



From Your Board by Dee Murray

One of the Board goals this year is BEAUTIFICATION of Old Braeswood. Our first activity towards this goal was to work with the Old Braeswood Garden Club to recognize people who take such pride in their yards. We wanted to select a "Yard of the Season". The summer yard that was selected is Bob & Rachel Thompson's yard at 2306 Underwood. *Look for the silver flamingo.*

We will be looking for a Fall "Yard of the Season", so look around the neighborhood in October to help us recognize another beautiful yard. Send your nominations to Evalyn Krudy at info@oldbraeswood.com or call her at 713-807-1787.

Old Braeswood Nominations for 2009 by Evalyn Krudy

The Nominating Committee of Old Braeswood POA is soliciting recommendations of interested homeowners for the 2009 Executive Committee which consists of nine officers and which meets several times a year to oversee the operations of our neighborhood.

If you or someone you know would be interested in serving as an officer, a committee chairperson, block captain, community liaison, *(Continued on Page 7)*

Update on Old Braeswood Park by Christine Robins

Hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy the new playground equipment. Several items have been back ordered and will be installed when they arrive. Some of these items are: (1) hex roof for the main deck of the structure; and (2) tic tac toe panel and chimes panel to be installed at the toddler structure (one in place of the bubble panel).

As you know, the new equipment was a joint effort between the Old Braeswood Park Corporation, Houston Parks Board, and the City of Houston. The City provided matching funds of \$25,000 toward the project. The total *(Continued on Page 6)*

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SAVE THE DATE

11 Sept. 2008, 10 am
Federal Reserve Bank Tour*

7 Oct. 2008, 6 pm
Texas National Night Out*
Ice Cream in the Park, 7 pm

26 Oct. 2008, 3 pm
OB Park Grand Reopening*

4 Nov. 2008
Presidential Election Voting
2347 Underwood
(Joanne & Donald Brodsky home)

11 Nov. 2008, 7 pm
Old Braeswood Annual Meeting
2402 Glen Haven
(Alhand/VanWassenhove home)

*See articles in this newsletter for details.

Houston Home Prices Soar in July as Sales Drop by Dawn Gervais

Declining property sales, tempered by strong single-family home average and median pricing, prevailed across the greater Houston area for the eleventh consecutive month in July, according to statistics released by the Houston Association of REALTORS® (HAR). Sales of single-family homes slid 12.0 percent on a year over year basis—a smaller decline than the market has experienced in the past two months.

Sales of all property types for July 2008 totaled 7,052, reflecting a 12.7 percent drop compared to July 2007. Total dollar volume for properties sold during the month was \$1.5 billion versus \$1.6 billion one year earlier—a 6.7 percent decline. Sales of homes priced above \$500,000 rose by 9.4 percent on a year over year basis

"As we approach the one-year mark from when property sales began to slow, we continue to note positive signs in the form of strong pricing and stabilizing inventory," said Michael Levitin, HAR chairman. "Consumers from across the country and around the world are setting their sights on Houston, Texas as an extremely desirable place to buy a home during these challenging economic times."

A concern for Old Braeswood residents is how this is going to affect the market value of their homes. I've created a Market Report for our neighborhood for January thru August 2007, as well as January thru August 2008, for comparison.

REAL ESTATE STATISTICS— OLD BRAESWOOD

JANUARY 1, 2008 – AUGUST 15, 2008

TOTAL # OF HOMES SOLD	8
MINIMUM SOLD PRICE	\$283,000.00
MAXIMUM SOLD PRICE	\$949,000.00
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	70
LOTS SOLD - 1	\$1,500,000.00

JANUARY 1, 2007 – AUGUST 15, 2007

TOTAL # OF HOMES SOLD	9
MINIMUM SOLD PRICE	\$414,450.00
MAXIMUM SOLD PRICE	\$1,200,000.00
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	75
LOTS SOLD - 2	\$349,500.00 (max)

HOMES CURRENTLY FOR SALE

TOTAL # AVAILABLE	14
MINIMUM LIST PRICE	\$749,000.00
MAXIMUM LIST PRICE	\$1,825,000.00
AVERAGE LIST PRICE	\$1,275,000.00

No More Leaning Tower of Old Braeswood



The Old Braeswood neighborhood entrance markers to our area have been leveled at last! The pillars at Greenbriar/Dorrington and at Glen Haven/Kirby had shifted between 15 and 25 degrees since they were installed in 1986.

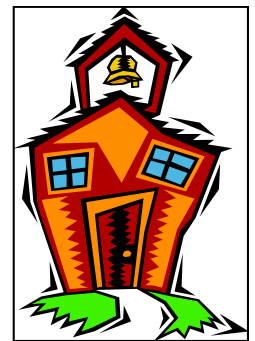
The project was postponed until Kirby Drive and the Kelving Water Line projects were completed due to fears that these major infrastructure improvement projects would cause further foundation problems. Immediate past president of Old Braeswood POA, Agelia Pérez Márquez, contributed the funds for this important project. Thank you, Agelia!

News from Roberts School

by Colleen Elliott

Members of the PTO at Roberts Elementary School are busy preparing for a fun-filled, fall school schedule. To kick off the school year, the PTO will be hosting six Back-to-School socials for the parents of students attending the school. Four of the six grade-level parties (intended as community-building gatherings) will be held in the homes of enthusiastic Old Braeswood residents.

On Oct. 17, 3-6 pm, the PTO will hold their parent-led Annual International Festival, one of the most authentic and elaborate school-sponsored festivals in the city! Fabulous food, student performances, and educational exposure to the diverse cultures represented at Roberts make this a popular event. The neighborhood is encouraged to come. Admission and food are free.



On Nov. 7, another grand family event, Movie Night under the Stars, comes to Roberts and neighborhood families alike. Plan to come and spread your blankets across the recently installed playing field to view a popular movie shown from Roberts' outdoor stage. Admission tickets and refreshments will be sold at reasonable prices to encourage widespread participation. More details to come. *(Continued on Page 7)*



7310 Main Street (built in 1930-31)

designed Houston's City Hall, and many, many other landmarks.

The house at 2358 Maroneal also will be demolished. It was designed by Theo F. Keller for Irvin M. Shlenker in 1948. Shlenker was a Monroe, Louisiana, businessman who moved to Houston in 1937, becoming president of the Gultex Drug Co. and chairman of the board of the Houston National Bank. He was also a president of Congregation Beth Israel, the oldest Reform Jewish synagogue in Texas. The Shlenker School, established in Houston in 1982 as the first Reform Jewish day school in Texas, is named for him.

The house's most recent owners were George P. and Ruth Marie Kelley. Mr. Kelley, a Houston restaurateur, operated Kelley's across from the Rice Hotel on Texas Avenue. Another of his restaurants, The Original Kelley's, occupied a Spanish style building at 3512 Main at Berry. That building was later occupied by Christie's, and last year was demolished.

The loss of these two houses follows the recent demolition of houses at 2109 Maroneal, 2218 Glen Haven, and 2357 Kelving.

For those Old Braeswood residents who value living in an historic neighborhood sheltered by the shade of mature trees, each demolition is a loss. New construction, however attractive, replaces a piece of our history, and the construction process often severs needed roots, leading to the decline and death of trees.

Each time a *For Sale* sign appears in an Old Braeswood yard, it is an opportunity to recruit friends to join our neighborhood by moving here and helping us to preserve our unique piece of Houston.

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

This time my column is a requiem for two Old Braeswood houses whose histories are coming to an end—7310 Main and 2358 Maroneal.

The house at 7310 Main is identified by Rice architectural historian Stephen Fox as the Julius M. Edel House, designed in 1928 by architect Joseph Finger and built between 1930-1931 (*Braeswood, An Architectural History*, pages 23-24). It is scheduled for demolition.

Finger, born and trained in Austria, settled in Houston in 1908, and practiced architecture here until his death in 1953. His repeat clients included Philip Battelstein and Joseph Weingarten. He



2358 Maroneal (built in 1948)

About Your Neighbors

by Evalyn Krudy and Dee Murray

Please help us extend a warm welcome to our new neighbors who have come to Old Braeswood in the past seven months: Rebecca & Matthew Kelly (2200 Glen Haven), Reza Mehran (2300 Bellefontaine), and Joanna & Allen Pasternak (2500 Maroneal).



Our OB Welcome Committee chair, Dawn Gervais (713-664-

3657), would love to hear from you if there are additional new neighbors on your block who need to be welcomed. New residents receive a packet of information

about the neighborhood and OB-POA, a directory, and a bag filled with goodies—some of them homemade.

Congratulations to Kathy Lord who will join co-author, Cinda Matthews, at the Brazos Bookstore on Dec. 3, 7 pm, to sign their new book, *The Traveling Skillet Cookbook*. All proceeds will go to M.D. Anderson for research in blood cancers and stem cell transplants.

On June 14, Jay Plotkin and his family and friends dedicated the park triangle, "Katy's Corner", in honor of Katheryn "Katy" Plotkin. To honor the special day, District



Jay Plotkin & Anne Clutterbuck

C Council Member Anne Clutterbuck read a proclamation. "Katy's Corner" is an inviting little garden spot to stop and enjoy a peaceful moment. We can sit on the clever bench produced by the Old Braeswood Garden Club and reflect. Thank you Jay and your family for giving us a (Continued on Page 7)

Social Committee by G. G. Hsieh

As the free-form days of summer give way to the regular rhythms of school and its myriad of activities, here are a few more possibilities to add to your fall calendar.

Free Friday Films at Rice Stadium

Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, refreshments (no glass), and the whole family to watch movies on the big scoreboard. Parking is free (gates 13A or 13B off Greenbriar). The stadium opens one hour before show time.

- Sept 5, 7 pm— Muppets from Space
- Sept 12, 7 pm — In the Shadow of the Moon, a documentary exploring the Apollo Space Program
- Sept 19, 7 pm — Forbidden Planet, classic sci-fi film
- Sept 26, 7 pm — Apollo 1

For more events and activities, go to www.rice.edu/neighbor, and on the column to the left under "Community", click on "Open Invitation".

Tour of the Houston Branch of the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank, 1801 Allen Parkway, 77019

We all have driven by this impressive building, and now you have the chance to explore it. Join your neighbors on a one-and-a-half hour tour filled with interesting information and beautiful surroundings on Thursday, September 11, 10 am. For directions, check the website. Also, I will have printouts that morning. Please note, you must be a junior in high school or older to take this

tour. No food, beverages, or photography are permitted. If you need a ride or can provide one, let me know and meet at my house at 9:15 am. We need a minimum of 15 people, so call or email me if you plan to go. You won't be disappointed!

National Night Out—Tuesday, October 7 (Block parties 6-7 pm; Park party 7-8:30 pm)

To keep Texans from sweltering in the August heat, National Night Out has been moved to Tuesday, October 7, from 6 – 9 pm.

Turn on your porch lights and meet your neighbors from 6 – 7 pm; then head on over to the Old Braeswood Park from 7 – 8:30 pm for Amy's Ice Cream! RACS and HPD will be visiting us at the park and at individual gatherings.

Organize your own gathering for your block from 6 – 7 pm. It can be as simple as meeting mid-block for cookies and lemonade or as elaborate as having a progressive dinner.



The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Block captains &/or fun-loving neighbors, start gathering ideas and I will be in contact with you soon.

Thanks and enjoy!

G.G. Hsieh

2322 Maroneal, 713 660-9520, gghsieh@gmail.com

“4th of July” OB Parade

On Sunday, 29 June, we had our inaugural Old Braeswood Independence Day Parade. It was a hot day, yet both adults & children dressed for the festive event and the parade of kids with their decorated bicycles was wonderful. Becky Pivec was the event coordinator and a great “Uncle Sam” (shown with Sally Miller in 2nd photo).



Peyton and Pryce Pivec stopped to pose for a photo; and ...



... Bill and Dee Murray (OBPOA President) with Ruth Kosieracki seemed to enjoy a bit of shade.

The day was fun for all—yes, another successful Old Braeswood event!

Park Campaign a Success *by Christine Robbins*

Thanks to the following generous donors, the Old Braeswood Park Corporation's (OBPC) Braeswood Park Renovation Campaign was a HUGE success!!

Park Benefactor (\$10,000 & up)

The Wortham Foundation
Kathrine G. McGovern

Park Sponsor (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Jay Plotkin
Daniel Levin & Melissa Rubenstein
and Mansel & Brenda Rubenstein

Park Partner (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Joe & Margaret Clegg
Old Braeswood POA
Deborah McCoy

Park Backer (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Jim & Judy Schwartz
Steven & Sally Burkett
Mina & Robert Covington
Mark Hausknecht & GG Hsieh
Vicki & Bob Birenbaum
Joann Matthiesen
Fred & Courtney Steves
Maria Reuter
Helen Dreyfus
Paul & Eleanor Mansfield

Park Supporter (\$500-\$999)

Paul & Susan Danziger
The Beren/Jefferson Family
Agust Helgason
John Connor & Julie Cohn
Kamal & Samia Khalil
Charles & Janet Bruner
Randolph & Mollie Schaffer
Marcia Munroe
Tom & Fran Callahan
Joseph & Eileen Corriere
Christine & David Robins

Ernesto & Christine Infante
Steven & Sheryl Barrett
Sally & Bill Russ
Rebecca & Matthew Kelly
Sharon & John Coan
Paul & Eva Allison
Mark Schnee
Susan & Leonard Teich

Park Booster (Up to \$500)

Cathlyne Camp-Murray
Carroll & Dorry Shaddock
Donald Treat & Janet Horn
Kathy & Tom Lord
Mary & Gregory Erwin
Gary & Terese Wagner
Constance & Arnold Pollon
Charles & Lisa Cusack
Kelly & Marylynn Rushing
Martha & Brian Long
Dave Kaminsky
Elizabeth & Brian Smith
Todd & Laurie Lonergan
Peter & Margo Elgohary
Andrea & Robert Lapsley
Linda Joekel
Sam & Mary Orlando
James & Carol Tindall
Shawna & Mark VanNess
Old Braeswood Garden Club
Neill & Ruth Davis
Pamela & John Strasburger
Adrian & Lisa O'Malley
Biman & Bhagvanti Das
Bill & Dee Murray
Milton & Gail Klein
Stanley & Susan Schneider
David & Sally Miller
Marilyn Archer & Jack Eby
Roger & Sharon O'Neil

The Grand Reopening of Old Braeswood Park is scheduled for Sunday, October 26 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. A formal announcement will be mailed to you directly.

Last Chance to Promote Your Business

Don't miss the opportunity for some great exposure for your business in the 2008-09 Old Braeswood Directory. Sponsors are needed at every level. You or your business can sponsor a page or partial page for \$50 to up to \$500. Contact Sally Miller for more information at 832-452-0113.

Thank You 2008 OBPOA Members! by Evalyn Krudy

The following list includes names of those who have contributed to OBPOA from June 1—Aug. 31, 2008.

Patron (\$250 and up)

Robert Fain
Lynne & Steve King
JoAnn Matthiesen

Sustaining (\$150 and up)

Marilyn Archer & Jack Eby
Vicky & Anthony Estrera
Kathy & Lee Gunner
Christine & Jeff Hollinden
Joanne Swartz & Randall Newman
Joanna & Allen Pasternak

Regular (\$100 and up)

Anonymous (2)
Mrs. Rouhieh Ahmadi
and ShiShi & Ike Anya
Evelyn Berkowitz
Joanne & Donald Brodsky
Fran & Tom Callahan
Nancy & John Curry
Ruth & Neill Davis
Laurie & David Eckman
Colleen & Doug Elliott
Vikki & Rich Evans

Janet Mortenson & Brooks Morgan
William & Marjorie Perlmutter
Dorry & Carroll Shaddock
Saba & Ali Siddika
Dana & Craig Stewart
Eleanor R. Thomas & Leo Thomas
Shawna & Mark H. Van Ness
Hemant Vyas

If you have recently sent in your dues and your name is not listed above, your name will be included in the next newsletter.

Update on Old Braeswood Park (Continued from Page 1)

cost for the equipment, demolition, and installation was \$47,500. That figure takes into account the discount the City provided in purchasing the equipment. The goal in replacing the equipment was to maximize the amount of play features the area could accommodate, and I do believe we accomplished that goal. However, this project would not have been possible without our donors, our amazing in-house fundraiser, Kathy Lord, and Council Member Anne Clutterbuck, District C, who secured the City funds for the project.

The prior structure was installed before the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) had public playground equipment guidelines regarding specific fall zones and placing/spacing of equipment. In replacing the structure, we were required to adhere to the CPSC's guidelines regarding fall zones and placing/spacing. In this regard, we have retained the old horse and seal riders and were hoping to be able to utilize them some-



where else in the park, but the CPSC's guidelines specify that each must have a fall zone of six feet in every direction. Taking into account the fact that each rider was approximately 3' x 18' we would need a 15' x 13' space to install each, and installing them in the grass without surfacing underneath was not an option. We were very disappointed. Nonetheless, we will retain these two pieces of equipment should there come a time in the future when we may consider installing them somewhere else in the park within their own bay. The CPSC guidelines also dictated that the toddler swings would have to be moved to the swing bay. We were disappointed that we would have to lose two of the regular swings to accommodate the toddler swings, but knowing how well used the toddler swings were, we knew we made the right decision.

The new play structure carries the same 5-12 year old recommendation as the prior wooden structure. If your children are younger than 5, it would be wise to educate them on which slides or features that may not be appropriate for them to try until they are a little older.

The remaining items in the Park Corp.'s renovation project are the repair of the irrigation system and the gates at the park, address some issues related to areas in the park where grass will not grow, possibly replace some benches, and install personalized pavers and plaques from the generous donors.

Sadly, less than two months after this new equipment was installed, it already has been defaced with some type of blue paint or marker. Please monitor your children while you are at the park and clean up after yourselves. Although this is a City of Houston park, it is our own park and it is up to us to keep it clean.

We hope all will be able to attend the Grand Reopening, October 26, 3-5 pm. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, *Old Braeswood Park Corporation*

News from Roberts School

(Continued from Page 2)

From Sept. 3-17, members of the Roberts PTO will have their first fall fundraiser that will include the sales of Sally Foster premium gift wraps, gourmet foods, magazines, and area Entertainment Books. Please consider buying these products when our neighborhood Roberts students come knocking on your door. If you aren't lucky enough to hear from one of these children, please contact Denise Smith at (713) 668-0840 or (713) 898-0244.

On Nov. 18 and 19, a second fall fundraiser, the Annual Book Fair, will be held in the Roberts School library. Please consider doing some early holiday shopping as the proceeds directly benefit Roberts Elementary and assures the continuance of its strong reputation. Remember, a contribution to Roberts is a contribution to your neighborhood!

Trash & Recycling

by Dee Murray and Evalyn Krudy

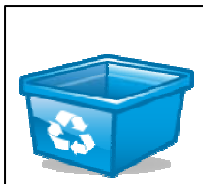
Here are some reminders about changes to trash, yard waste, and recycling:

Automated trash (in a trash bin) and yard waste (lawn clippings, in bags not to exceed 50 lbs.) are collected every **Tuesday** by the City of Houston.

Heavy trash is collected the first **Monday** of every month:

- Tree Waste (tree limbs, branches and stumps in odd-numbered months) — Nov, Jan, Mar, May, July, and Sept.
- Junk Waste (lumber, furniture, appliances, and other bulky materials in even-numbered months) — Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, June, and Aug.

Recycling (but not glass) is collected on every other **Monday**. The fall collection dates are Sept 8 & 22; Oct 6 & 20; Nov 3 & 17; and Dec 1, 15, & 29.



About Your Neighbors

(Continued from Page 4)

spot to remember Katy and beautify our neighborhood in her honor. Christine Robbins offers this poem by W. H. Davies to enjoy "Katy's Corner" meditation garden.

Leisure

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.



OB Nominations

(Continued from Page 1)

or simply a member on one of our general committees, please submit your recommendations to the Nominating Committee by calling 713-807-1787 or sending a message to info@oldbraeswood.com.

Please include your name, phone number, and contact info for the person you're nominating. Self nominations are welcome. A full listing of positions can be found on this page. Nominees must own and reside in a home in Old Braeswood and be current with their dues.

The Nominating Committee will match nominees and their interests with positions available and submit a slate of nominees for election at the annual Old Braeswood meeting in November. **Nominations must be received by September 26, 2008.**

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Dee Murray, Kathy Lord, Dawn Gervais, and Colleen Elliott.

2008 Old Braeswood POA Officers & Chairpersons

President	Dee Murray
1 st Vice Pres.	Buddy Steves
2 nd Vice Pres.	Bob Birenbaum
3 rd Vice Pres.	Becky Pivec
At-Large	G.G. Hsieh
At-Large	Sam Bernstein
Treasurer	Liz Alhand
Secretary	Dawn Gervais
Past President	Agelia Pérez Márquez
Architectural Review	Marilyn Archer Colleen Elliot Matthew Kelly
Directory & Block Captains	Sally Miller
Historic	Susan Teich
Flood Control	Carroll Shaddock
Newsletter	Sharon Lund O'Neil
Park	Christine Robins
Enforcement	Sam Bernstein John Eldridge David Robins
RACS rep	Ryan Maierson
Social	G.G. Hsieh
Trees	Carroll Shaddock
University Place	Kathy Lord
Welcome	Dawn Gervais
Manager	Evalyn Krudy

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