



A Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors:

I look forward to serving Old Braeswood this year, working with the other Board members, volunteers, and neighbors like you, to protect and improve one of Houston's great neighborhoods. We have made great progress in the last few years and we hope to build on that.

The priorities for 2010 are 1) protecting against encroachment, condemnation, crime and deed violations; 2) improved communications among residents and OBPOA; 3) improvements to the physical amenities such as streets and trees; 4) preservation of older homes; and 5) increased opportunities for social interactions among the residents. If you have ideas, just let us know about them.

Residents ask how they can contribute and participate. First, we always need volunteers to work on committees and other projects. Second, we need all residents to pay their dues and sign petitions to support improvements like street replacements. Third, join in the fun of the neighborhood events -- like socials and annual meetings -- and bring a neighbor!

I look forward to working with all of you to meet our common goals and to enhance Old Braeswood.

Regards,

John Eldridge

March 2nd Primary Elections

Please note that the March 2nd Elections will not be held at the usual locations in our Precinct. Instead, Precinct 472 Republican primary voting will be held at Roberts Elementary on Greenbriar. Precinct 472 Democratic primary voting will be held at the Rice School on Suess Drive. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

In this issue:

Your House Has a History	2
Historic designation and tax savings	3
City pet regulations	3
Crime update & prevention tips	4
Rules & Reminders	4-5
Neighborhood Real Estate Report	5
Welcome & invitations	6
Roberts Elementary School update	6
Committee News	7
Recycling & Trash Schedule	7
Reminders	7

**SAVE
THE DATE**

**Old Braeswood
Spring Meeting**

7:00 pm

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Place: 2310 Underwood Blvd.

(Home of Dorry & Carroll Shaddock)

Your House Has a History by Susan Teich, OBPOA Historian

The house at 2527 Glen Haven was designed for weddings, which explains the extra large living room and high ceiling. Congregation Beth Israel, the oldest Temple in Texas, built the house in 1958 for its Rabbi, Hyman Schachtel, and his wife Barbara. Over the years, the Schachtels hosted perhaps 50 weddings there. When Rabbi Schachtel died in 1990, Congregation Beth Israel made a gift of the house to Barbara and it became hers.

Rabbi Schachtel was born in England and immigrated as a child with his parents aboard the ill-fated *Lusitania*. When he met Barbara, he was rabbi of West End Synagogue in New York City, and she was an undergraduate at Wellesley College. It was summer, and they each had gone to Lake Placid. She heard a deep, sonorous voice that caught her attention. She followed the sound, and saw him surrounded by a small group. She lingered until the others left, and they met. Barbara dropped out of Wellesley two years short of graduation to marry him. In 1943, the Schachtels moved to Houston when Hyman became chief

rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel. Initially, they lived in Riverside.

Barbara loved Houston from the moment she stepped off the train. Everyone was so friendly. But this was before air conditioning, so, the first summers were spent with her parents in Rochester, New York. Hyman would visit in August to enjoy cooler air before bringing her home.

Rabbi Schachtel was active in the community in many ways, but it was his regular column in the *Houston Post* that initiated his friendship with Jack Valenti (a confidante of Lyndon Johnson, and, for many years, the president of the Motion Picture Association of America), who also wrote a column for that paper. The Valenti connection led to Schachtel's selection to administer the Invocation at the inauguration of LBJ in January 1965.

Schachtel taught at the University of Houston and the University of St. Thomas, as well as at St. Mary's Catholic Seminary and the Institute of Religion. He received many awards, too many to



Barbara Schachtel-Green, pictured here with her husband, Dr. Louis Green, has resided at 2527 Glen Haven Blvd. since it was built in 1958.

(continued from page 2)

enumerate here, and his books were widely published. Often quoted is a line in his book *The Real Enjoyment of Living*: “Happiness is not having what you want, but wanting what you have.”

Barbara raised their two children, and then she returned to school. She graduated from the University of Houston with both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree. Still later, she returned to school again, completing a Ph.D. in Behavioral Science at age 58 from the University of Texas School of Public Health.

She put her education to good use when she was appointed by County Commissioner E.A. “Squatty” Lyons to the Board of Managers of the Harris County Hospital District. Eventually, the Board elected her as Chairman. She served the Board for a total of 19 years. Barbara also served as Director of Quality Assurance for the Institute for Preventive Medicine, Methodist Hospital. She was a member of the Board of the Texas Medical Center, and a Trustee of the Institute of Religion.

Barbara is still living in the Glen Haven house, now sharing it with her second husband, Dr. Louis Green, a native Houstonian and longtime friend of the Schachtels. Dr. Green was Dr. Michael DeBakey’s first resident in surgery. They operated at Jeff Davis Hospital and at the V.A. Hospital. This was before heart surgery had become a recognized specialty, and Dr. Green reports that Dr. DeBakey, his entire life, still characterized himself simply as “a surgeon.” Dr. Green, now retired, served for many years as clinical professor of surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. The University of Houston Alumni Association has named both Dr. Green & Rabbi Schachtel as Distinguished Alumni.

Asked what has most changed about Old Braeswood in the many years she has lived here, Barbara replies that Old Braeswood remains very much the same, and that she likes it that way.

[This is the eighth article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]

Village Shops Feature OB Artist

Congrats to neighbor Dee Murray whose art is featured at Loop and First Fire, two shops on Rice Blvd. in the Village. Paintings include a series of 10 whimsical high heeled shoes. A must see!

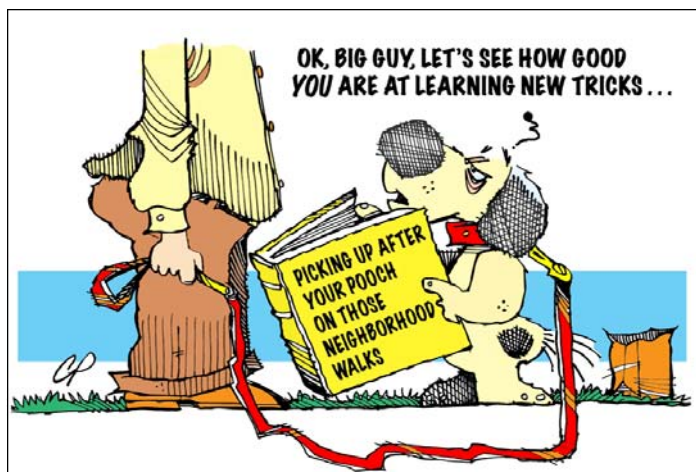
Be Historic & Save on Taxes

Many houses in Old Braeswood are at least 50 years old and eligible to qualify for Historic Landmark Designation by the City of Houston. Only City Council can make the designation and only the property owner can apply for it. Once designated, the property owner might qualify for exemption from City property taxes for as long as 15 years. The exemption is something you apply for if you spend at least 50% of the appraised value of your house on improvements. The improvements must occur either in the 5 years prior to your application for Historic Landmark Designation or in the 5 years following your designation as an Historic Landmark. Future Old Braeswood newsletters will expand upon this topic.

Don’t Forget to Scoop the Poop!

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.

Parking Considerations by Marilyn Archer

Certainly there are times when we all need to park on the street, but parking there can be problematic. Cars parked on the street can constrict traffic or conceal a driver's view of children who might be crossing the street. They are also more tempting to burglars and are more likely to be vandalized.

On streets without sidewalks, cars parked on the street force pedestrians and bicycles into the middle of the street —especially dangerous for children.

Also, please be courteous and thoughtful when entertaining so that the impact to your neighbors is minimized.

Crime Report: Laptop Burglaries by Evalyn Krudy

Two homes in the 2300 and 2500 blocks of Glen Haven in Old Braeswood were burglarized on Feb. 17 and Feb. 20th respectively. During the dark morning hours on February 17, burglars broke the window of a home in the 2500 block of Glen Haven and stole a laptop computer that was in plain view. A second neighborhood burglary occurred over the weekend when burglars broke a front window of a home in the 2300 block of Glen Haven and stole another laptop left in plain view.

In each case, the windows were bare, providing good visibility to the thieves. Several similar burglaries occurred during the previous week in a neighborhood north of Rice University. In at least one instance, the residents were home sleeping when the burglary occurred. In that case, the homeowner confronted and chased off the burglar. Thankfully, the owner was not harmed.

In another instance, an owner had not password protected her laptop and all of her personal and financial records and information was compromised.

You can discourage crime by following these helpful crime prevention tips from our Constable Service and HPD:

1. Keep shades or curtains closed to prevent viewing from the street. Consider sheer cur-

Deed Restrictions by Marilyn Archer

Old Braeswood's Deed Restrictions specify that the properties within Old Braeswood are to be single family residences and strictly prohibit rental or occupancy of outbuildings such as garage apartments except under limited circumstances.

Specifically precluded are rentals or long term occupancy by other than household help. In addition, Old Braeswood's Deed Restrictions do not allow a business to operate within the boundaries of our neighborhood.

For questions about the restrictions, please contact the office by calling 713-807-1787 or send a message to info@oldbraeswood.com.

tains that block the view and let light in.

2. Set your burglar alarm, even when you are home. Should activation of your alarm occur and the cause is unknown, let the alarm continue to ring in order to complete the activation process.
3. Lock gates.
4. Acknowledge callers through locked doors.
5. Post a "No Soliciting" sign next to your doorbell. Many burglars case houses and check to see if residents are home by posing as solicitors. You may be able to fend off some of them by posting a small sign or label at your door.
6. Get to know your neighbors and watch out for each others homes.
7. **Call the RACS Patrol Dispatcher at 713-755-7628** when you see anyone acting suspiciously in the neighborhood. Always call 911 in case of an emergency.
8. **IMPORTANT:** Password protect your laptop to prevent your personal and financial information from falling in to the wrong hands.

More burglary prevention tips can be found at <http://www.houstontx.gov/police/pdfs/BurglaryPreventionforHomesFeb09.pdf>

Building or Remodeling? Get Your Plans Reviewed!

by Marilyn Archer

Old Braeswood is a Deed Restricted neighborhood and has an active Architectural Review and Approval process. If you are considering changes that affect the outside appearance of your home (including roofs and fences) please contact the office at 713-807-1787 or send an email to info@oldbraeswood.com for information on the submittal and approval process. The review fees are listed below. These fees are used to support the Old Braeswood Deed Restrictions and other expenses related to maintaining the architectural quality of Old Braeswood.



2010 Plan Review Fees

New construction (\$500 Min.)	\$100 per 1000 sq. ft.
Remodeling project (ext. renovation/addition)	\$250.00
Fence or hardscape addition	\$100.00
Late fee* (if submitted after construction begins)	\$500.00

Old Braeswood's Yard Sign Rules

Deed restrictions put into place in the 20's and 30's established rules for yard signs to protect the beauty of the neighborhood.

Realtor signage, in the form of 'for sale' or 'for lease' signs, is permitted, as is political signage during election season only. All other signage such as contractor, developer, architecture, and any other signage, is not permitted.

Please remind your contractors that they may not post signs while working on your home.

Old Braeswood Real Estate Report

by Dawn Gervais, Realtor® Consultant

It's my opinion that the key to successfully buying or selling a home in today's market is to be educated on the current market conditions. It's also important to rely on the comparative analysis provided by your Realtor when pricing your home to sell. Don't be ruled by emotion and think that your home is worth more than the comps. It's just as important, if you are currently planning on purchasing a home, that you keep in mind that most homes are priced in line with the market. So don't expect huge discounts off the asking price.

The Houston real estate market closed out 2009 with a more realistic snapshot of local conditions, ending 3 months of sales readings that appeared high when compared to fall 2008 due to Hurricane Ike's crippling effects on area housing.

According to the latest monthly data compiled by the Houston Association of REALTORS® (HAR), December volume of single-family home sales across the greater Houston area dipped 2.1% compared to December 2008. That represents the first decline since last August. Total December property sales were flat on a year-over-year basis.



It will be interesting to see what happens with the sales in our neighborhood as we enter the busy season. I'll update you in the next issue. Until then, Happy Selling!

Total # Homes Sold in 2009: 10

* Avg Sales price per Sq. Ft.: \$207.11

* Avg Sales price: \$750,000

Total # Homes currently under contract: 3

* Minimum Sales price: \$399,900

* Maximum Sales price: \$1,777,000

Total # of Homes For Sale: 10

* Minimum Asking Price \$510,000

* Maximum Asking Price \$1,750,000

* Average Asking Price \$1,126,050

* Average Price per Sq. Ft. \$271.73

WELCOME

New Neighbors

The King family

2306 Underwood

Anna & Jeffrey

Courville

2414 Gramercy

Volunteers Needed

If you have layout or graphic design skills, we need you! Our talented newsletter chairman, Sharon O'Neill, has resigned from her post after two years and 10 marvelous newsletters. Many thanks to Sharon for her dedication and hard work to bring us the news and in such a delightful format.

The newsletter is produced using Publisher, and Sharon has developed a great template that is not difficult to use. For more info, contact Susan Teich at 713-839-7234.

Join the Yahoo Group!

Visit this link to get started: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OldBraeswoodNeighbors/>.

Frosty's visit to Old Braeswood



This winter surprised us with snow, and this snowman at 2341 Glen Haven looks equally surprised to be here. (Photo courtesy of Susan Teich)

Garden Club Invitation



The Old Braeswood Garden Club, organized in 1939, welcomes all women in Old Braeswood to join the Garden Club. Our motto is "Friendship." Actual gardening is not required. To join, please call President Christine Infante at 713-667-3675.

Roberts Elementary School Update by Rita Graves, Principal & Sherri Walsh, PTO President

We have exciting news to share about the accomplishments and upcoming events from Roberts Elementary. In 2009, we received the Texas Education Agency's highest rating of Exemplary, were named a Just for the Kids Higher Performing School and a Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll School. We are very proud of the challenging program and strong academic performance of our children.

Recent Highlights - In October we again hosted an incredible International Festival that brought in so many of our neighbors to share in the diversity of our community. In late October, we hosted the first of two community nights with an outdoor movie and pumpkin patch. In December, over 180 students performed a winter program at the Galleria. Just a few weeks ago our students organized an event to raise money for Haiti relief efforts with a total donation of more than \$5000.



Facilities Update and Campus Safety - We are making plans for a renovation to our International Garden with the addition of an outdoor classroom, made possible by the donation in memory of Anne and Edgar Lackner.

Our SDMC (Site-based Decision Making Committee), made up of teachers, school administrators, parents and community members, has asked me to review our campus safety practices. We recently instituted a plan to keep the gate on Greenbriar, closest to the play structure, locked while children are on campus. We are having a sign made to post at that gate with the hours the gate will be open.

Visit our website for more information <http://www.robertselementary.org/>.

We look forward to meeting you!



We have several events planned this year. In addition to the Park Party this spring and National Night Out on October 5th, we are planning to host spring and fall coffees (dates tba) to help old and new neighbors to get acquainted.

If you have ideas for social activities to make our neighborhood more fun, please contact me at .
713-660-9520 or gghsieh@gmail.com.
— **G.G. Hsieh**,

Trash and Recycling Changes & Schedule

Compostable Yard Waste Bags Required effective April 5th

On April 5th of this year, the City will begin requiring compostable yard waste bags which are available at Home Depot, Lowes, and WalMart. Until then, residents can continue to use regular black trash bags.



The City is also encouraging residents to “go green” by leaving lawn clippings on yards and by composting yard waste. For more information visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/.

Automated Recycling Bin Program Awaits Funding

Implementation of the new automated recycling service has been delayed but funding is on the way as the city plans to use over \$70 million in savings from renegotiated disposal contracts and the Compostable Bag program to fund our new containers. Later this year we'll be able to recycle glass along with other recycling using new 96 gallon rolling bins.

Recycling & Trash Schedule

Household Trash — Tuesdays

Yard Waste — Tuesdays

Recycling — Every other Monday

(Feb.2 & 16, March 2 & 16 & 30,
April 13 & 27, May 11 & 26)

In accordance with Chapter 39 of the City's Code of Ordinances, trash may not be set on the curb for collection before 6 p.m. of the day preceding pick up. Please remind your yard service not to leave bags on the curb during the week. 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 is against the law. For more trash rules, visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/.

2010 OBPOA

Officers & Chairpersons

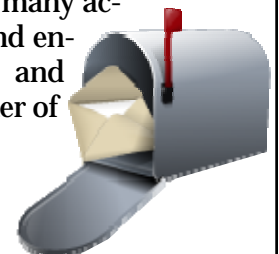
President	John Eldridge
1 st Vice Pres.	Susan Teich
2 nd Vice Pres.	Buddy Steves
3 rd Vice Pres.	Ryan Maierson
At-Large	Sam Bernstein
At-Large	G.G. Hsieh
Treasurer	Brent Whiteley
Secretary	Dawn Gervais
Past President	Dee Murray
Architectural Review	Marilyn Archer Matthew Kelley
Block Captains	Sally Miller
Historic	Susan Teich
Newsletter	<u>VACANT</u>
Park	Matthew Kelley
Enforcement	Sam Bernstein John Eldridge David Robins
RACS Rep	Ryan Maierson
Rice U Liaison	Bob Birenbaum
Social	G.G. Hsieh
Trees	Carroll Shaddock
University Place	Kathy Lord
Welcome	Dawn Gervais
Manager	Evalyn Krudy

2010 Membership Drive

The 2010 annual membership solicitation is included along with this newsletter mailing. Please complete the form and return with your dues.

Thanks to your continued generous support, we are able to carry out the many activities that help preserve and enhance our property values and maintain the special character of our historic neighborhood.

Thank you for your participation!



Your Neighborhood Remodeler/Builder



**WilliamShaw**
& Associates
Design | Build | Remodel

*Creating Spaces for a
Lifetime of Living*

Winner of the 2009 Texas Remodeler of the Year
Winner of the 2008 Star Award Best Specialty Room
Winner of the 2007 Master Design Gold Award

4206 Law Street | Houston, TX 77005 | 713.666.1931 | www.wmshawandassoc.com



**OLD BRAESWOOD
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 541346
Houston, TX 77254-1346

Phone: 713-807-1787

Email: info@oldbraeswood.com

www.oldbraeswood.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
