-yr floodplain level. A "substantial improvement" is defined as "any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure prior to the start of construction of the improvement."

When the County releases new floodplain maps in 2021, experts anticipate the current 500-yr flood plain (FP) will become the new 100-yr FP. The big question for BOCA is where will the lines for the new 500-yr FP be drawn? Much of Boulevard Oaks could end up in the floodplain and subject to the new elevation requirements, that are transforming Harvey-impacted areas, juxtaposing original homes, recently elevated homes, and new homes in a stair-step effect. The impact on BOCA's historic districts is also a big question mark. Impacts are being felt in neighboring Southampton where the city is requiring additional elevation of homes in the 500-yr FP and elevation of HVAC units by 3-4 ft, leaving them looming over fences.

Anyone contemplating new construction or substantial improvements may wish to carefully consider the new requirements and timing of their projects. The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) office tells us that there is four-year window before the FP revisions for the Brays Bayou Watershed are formally adopted in 2023. It may be less costly and less challenging to remodel your home during this window. Eventually, height restrictions in BOCA subdivisions may need rethinking.

In truth, the Chapter 19 impact to BOCA is a moving target. The City plans to revisit the ordinance when new FP maps are released in 2021, and amendments to the ordinance are possible. It seems a luxury to be able to worry about aesthetics rather than flooding. Here's hoping won't have to. In the meantime, BOCA will be monitoring this issue.

Now may be a good time to purchase flood insurance. The Kinder Institute reports that 30% of homes that flooded in Harvey were outside any floodplain. Per HCFCD, "the capacity of the storm sewer system in Houston is inadequate in many areas outside the 500-yr FP." HCFCD recommends that all Houstonians purchase a policy. Visit www.hcfcd.org for more information.

District C Candidates Forum: May 1, 2019 at Emanu El

University Place Super Neighborhood, Rice University and Congregation Emanu El are co-hosting a Candidates Forum for District C Houston City Council Member candidates on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd., from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Come meet the candidates and hear their plans for addressing issues important to our city, our district and our neighborhood.

To date, seven candidates have announced their campaigns. They are: Abbie Kamin, Nick Hellyar, Greg Meyers, Shelly Kennedy, Bob Nowak, Mary Jane Smith and Daphne Scarbrough. They will all be participating in the forum, along with any others who announce their candidacies between now and May 1 will be invited to participate as well. Refreshments provided by Cathy Blum, Greenwood King Properties.

BOCA's Annual Meeting: 6:30 pm June 5, 2019 at Poe

All neighbors are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting on June 5 at 6:30 pm in the Poe Cafeteria at 5100 Hazard. Come and vote for directors, learn about issues impacting our area, meet neighbors and learn how you can get involved in the neighborhood.

Prescription Drug Takeback Day: April 27, 10 am to 2 pm

The following collection sites will be open from 10 am until 2 pm, Saturday, 4/27/19.

HPD South Central Station at 2202 St. Emmanuel St. (77003) off US59 and W. Gray

The Council on Recovery, 303 Jackson Hill St. (77007)

4th of July Party Seeks Chairman



Do you enjoy parties, fun, and meeting new neighbors? Then we need YOU! BOCA is seeking a new chairman for the 4th of July party/fundraiser. A team of experienced volunteers is lined up to assist and arrangements are in place for this year's party on 7/4/19. Chairing the event is not a huge job, and can be handled by one person, or

shared by friends and spouses. We are also seeking a Beverage Coordinator.

For more information about what these roles entail, please contact Sue Lawson at 713-526-6400 or the BOCA office at 713-528-2622 or info@BoulevardOaks.org. Our thanks to Donna Yanowski and her family who are taking a well-deserved rest after seven years chairing the event.