

THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

4TH OF JULY EDITION / 2021

The Fourth of July Party is Back

The Fourth of July Party will take place IN-PERSON on 7/4/21 in the 1700 block of North Blvd. as usual from 6 - 9 pm on Sunday, 7/4/2021, and we hope to see you there.

Get out your red, white, and blue flags, décor, and outfits and join us for the best neighborhood **4th of July party in town**. Over the years, the part has grown from a small block party on various blocks of Milford more some 50 years ago. Last year, due to the pandemic, we celebrated in our own yards and displayed patriotic signs. This year we are looking forward to reconnecting, sharing songs, and dancing in celebration of our country. But this year we will have distancing in the food line and jugs of hand sanitizer available.

This event is our neighborhood's major annual fundraiser and **your financial support is needed and appreciated**. We invite you to sponsor the party with your most patriotic donation. The top 4 levels will receive a **yard sign** if sponsorship is received by June 30.

- Founders** \$200 or more
- Continental Congress** \$100 or more
- Sons (& Daughters) of Liberty** \$50 or more
- Minutemen (& Women)** \$30 or more
- Patriots:** \$25 or less

Visit BoulevardOaks.org to make your donation online or make your check payable to **B.O.C.A and bring to the party or mail to BOCA, P.O. Box 540331, Houston, TX 77254. Include "4th of July" in the memo line.** You may also bring your donation with you to the party.

To be included on the list of sponsors displayed at the party and receive a special sponsor badge, send your name, address and pledge to info@BoulevardOaks.org by 1 p.m. on 7/4.

Food & Drink: Be thinking of your best blue-ribbon salad, dessert, casserole, or other delectable treat for all to share. Guests should bring a LARGE dish as well! As always, BOCA will provide the fried chicken, wine, beer, and soft drinks.

Music: Houston band "the Blenders" will play all our favorites including the Hokey Pokey and Cotton-Eyed Joe, so get ready to dance the night away!

Congratulations to Sara Varela - Sign Contest Winner



The very patriotic submission above was selected as the winning entry for this year's contest. We regret that we were unable to use it for the signs due to a limit on available colors. See this year's sign on page 2

"4th of July Party " Continued on Page 2.

Fourth of July Party, continued from page 1

Children's' Bike Parade: We'll kick off the evening with the Bike Parade at the top of the hour at 6pm. Strollers are welcome too. Start decorating your bikes, wagons and strollers now. All participants will receive a prize!

Set-up/Take Down Parties: For even more fun, come help set up the canopies and decorations on Saturday, July 3rd at 6 p.m. Or help take them down at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 5th. For more information contact a committee member listed on the other side of this letter.

Coolers: Large and small coolers are also needed for the event. If you have any to loan, please leave them in the driveway at 1720 North Blvd. at any time during the week before the event. Please ensure your name is taped to the cooler.

Attendance & Guests: Although this event is FREE to all Boulevard Oaks residents, it's also BOCA's largest fundraiser. Only sponsors may bring guests. Please remind guests to bring a dish to share.

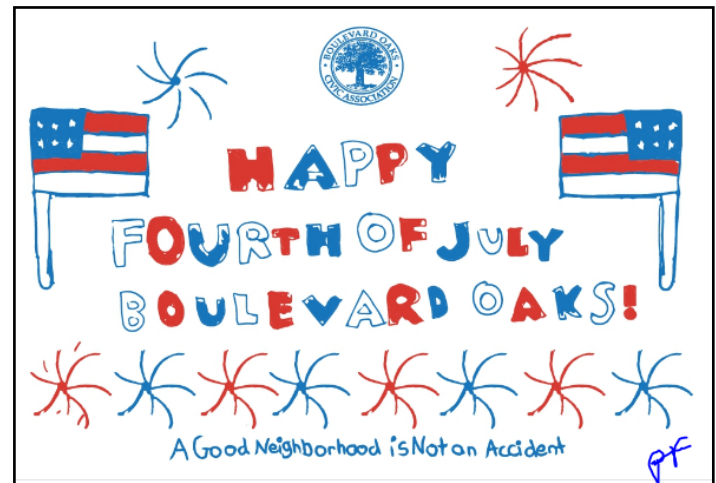
Health & Safety: Please note that we will be taking health measures in line with the CDC recommendations for this outdoor event. We will have masked food servers and plenty of hand sanitizer available. Masks are optional outside of the food line.

Seating: Neighbors are encouraged to bring folding lawn chairs or a small folding table as seating is limited.

4th Sign Contest for Kids

The 4th of July Yard Signs are back. Thanks to the Sara and Sofia Varela for their submissions to the contest. We are happy to announce that both sisters are winners. Sara won this year's contest, and Sofia won last year, but due to printing constraints, Sara's design was selected for printing for the 2021 party.

And as a sponsor, you have the option to receive your choice of either a graphic sign from 2020 or the sign below from our contest. An image of the graphic sign can be found on our website.



City's LED Billboard Proposal Pending *(From Scenic Houston)*

In April, Houston neighbors responded with more than 1,600 letters in opposition to digital (LED) billboards on our sidewalks. Now, there is the threat of huge TVs-on-a-stick along our freeways (for example). What do you think? Are digital LED billboards along freeways a good idea or will they add to Houston's already cluttered signage landscape?

In a move that would undermine Houston's 40-year-old Sign Code, the City has issued a request for proposal from billboard companies interested in using city public land to install monstrous LED billboards. If this plan is allowed to be implemented, there will be 50 two-sided, changing-message LED billboards up to 60 feet tall placed between curbs and sidewalks adjacent to our freeways.

What will the City get in return for this selling off of public land? Not much. There's an annual guaranteed payment that amounts to less than .05% of the annual City budget and a net takedown of two static billboards for every new LED billboard, which is far less than what many other major cities have required.

Are you passionate about stopping visual blight? If so, please join us in letting City Hall know this LED billboard plan is bad for Houston. Simply click the link below and fill out the form we have provided to automatically send an email to Mayor Turner and the members of City Council. The text of the email can be edited to suit your style, so feel free to personalize your message. Houston does not need these LED billboards. We need safe roads, free of visual clutter. This is the Houston we envision. It is the Houston we must protect.

Visit [ScenicHouston.org](https://www.scenichouston.org) to tell the Mayor and City Council that you do not support the new digital LED billboards in Houston.

Trim Trees & Prevent Power Outages

During the month of June, several electrical outages knocked out power to much of the neighborhood. Some of the outages were caused by tree branches touching the high voltage wires. CenterPoint crews have been out to trim branches behind some properties in the easements and alleyways, and at least one transformer has been replaced. However, with all of the rain our trees are growing like crazy and could disrupt power in a storm. Please inspect lines behind your property for overgrowth that could cause an outage. Schedule private tree trimming if needed. By hiring your own tree contractor, you will have some control over the work performed. If a CenterPoint crews are sent out on an emergency basis, they will trim to their required standards (a minimum 10 ft radius from power lines).

Yard Waste Requirements

- Yard Trimmings, grass clippings, small branches and leaves must be placed in city-approved compostable bags, weighing no more than 50 lbs, for collection. City-approved compostable bags may be purchased at local grocery or hardware stores; be sure to look for the City Logo on the box. Other types of bags will not be collected. Paper bags are not approved for collection because they are opaque and crews cannot verify that the bags contain only leaves, as any other materials will break processing equipment.
- Bags must be 3 feet away from other bins.
- Small branches must be bundled with an overall size of less than 4 feet in length, less than 18 inches in diameter and less than 50 lbs in weight.
- Yard Trimmings that are mixed with paper, plastic, or any other type of waste will not be collected.
- Yard Trimmings generated by work performed by a contractor (landscaping company or individual contractor) will not be collected by city workers.

City Trash & Recycling

Automated curbside collection: Tuesday
 Yard Waste (bagged): Tuesday
 Recycling (Tues. B):....every other Tuesday
 June 8 & 22 July 7 & 20
 Aug. 3, 17 & 31 Sept. 14 & 28



Bins and yard waste bags may be placed at the curb after 6:00 pm the evening before collection and must be removed from the curb by 10 p.m. on collection day.

City Heavy Trash

Place items on the curb after 6 p.m. the Sunday before scheduled collection. **Tree debris** is collected every month. **Junk waste** is collected in **even** months.

Junk Waste/Tree Debris Schedule:

- Blocks East of Greenbriar:1st Friday
- Blocks West of Greenbriar: 3rd Monday

BOCA Officers & Directors

(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

<i>President</i>	Radu Tutos
<i>President-elect</i>	Stefan Murry
<i>Vice president</i>	Jennifer DeLange
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Wright
<i>Secretary</i>	Helen Toombs
<i>Past President</i>	James Cogan
<u><i>Directors 2019 – 2022</i></u>	Joe Cialone Steve Grossman Sue Lawson Julie Mastroianni
<i>2020 – 2023</i>	Kristina Bush Richard Holt Jean Jenner Sue Payne
<i>2021 – 2024</i>	Kevin Bonebrake Trey Christensen Katherine Mach Jenny Williams
<u><i>Committees</i></u>	
<i>Deed Restrictions</i>	Julie Mastroianni
<i>Historic Districts</i>	Steve Grossman & Geoffrey Walker
<i>Public Works</i>	John Cutler
<i>Trees</i>	Hank Segelke & Wallace Hooker
<i>Website</i>	Dave Shine
<i>Photographer</i>	Elaine Mut
<i>Night Out</i>	James Cogan
<i>Caroling Party</i>	Stephanie Pedigo & Shannon Allen
<i>Mixer</i>	Vacant
<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>	Bonnie Coffman
<i>4th of July Party</i>	Donna Yanowski Sue Payne Sue Lawson
<u><i>Executive Director</i></u>	Evalyn Krudy

Report Missed Trash Collection

To ensure trash is eventually collected, report missed collection to the city’s 311 operator (713-837-0311 from a cell phone). The City is actively adding staff and vehicles to its fleet in an effort to maintain its published schedule. Wednesday is the department’s catch-up day for recycling, so leave your bins out at the curb until recycling is collected.

Private Trash Schedule

Edgemont & Broadacres

WCA Waste: 713-526-1536

Regular Trash & Yard Waste... Tues. & Fri.
 Recycling every Friday. Heavy Trash by request

Cherokee is served by

Texas Pride Disposal: 713-705-3534

For more information contact customer service.

Safety Improvements at Rice/Sunset Intersection: A note from Council Member Kamin

Even before I took office in 2020, I heard from many community members – neighbors, Rice students, worshippers, drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, basically any group you can think of that utilizes the area – about the dangerous intersection at Rice/Sunset. My top priority was to address this issue as quickly as possible and in a fiscally responsible and feasible manner.

I am so proud that we were able to bring together stakeholders directly impacted by this intersection to come up with creative solutions to improve safety, including Kathie Easterly with University Place Super Neighborhood, John Thompson with Southampton Civic Club, Evalyn Krudy and Radu Tutos with Boulevard Oaks Civic Association, the office of Commissioner Rodney Ellis/Harris County Precinct 1, Rice University, Congregation Emanu-El, and First Christian Church. We had excellent expertise and insight from Houston Public Works and the Planning Department to guide our discussions.

After numerous discussions and rounds of input, the group came to consensus to move forward with the project detailed below. I think this is a great start in addressing a problem that, for 15+ years, we have not seen previous action on. Until now. This is a start, and improvements can be added with the community’s help.

The visual shows the proposed solution at the Rice/Sunset intersection. This project redesigns the intersection so that it is easier to navigate and safer for all road users. The proposed solution is to create a

“triangle” of public space using right-of-way on Sunset (please see “Near Term” visuals, pages 1-4 of the attachment). The intersection will be smaller, significantly slowing down drivers traveling in the area, and more inviting for people walking and biking. Reflective striping and signage will be added to ensure that drivers are aware of this new configuration. The new “triangle” can also be improved and beautified in the future by community stakeholders, if desired, by adding green space, public art, or other amenities (please see “Future Possibility” visuals, pages 5-8).

With the help of our Planning and Public Works Departments, we have worked it out so that my office will provide funding for the “Near Term” project, and look forward to seeing significant safety improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles using this intersection.

We are also happy to coordinate with community stakeholders if there is interest in privately funding the beautification of this new public space. As I continue to look at other safety improvements that are needed on Rice Blvd., this is a significant win that I hope will make a positive impact for the residents and institutions that call this neighborhood home.

I cannot thank stakeholders and those involved in this process, including our City departments, enough for their thoughtful input. Everyone worked together, and I have no doubt more efforts for the area are ahead in the future!



Near Term - View 1

Microsoft Excel