

VOL 4, ISSUE 1

January 2008



OLD BRAESWOOD  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

# Old Braeswood News

## *A letter from the president* by Dee Murray

Dear Old Braeswood Neighbors,

Happy New Year! We have a wonderful neighborhood and much of that is due to previous Boards and their accomplishments. Your new Board is talented and enthusiastic and will strive to contribute to those past accomplishments.

At the November 2007 annual meeting, graciously hosted by Ann and Kenneth Huete, the membership elected the 2008 Executive Board by acclamation. The meeting was a social event with wonderful food and rich conversation, welcoming several new families while recognizing the wealth of information available from neighbors who have lived in our community for many years.

The 2007 Board goals were: (1) complete the street tree pattern on W. Holcombe Blvd.; (2) beautify the triangle part at Glen Haven/Morningside and initiate grants for replacement of park equipment under the leadership of Chris Robins; (3) petition the city for replacement of our streets, storm sewers, curbs and gutters; and (4) research decorative street lighting options.

Carroll Shaddock and his committee were able to get nearly 200 trees planted along Kirby and Holcombe Blvd. Improvements for the triangle park were put on hold until the neighborhood water line replacement project and cable installations were completed; but a bench to be placed in the triangle has been completed with artwork from neighbors, and we look forward to that installation. Chris Robins has worked diligently to get the Parks Department to provide new playground equipment. We will, however, need additional funds for the removal of the old equipment, preparation of the ground for the new equipment and matching funds for a portion of the new play structure.

Our street, storm sewer, curbs and gutter replacement project has moved slowly because we don't have enough signatures although block captains worked diligently to obtain them. We need approximately 125 signatures to complete the petition drive. We will again campaign to obtain the needed signatures and request your support. Decorative street lights are on hold.

Your new Board met on January 22, 2008 and set preliminary goals for 2008 to (1) complete 2007 goals; (2) beautify the neighborhood through tree planting, park improvements, sidewalk repair, and a possible 'Yard of the Month' competition; (3) enhance communications through more frequent newsletters, publication of a 2008-09 Directory, more effective use of block captains, and more opportunities for neighbors to get together; and (4) be proactive about crime prevention by encouraging widespread support of RACS in order to provide necessary funding to expand patrol shifts.

We will keep you informed of our progress as the year goes on, always keeping in mind the need to maintain a safe and beautiful environment that we are all proud of.

As your President I look forward to working with you and ask that you continue to support our joint efforts through the gift of your time and financial support.

Sincerely,

*Dee Murray*

President  
Old Braeswood Property Owners Association

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### *Garden Club*

Are you interested in joining the Old Braeswood Garden Club? To receive an invitation to the next meeting, which will be on Tuesday, February 19th, at 10:00 a.m., contact Susan Teich at 713-839-7234 or at [steich1@comcast.net](mailto:steich1@comcast.net).

## 2008 Membership drive underway!

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It's time for our annual membership drive. Inside this edition of the Old Braeswood News you will find many informative articles about our neighborhood. Also included is an annual membership form and a reply envelope. Please take a few minutes to make your annual contribution. Your voluntary contributions provide the much needed support for our many activities. Collectively these activities help preserve and enhance our property values and maintain the special character of our historic neighborhood.

More Houstonians are beginning to take notice of Old Braeswood's location, quality construction, unusually large lot sizes, excellent public schools, and proximity to some of Houston's best amenities. Yet homes don't turn over frequently here. Once you've made Old Braeswood your home you'll never want to leave. Please send in your annual contribution now and help keep Old Braeswood strong.

## Welcome New Neighbors

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Please help us extend a warm welcome to our new neighbors who have come to Old Braeswood in the past 6 months.

Our new Welcome committee chair, Dawn Gervais, would love to hear from you if there are new neighbors on your block who need to be welcomed. Dawn can be reached by calling 713-664-3657.

Harriet & Michael Katzeff	2300 Bellefontaine
Saba & Ali Siddika	2500 Bellefontaine
Yansong Wang & Zerong Jiang	2300 Dorrington
Heather & Jason Turner	2300 Gramercy
Keith Calder	2400 Gramercy
Sharon & John D. Coan	2400 Gramercy
Rene Moarefi	2400 Gramercy
Luz & Jaime Nino	2500 Gramercy
Ronald Lopes	2300 Maroneal
Andrew R. Morgan	2200 Maroneal
Ron & Sheena Stubbers	2500 Underwood

## How to have your mail held at Post Office

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In the 3 plus years that we have lived in Old Braeswood (having moved from Meyerland) we have not been successful in having our mail held for us by the post office when traveling. We have filled out the yellow cards and were sure to place them in the hands of our regular carrier and yet we still received mail during our absence. This happened six times, and each time a complaint was made and promises were also made that it would not happen again.

I took a basket of the mail I received while I was away to the post office recently and spoke to a manager, Roderick Ward (713-842-1489 tel, 713-748-6014 fax, and [roderick.d.ward@usps.gov](mailto:roderick.d.ward@usps.gov)). I explained to him that we had never had a problem having our mail held at previous postal sub stations and therefore concluded that some different managerial procedures were in place which interfered with his station holding our mail as requested. He asked that we mark in bold print on future requests "ATTENTION OF MR. RODERICK WARD" and we could then be sure the system would work. Although the solution sounded absurd, I told him I would share my experience with my neighbors who must be similarly frustrated and not getting the service we are all entitled to. It would be helpful to know if others have had similar experiences.

Charles T. Bruner  
2522 Bellefontaine Blvd.  
713-660-6059



[This is another, in what will be a continuing series, on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]

Agelia Pérez McGowan and Gary McGowan moved into their house at 2234 Glen Haven Blvd. in 1981. Not long after, they decided to add some flooring in their attic. In the process, Agelia made a discovery. Sticking out slightly from under an existing floorboard, barely visible, was a small stack of booklets. They turned out to be multiple originals of a Memoriam to Daniel E. Garrett (1869-1932). Garrett served in the Tennessee Legislature before moving to Houston in 1905. Here, he practiced law and served in the U.S. House of Representatives (At-large 1913-1915 and 1917-1919; 8th Congressional District 1921-1932). A WW II Liberty Ship, the USS Daniel E. Garrett, was named for him. He was married to Ida Jones, a sister of Jesse Jones.

The Memoriam is in the form of a Resolution of the Board of The National Bank of Commerce (later, Texas Commerce Bank, and now, J.P. Morgan Chase). Printed on what appears to be yellowed parchment, and covered in a suede cloth, each of the booklets was actually signed by each member of the Board. No ballpoint pens were used here.

Each name is in the distinctive ink used by the signer - shades of brown, black, and blue, and one signature in a turquoise so strong that it bled through the page. The 21 names constitute an Honor Roll of Houston Royalty. A sampling includes: W.W. Fondren, a co-founder of Humble Oil Company; W.O. Huggins, the third editor of the Houston Chronicle; Jesse Jones, an original stockholder in Humble Oil Company, Secretary of Commerce under FDR, and other accomplishments too numerous to name; F.T. Manley, Vice President of The Texas Company; James W. Rockwell, a Regent of the University of Texas and a professor of UTHSC; A.D. Simpson, President of the National Bank of Commerce; Ben Taub, real estate developer and developer of Houston Medical Center; Gus Wortham, founder of the American General Life Insurance Company. These men are known through their philanthropy and civic service.

The Resolution states that it is being printed for presentation to members of Daniel E. Garrett's family as a showing of the Board's "appreciation and affection" for Garrett, who was a brother-in-law of the Chairman of the Board and the father of "our cashier." The "cashier" was J. Hurt Garrett, owner and resident of Agelia's house in the 1940s and 1950s.

Agelia gave one copy of the Memoriam to The Texas Room of the Houston Public Library and another copy to Fondren Library. She still had a few more copies, and hoped to give one to Garrett's descendants once she identified them. In researching this article, with some help from architectural historian Stephen Fox, Daniel Garrett's grandchild, Houstonian Susan Booth Keeton, was identified. She and Agelia are now in contact.



**Built in 1928, the house at 2234 Glen Haven Blvd. has retained its charm for 80 years.**

## Thank you! Trees for Old Braeswood Contributors

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Thank you to our 2008 Tree program contributors. As a result of your donations to this important neighborhood program, many new street trees will be planted this winter on W. Holcombe, Main, Greenbriar and in various locations throughout the neighborhood. Each year our older trees are lost due to age and construction projects which sever large roots. It is vitally important that we replace our street trees which provide shade us with and improve our air quality.

The following lists represents contributions received through January 15, 2008.

Adrienne & David Bond  
Courtney & Richard Butler  
Julie Cohn & John Connor  
Eileen Brewer &  
Joseph Corriere, Jr.  
Susan & Paul Danziger  
Biman & Bhagvanti Das  
Helen Dreyfus  
*in memory of Richard Dreyfus*  
Jack Eby & Marilyn Archer  
*in honor of Catherine Eby*  
Kenny & Suzanne Edwards  
Mary & Bruce Ehni  
Annette & John Eldridge  
Diane Tanking & Blanten Filak  
Barbara & Louis Green  
Mark Hausknecht & G.G. Hsieh  
Christine & Ernesto Infante  
Jan & Robert Kaminsky

Drs. Samia & Kamal Khalil  
Gail & Milton Klein  
*in honor of Lela Fishbein*  
Paul Mansfield  
Carla Giannoni & Bill Marchbank  
Evelyn Stewart &  
John Ray McFerren  
Luz & Jaime Nino  
Harry Pepper  
Agélia Perez Márquez  
*in memory of Forrester Lord  
and Richard Dreyfus*  
Maribel Isabel Reuter  
Jim & Judy Schwartz  
Dorry & Carroll Shaddock  
Carrey & Austin Stanton  
Rowena Young & Buddy Steves  
Col. & Mrs. John Ben Taub

### Social Committee update

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The Social Committee is looking for a new name. More than providing social opportunities the committee strives to bring neighbors together and to provide assistance to those in need. If you have a suggestion for a new committee name, please contact chairman, G.G. Hsieh at [gghsieh@gmail.com](mailto:gghsieh@gmail.com) or 713 660-9520.

Ongoing social committee initiatives also include:

**Tot Time in the Park** is the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. New Families: this is a great way to get to know others with small children. In case of rain, the group will meet the second Saturday of the month.

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors.** This is strictly a volunteer list of neighbors who are willing to help others in need for emergency situations, rides to doctor's appointments or helping pick up a car from the auto mechanic. If you need assistance or have ideas for helping neighbors in need, please contact [gghsieh@gmail.com](mailto:gghsieh@gmail.com) or 713 660-9520.

### Annual pet reminders

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The City now requires every pet owner to:

- (1) Observe the leash law (Section 6-101) which requires pets to be leashed when outside a fenced yard on private property. Dogs must be on leash and under the direct physical control of the owner while on the street or in a public space such as Old Braeswood Park.
- (2) Pick up after pets (Section 6-24) "and carry a means to remove feces with you and promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by such dog or cat."

Violation of these city laws carries a fine of \$500 per incident. We are grateful to all pet owners in our neighborhood for their thoughtful observance of these regulations.



## *Garbage reminders*

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<b>Regular Household trash</b>	<b>Every Tuesday</b>
<b>Yard Waste</b>	<b>Every Tuesday</b>
<b>Recycling</b>	<b>Every other Monday</b>
<b>Heavy trash collection</b>	<b>1st Monday of each month</b>

In accordance with Chapter 39 of the city's code of ordinances, trash may not be set on the curb for collection until 6 p.m. of the day preceding pick up. Please remind your yard service not to leave trash on the curb during the week, or ask them to haul it away.

Please also remind crews not to blow leaves or other debris into the storm sewers, as this clogs the system and creates the perfect conditions for mosquitoes. And, it is against the law.

For more trash rules visit [www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste).

## *Get your construction plans approved*

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The restrictions applicable to all sections of Old Braeswood require that plans be approved before construction of any improvements, including fences, walls, buildings and other structures, or any other construction or remodeling activity is undertaken that will alter a structure or its outward appearance. Approval is required before the construction activity commences.

The Old Braeswood POA is authorized by its charter and bylaws to review and approve plans for construction on property in Old Braeswood. This review is intended to ensure compliance with the restrictions, and will take into consideration the suitability of the proposed project to the site where it will be built, and its harmony with its surroundings. The review will be conducted by the Architectural Review Committee of the Association whose chair person and other members are appointed by the President.

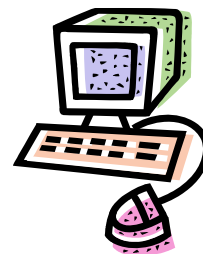
There are a number of specific requirements that projects must satisfy, which vary by section and sometimes by lot. The ARC will help you understand which requirements apply to your project and how they may be satisfied. Early plan review will help avoid last minute changes that can be expensive.

To learn how you can reach the committee, visit the Old Braeswood POA web site at [www.oldbraeswood.com](http://www.oldbraeswood.com) where a current list of officers and committee chairs and their phone numbers can be found.

## **2008 Officers & Chairpersons**

President	Dee Murray
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Buddy Steves
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Bob Birenbaum
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Pres.	Becky Pivec
At-Large	G.G. Hsieh
At-Large	Sam Bernstein
Treasurer	Liz Alhand
Secretary	Dawn Gervais
Past President	Agelia Pérez
Arch. Review	Marilyn Archer Colleen Elliot Matthew Kelly
Directory & Blk Captains	Sally Miller
Historic	Susan Teich
Flood Control & Environmental	Carroll Shaddock
Park	Christine Robins
Enforcement	Sam Bernstein David Robins
RACS rep	Ryan Maierson
Social	G.G. Hsieh
Trees	Carroll Shaddock
University Place	Kathy Lord
Welcome	Dawn Gervais

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