

THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2018

New Adopt-A-Drain program grants naming rights and prevents street flooding

Fight Flooding and Adopt a Drain! The City of Houston has launched the Adopt-a-Drain program to keep neighborhoods from flooding and to reduce the mosquito population. While most Boulevard Oaks neighbors keep this area free of debris, some drains are in need of attention. The only commitment needed to adopt a drain is to clear gutters near storm drains when leaves begin to pile up. If you have a drain out front, chances are you are already doing this.

Did you know that the City spends \$13 million of our tax dollars annually on maintenance of its 115,000 storm drains? Formal adoption of drains by nearby residents has the advantage of taking one more drain off the City's maintenance list. In addition, adopting a drain allows you to give it a name. Interested?

The Adopt-a-Drain website has information about the adoption process and guidance on how to safely clear drains. As of the date of this publication, five storm drains have already been adopted in Boulevard Oaks: "The Rain in Spain Lies Mainly in My Drain", "Brain Drain on Banks" and "Vassar Miller" (famous local poet and Vassar Street's namesake) are recent additions. Don't miss your chance to name your drain. Visit HoustonAdoptaDrain.org to sign up. Future adoptions will be listed in the newsletter.



BOCA Caroling Party

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 16, 2018

South Blvd. @ 5100 Hazard

On the Deck @ Poe

This annual Boulevard Oaks tradition promises to be fun for everyone! Catch the spirit of the season as we spread holiday cheer with the neighborhood. Share hot cider & cocoa and holiday treats with us and maybe even a visit from Santa.

All you'll need is a flashlight to help you read song lyrics after dark.

Everyone welcome!

4:30 pm Gather & Sing

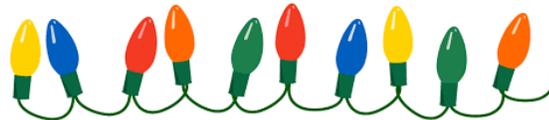
4:45 pm Visit with Santa

5:00 pm Sleigh Rides & Caroling

Helpers are needed to bring cookies, treats, or sandwiches on unbreakable platters. Song leaders and set up volunteers also needed. If you can bring food or volunteer to help with the event, please contact

stephaniepedigo@comcast.net.

Special thanks to Andrew McCain with John Daugherty Realtors and to the Lawson Family for generously sponsoring this event!



Alley Gas Line Replacement by CenterPoint on hold until Fall 2019

CenterPoint Energy(CP) has postponed the gas line and gas meter replacement project for the 1600 through 1900 blocks of North Blvd. and South Blvd. which terminates in front of Poe Elementary. The project team reports that there are several urgent replacements in line ahead of ours. At this time CP anticipates that the project will be placed on their schedule in late 2019 or early 2020.



BOCA Bids Farewell to Officer Thacker

Neighbors bid a fond farewell to Officer Mike Thacker of the Southampton Boulevard Oaks Patrol on October 2nd at 16 separate Night Out gatherings. Officer Thacker retired in mid-November and is enjoying family, hobbies and traversing the country on his beloved Harley. Officer Mike served on the Houston Police force for 31 years and for our Patrol for over 20 years. Mike was as good at rescuing lost pets and providing old fashioned customer service as he was chasing down criminals on foot. Thank you, Officer Thacker, for your excellent service, and best wishes in all of your upcoming adventures!



Neighbors from the 2000 block of Milford celebrate Officer Mike Thacker's last BOCA Night Out party in uniform. Mike requested the Night Out shift for the last 10 years. This year gatherings were held on 16 blocks in the Patrol service area.

Shepherd reconstruction coming in 2019

Reconstruction of Shepherd is set to begin in the first quarter of 2019. The project will be overseen by the Upper Kirby District which shares a border with BOCA along Morningside and the Southwest freeway. The Upper Kirby Management District and TIRZ (tax increment reinvestment zone) has been working with the city to develop plans for storm drainage improvements between US59 and Westheimer. This \$7 million-dollar project is expected to begin in the first quarter of the new year. The contract for the project will awarded in February, with construction starting March or April.

Phase 1 will involve utility relocation to make room for the new larger capacity storm sewers under the roadway. Project amenities will include buried power lines, landscaping, pedestrian lighting, and installation of benches. The streetscape will be similar to the recent improvements on Westheimer from Shepherd to Buffalo Speedway.

Fourth of July Party seeks new chairman

Do you love Sousa marches, fried chicken, parades and the Declaration of Independence? If so, then we have a job for you. BOCA is seeking a chair or co-chairs to help organize the best 2019 FOJ celebration in town. This annual event fundraiser is supported by an experienced team of volunteers who need little to no supervision. Besides, chairing the 4th Committee is an excellent way to meet neighbors and have fun. For details please contact info@BoulevardOaks.org. Special thanks to Donna, Ken and Dena Yanowski for seven magical years.



Neighborly Reminders

Eliminate sidewalk hazards for by asking yard crews to remove mud from sidewalks and the wheel chair ramps at intersections. The recent wet weather has left many sidewalks impassable and hazardous for pedestrians, and forces residents out into the street.

Keep storm sewers free of leaves and debris. Many of our trees have recently lost their leaves and gutters and storm drains are full clogged. Please ask yard crews to collect the leaves and compost them or haul them away. Some crews persist in blowing leaves into the storm drains, which is illegal. Clogged rains contribute to neighborhood flooding and are an ideal environment for mosquitoes. If you catch a yard crew in the act, please take a picture of the crew's license plate and company name/number if present on their vehicle. You are welcome to report this activity to the BOCA office, or make a report to 311 via phone or the 311 app.

Place bags at curb no earlier than 6pm of the evening before collection.

Per city ordinance yard waste and bins are to be set at the curb not earlier than 6 p.m. the evening prior to collection. Bins should be removed by 10 p.m. on collection day.



City silent about Recycling collection delays as streets remain littered with Green bins for most of week



Since city recycling collection resumed in February, collection has been running a day or two behind schedule. We are told by the Mayor’s office that this is a citywide problem and delays are the results of an aging fleet and budget issues.

Bins left on the street for an extended period of time interfere with parking and are inconvenient and unsightly. BOCA has requested help from the Mayor and District C offices, and we have asked that the Solid Waste division revise its calendar to reflect collection on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays (schedule B), but a decision hasn’t been made.

Visit <http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/recycling.html> for more recycling information.

Please don’t Kill Your Trees

BOCA’s prized street trees seem to be under attack daily from threats from construction projects, landscapers and City utility repair crews. We need all neighbors to be vigilant in protecting our trees from harmful activities that are often caused by unsupervised labor. Two principles to remember:

- (1) Trees are easily killed by root cuts because their roots mostly live only in the top 12-18” of soil.
- (2) Trees are easily killed as well because they get their air supply directly from the air that percolates into the soil. Covering soil with paving or a lot of dirt fill may strangle the tree. Digging across the root zone to 1 ft in depth will cut most of the roots of your trees.

Threats arise from electricians, plumbers, irrigators, contractors—anyone who has access to shovels or diggings or trenching machinery and placement of anything below the existing grade of your yard. Examples of potentially fatal home improvements: Sprinkler system installation, plumbing, electrical, construction, paving (esp. circular driveways, driveway apron replacements, sidewalk replacement), construction of retaining or garden walls, tree lighting installation, gardening or lawn projects that strip the soil and rip up shallow roots or that bury the existing soil by raising the grade.

Street trees are highly vulnerable because few roots are under the street and most digging occurs in the “tree lawn”. Almost all recent street tree losses have been from direct root damage. The only common exceptions are very old water oaks, elms and ash trees.

Get Professional Advice! Your trees add tens of thousands of dollars in value to your property. “Sculpting” and clearing “Suckers” can weaken trees, especially old ones. “Poodle Cut” or “Lion Tail” pruning is unsound. Some thinning is okay, but follow a professional arborist’s advice. Professional consultation is cheap insurance. Several reputable firms are Arborcare, DaveyTree, CN Koehl Urban Forestry, all have professional arborists on staff and are well qualified to advise you. Itinerant tree “surgeons” rarely know more than how to prune.

(Adapted from “How Not to Kill your Trees” by Hugh Rice Kelly. Visit BoulevardOaks.org for the full article.)

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><i>Directors</i></u>	
<i>2018 - 2021</i>	Trey Christensen Julie Mastroianni Don Reid Radu Tutos
<i>2017 – 2020</i>	Jennifer DeLange Cece Fowler Jean Jenner Geoffrey Walker
<i>2016 – 2019</i>	Steve Grossman Norm Rund Trey Christensen James Vick
<u><i>Committees</i></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
<i>Website</i>	Dave Shine
<i>Spring Mixer</i>	Vacant
<i>Night Out</i>	James Cogan
<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>	Bonnie Coffman
<i>4th of July Party</i>	Vacant
<i>Caroling Party</i>	Stephanie Pedigo & Shannon Allen
<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

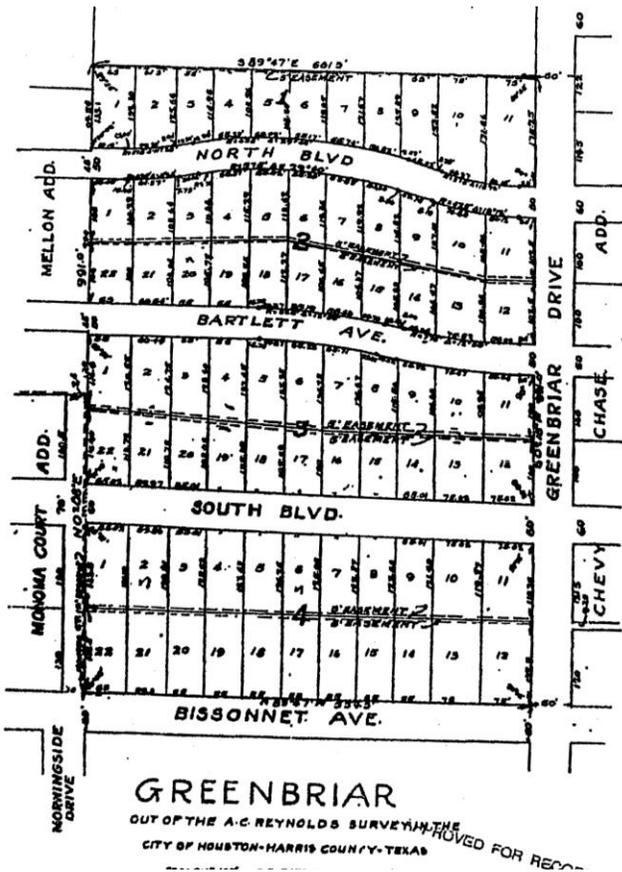
Auto Decals

1 Decal

2 Decals

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

Greenbriar Addition files new need restrictions



BOCA Deed Restrictions Committee Chairman, Julie Mastroianni, is pleased to announce that the Greenbriar Addition section of Boulevard Oaks has filed new deed restrictions that are self-renewing in early December.

The previous version of the restrictions was set to expire at the end of 2018 and did not include a renewal provision. Julie and volunteers from the Addition worked for over 3 years to hammer out a document that preserved the character of the section which is located on the west end of Greenbriar and includes the 2300 blocks of North Blvd., Bartlett, South Blvd. and Bissonnet.

Greenbriar Addition was originally developed as bungalows in the late 1930s, although several two-story homes have been built in recent years; and the Bissonnet properties became commercial.

The new deed restrictions are posted online at BoulevardOaks.org in the *Library of Deed Restrictions* page. Congratulations to Julie and her hard-working team of volunteers!

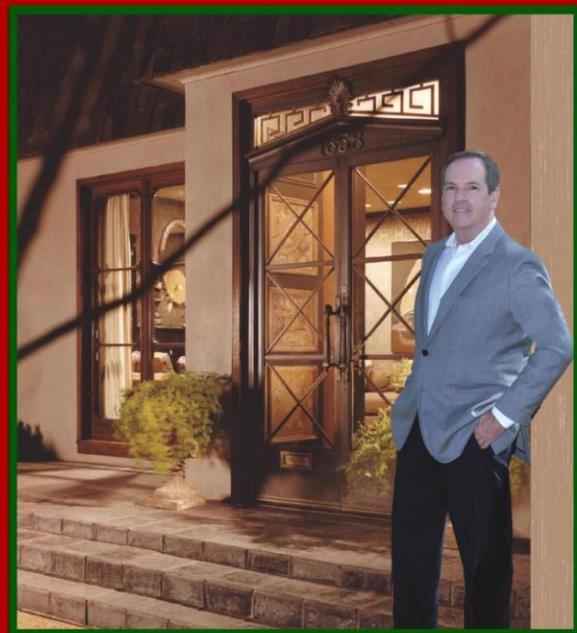
South Blvd. Water Line Project delayed until mid-January

The South Blvd. Water Line Rehabilitation Project, which was to have begun in early November, is delayed due to a series of water line breaks in the project area. The project will rehab an existing 36" cast iron pipe laid in 1944 after most of Boulevard Oaks was developed. This water line is a main line that serves the City of West U. Crews will seal the pipe joints from the inside and workers will be working inside the pipe.

The project is currently expected to begin in mid-January and will proceed from Morningside east to Montrose. Completion is expected by the end of April. The project is being conducted during low water usage season to keep the network of water lines sufficiently pressurized.

As the project was starting up in November, crews discovered the multiples leaks in an 8" distribution line supplying the 2400-2500 blocks of South Blvd. near a primary pipeline access location. In addition, a major 60" water line which serves the surrounding area had to be shut down for an emergency repair, resulting in low area water pressure. The two large lines cannot be shut down simultaneously. Water service is not expected to be interrupted during the project.

Happy Holidays
To You and Yours



From My Home To Yours

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