

VOL 4, ISSUE 3

June 2008



OLD BRAESWOOD  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

# Old Braeswood News

## *A Letter from the President* by Dee Murray

Friends and Neighbors,

Just a friendly reminder that I sent out a letter in May requesting that you help us increase the number of people who pay their 2008 membership dues. We were at 49% in May. I'm hoping we can get to 75% by the end of June. Wouldn't that be wonderful? We just need you to send your dues to our manager, Evalyn Krudy. To check the status of your account, please call 713-807-1787 or send a message to [info@braeswood.com](mailto:info@braeswood.com).

Thank you to all of you who have paid your dues.

As I stated in that letter, your Board has a desire to increase communication and activities which help to preserve our property values and that will build upon our sense of community and what we hold dear about Old Braeswood.

As in the past, we continue to be successful in protecting the beauty and integrity of Old Braeswood. This comes as a result of your generous annual dues to become members of Old Braeswood Property Owners Assoc. There is a great deal of construction activity in our neighborhood with new buildings and remodeling and more is planned. These activities are being carefully monitored by the Old Braeswood Architectural Review and Enforcement Committees. Other activities have been aimed at reducing crime and helping change city policy to facilitate trash collection for corner lots.

Thank you for all you do to increase the value of this community.

Warmly,

*Dee Murray*, President, Old Braeswood Property Owners Association

## *"Katy's Corner" Dedication* by Christine Robins

Thanks to the generous donation of Jay Plotkin, whose desire it was to honor his late wife Katheryn "Katy" Plotkin, the small triangular park at the corners of Morningside, Kelving, and Glen Haven will be dedicated in honor of Katy Plotkin. The park will be known as "Katy's Corner" and will provide a shady respite for those so inclined to sit and enjoy the beautiful flora and listen to the laughter of children playing at the nearby park.

Katheryn Plotkin was born in Old Braeswood and spent most

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

**14 June 2008, 4:30 pm**  
**"Katy's Corner" Dedication\***

**29 June 2008, 4 pm**  
**OB Independence Day Parade\***

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

**7 Oct. 2008, 6 pm**  
**Texas National Night Out\***

\*See articles in this newsletter for details.

## Crime Incidents Underreported in Old Braeswood

by Evalyn Krudy

Each month we review the HPD crime statistics for our area and are surprised by how few incidents have been reported. We have learned that reports made to RACS are not shared with HPD and, therefore, do not appear on the city's monthly online statistics.



Without accurate reporting, we do not qualify for assistance that we need from HPD. We have brought this problem to the attention of our local HPD and Constable captains, but they tell us this is a problem citywide and that their respective departments do not have a solution at this time.

Although the county does not post their crime statistics, RACS officers still need to know what incidents have happened. Please report all crime incidents to both RACS and HPD.

Fortunately, HPD reports are now quick and easy thanks to the city's new online police report option. File your report online at [http://www.houstontx.gov/police/online\\_report.htm](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm). Click "Continue" at the bottom of the page to make the report.

## Joining Forces (Yard of the Season)

by Dee Murray

The Old Braeswood Garden Club and The Old Braeswood Property Owners Association have come up with a wonderful, fun, plan. We are going to select a "Yard of the Season". What a great way to get people out appreciating their neighbors yards and giving them recognition for their yard.

So, we are looking to you to send in nominations for yards that you think are especially special. We want the nominations by June 27<sup>th</sup>. All you have to do is call our manager Evalyn Krudy at 713-807-1787 and tell her the address of the yard you would like to nominate.

The Garden Club will appoint a committee of members to go around and determine a winner for the summer yard of the season and Old Braeswood POA will erect a sign in the yard of the winner.

**BUT WE NEED YOUR NOMINATIONS – LOOK AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CONTACT EVALYN.**



## Recycling in Old Braeswood

According to the City of Houston, neighborhoods with a curbside recycling participation rate of less than 10 percent are subject to being cut off from curbside recycling by the Solid Waste Dept. Presently, the rate of recycling in Old Braeswood is approximately 46 percent.

## Old Braeswood Garden Club

by Terese Wagner and Kris Tinkham

Just as it is in nature, this spring has been busy at the Old Braeswood Garden Club. The 2007-2008 Flower Show theme was "The Cosmos," which featured "out-of-this-world" arrangements.



OBGC is almost 70 years old and continues to be a forum for fun and friendship for Old Braeswood residents.

The Club will resume meetings in the Fall and welcomes all interested females. You don't need to be an avid gardener to join! Just contact Susan Teich at 713-839-7234 or [steich1@comcast.net](mailto:steich1@comcast.net) for more information or to nominate a neighbor for membership.

Look for the dedication and installation of a beautiful tile bench donated by OBGC to the newly landscaped triangle in the heart of Old Braeswood at Kelving, Morningside, and Glen Haven (see article, "Katy's Corner" in this newsletter). Each tile was hand painted by a member of the Club with the hopes that the bench would provide a peaceful place for neighbors to rest and enjoy.

## *Update on Braeswood Park Renovations* by Christine Robins

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Old Braeswood Park Corporation wishes to thank those who have donated to the current Braeswood Park Renovation Project. Thanks to the generosity of Old Braeswood residents we are nearing our fundraising goals. The City of Houston has approved the matching funds of \$25,000 and will be placing the order for the new playground equipment within the month.

The timing of the demolition of the existing wooden structure and installation of the new equipment will depend upon when the order is placed, however, we do expect the equipment to be installed by mid-August. A Grand Re-Opening Ceremony and celebration will follow completion of the project and all will be invited!

Donations are still needed! It is not too late to contribute. Contribution levels are as follows:

Patron Level	Amount	Patron Benefits
\$10,000 and above	Park Benefactor	Name on plaque on new equipment
\$5,000-\$9,999	Park Sponsor	Name on plaque at entrance of park
\$2,500-\$4,999	Park Partner	Name on plaque at entrance of park

*(Continued on Page 7)*

## *Your House Has a History* by Susan Teich, OBPOA Historian

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Many of us live in the lovingly restored, fine, old houses that turned "Braeswood" into "Old Braeswood." Have you ever wished that you could glimpse yours when it was new? Becky and Wayne Pivec, at 2422 Glen Haven, have been able to do just that, thanks to an old newspaper clipping given to them by a friend, and now framed on their wall. Their house was featured on the front page of the *Houston Post's* real estate section on November 17, 1940.

Everything about their house was the newest thing of the time. It featured the new rumpus room with furniture in the new bamboo style, the new Porta-built kitchen unit made on one of the new kitchen assembly lines, the new Pacific Automatic Heating Unit with the new automatic thermostatic controls and automatic vents, and, the very newest thing, the new deep-freeze! And the name of the company that built such an up-to-the-minute residence? The Modern Construction Company, of course.

The article invites the public to view the house as a model for five to ten houses to be built in the "new section" of Braeswood. Today, such a promotion would emphasize that the house was a luxury home with custom fixtures. Not in 1940. Instead, the emphasis was cost and mass production. The house is "The Economy House," and is "named for its greater amount of room with quality construction and materials at the lowest possible cost." The kitchen is constructed and assembled "by cost saving production line methods in Houston in one of the largest assembly lines of its kind in the South." The heating unit has the "lowest cost operation and fuel consumption."

There are other clues to the age of the article, without even looking at the date. The street name is "Glenn Haven" instead of "Glen Haven." The extra "n" indicated that the street was named for Glenn McCarthy, owner of the Shamrock Hilton and a nearby resident. Who today would write that the rumpus room furniture is "built so that delightful seating arrangements can be made" *(Continued on Page 7)*



**At 2422 Glen Haven is "The Economy House" of 1940.**



## Recent Criminal Activity by Evalyn Krudy

Recently we have had an alarming number of reports of criminal activity from our residents including auto burglaries, side-view mirror thefts (Mercedes Benz are very popular), garage thefts and other mischief.

During the week of May 19, a Mercedes Benz car was parked in a driveway in the 2400 block of Glen Haven was damaged by vandals who were trying to steal the side view mirrors with digital arrow displays. Another incident took place at 4 a.m. on May 22, when a homeless man who has been seen under the Kirby bridge was caught scavenging the garage and attempting to enter a home in the 2300 block of Bluebonnet. The man appeared to be in search of food. In this case the homeowner awoke and chased him over the front gate. He was eventually caught by RACS. On May 30, an open garage behind a closed electronic gate was burglarized in the 2500 block of Bluebonnet.



Protect your home and cars by locking all doors. Park in a locked garage and close and lock your gate if you have one. Also, don't leave purses or wallets on the kitchen counter overnight. Burglars have been known to smash in a kitchen window and grab a purse or wallet and other small items with high resale value such as ipods, cameras, laptops and cell phones.





**Join us for the  
Old Braeswood  
Independence  
Sunday, June 10  
Calling all kids  
Decorate your bike,  
then come out and participate  
parade followed by  
Meet at 3:45 at Old  
procession begins at 4  
encircle the park, then proceed  
Bluebonnet, then return  
Organized and sponsored by**

## Social Committee by G. G. Hsieh

*"While the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many."*

Lady Bird Johnson

Dear Neighbors,

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, a group of us enjoyed our most recent event, a guided tour of the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft's exhibit highlighting some of the best American crafts of the past 200 years. Afterwards, we met and talked with master glass craftsman, Caleb Siemon, who lives in California but trained in Murano, Italy. Many thanks to all who attended.

Upcoming neighborhood events include:

- the NEW July 4<sup>th</sup> Kids' Park Parade and Party to be held June 29<sup>th</sup> at the park. All thanks go to Becky Pivec for the inspiration and execution of this event.
- Annual Ice Cream Social & fall Park Party. Date TBA.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) 10 am: A free guided tour of the Federal Reserve Bank on Allen Parkway. The tour lasts 1 - 1 1/2 hours and is limited to adults & young people who are at least a junior in high school. There are spots for up to 40 people on the tour. You

can reserve your place now by contacting me. Don't miss this one—great art, architecture, and lots of money! For more info and directions, go to [www.dallasfed.org/fed/houston.cfm](http://www.dallasfed.org/fed/houston.cfm).

- October 7<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) 6-9 pm: This is a new date in Texas for National Night Out since the original August date was felt to be too hot. For those of you unfamiliar with NNO, it began in 1984 as a way for neighborhoods to fight crime and promote local camaraderie. It's a great opportunity for us to get out and meet our neighbors. (Block captains, I hope to contact you this summer to plan for this event.)

Another source for interesting local happenings is the Rice University website. All events listed under the heading, "Open Invitation" can be attended by neighbors in the community. Events are highly varied, and many are at no cost.

Again, if you have great ideas, want to help organize an event, or RSVP for the Federal Reserve Bank tour, contact me at [gghsieh@gmail.com](mailto:gghsieh@gmail.com) or 713 660-9520. If you need to update your email contact address, notify Evalyn Krudy at [info@oldbraeswood.com](mailto:info@oldbraeswood.com).

Stay cool and have a great summer. Hope to see you soon.

Your neighbor, *G.G. Hsieh*

## The inaugural Braeswood Independence Day Parade

June 29, 4 p.m.

(and spectators)!

Bring your pet and yourself,  
participate in an Independence Day  
parade with popsicles in the park.

Meet at Braeswood Park,  
at 4:00. Parade route will  
proceed down Morningside to  
Kelvington to the park via Kelvington.

Sponsored by OBPOA

## Soliciting Door-to-Door

There have been several reports of magazine scams and fraudulent sports team fundraising in the neighborhood. Soliciting is not an illegal activity unless the person refuses to go after you have asked them to leave your property.

To help send a message to these questionable people, consider posting a "No Soliciting" sign at your front door. Signs can be purchased at Bering's or other hardware stores.

**Our thanks are extended to Sally and Bill Russ for hosting our Annual Spring Meeting on April 22, 2008. Over 50 Old Braeswood residents attended the social and business meeting at the Russ's home.**

**Tim Douglass, attending for District C Council Member Anne Clutterbuck, responded to the concerns of OB residents and gave an update on issues that impact our neighborhood.**



## "Katy's Corner" (Continued from Page 1)

of her life living in this wonderful neighborhood we are lucky enough to call home.

Katy's Corner is a fitting way to honor her vibrant spirit and joy for life in the neighborhood that she called home for many years. A dedication ceremony will be held at Katy's Corner on Saturday, June 14, 2008 beginning at 4:30 p.m.



The Old Braeswood Garden Club designed and created the lovely hand painted tile bench that will be installed at the park

in conjunction with the plaque that will identify the park as Katy's Corner.

The Old Braeswood Park Corporation will provide upkeep of the park and rotation of flora on an annual and/or seasonal basis.

Come, sit and enjoy the wonderful meditation garden at Katy's Corner.

## Promote Your Business in the Old Braeswood Directory

Don't miss this opportunity for some great exposure for your business. Sponsors are needed at every level.

You or your business can sponsor a page or partial page in the directory for \$50 to up to \$500.

Contact Sally Miller for more information at 832-452-0113.

## Corner Trash Pick-up

Kudos to District C Council Member Anne Clutterbuck and Solid Waste Director Harry Hayes for working with Old Braeswood to restore trash collection locations for corner lots!

As we reported to you in March, the new policy was forcing neighbors to drag their trash bins to the front of their homes. Because Morningside and Kelvington do not have sidewalks, this was a very dangerous and annoying situation.



## *Thank You 2008 OBPOA Members!* by Evalyn Krudy

The following list includes names of those who have contributed to OBPOA through May 31, 2008.

### **Patron ( \$250 and up)**

Anonymous (1)

Sally & Steven Burkett  
Mina & Robert Covington  
Helen Dreyfus  
Annette & John Eldridge  
Dawn & Richard Gervais  
G.G. Hsieh & Mark Hausknecht  
Agust H. Helgason  
Nancy T. Beren & Larry Jefferson  
Paul Johnson  
Paul Mansfield  
Deborah McCoy  
Sally & David Miller  
Anita & Jim O'Shaughnessy  
Becky & Wayne Pivec  
Jay Plotkin  
Mollie & Randy Schaffer  
Rowena Young & Buddy Steves  
Elizabeth Stewart & Bonnie Foxworth

### **Sustaining ( \$150 and up)**

Anonymous (1)

Lisa Mann & Bradley Bingham  
Jean & Eugene Boisaubin  
Dr. Arthur & Annette Bracey  
Julie Cohn & John Connor  
Susan & Paul Danziger  
Suzanne & Kenny Edwards  
Mary & Bruce Ehni  
Fran Slater & Michael Feltovich  
Robin Fredrickson  
Kathy & Lee Gunner  
Gail & Dr. Milton Klein  
Ruth Kosieracki  
Shirley & Irv Kraft  
Carla Giannoni & Bill Marchbank  
Mary & Salvador Orlando  
Harry Pepper  
Sally & Bill Russ  
Judy & Jim Schwartz  
Courtney & Fred Steves  
Susan & Leonard Teich

### **Regular ( \$100 and up)**

Anonymous (2)

Sheryl & Joel Androphy  
Sheryl & Steven P. Barrett  
Katherine & Don Baur  
Karen & Sam Bernstein  
Dr. Zidella Brener  
Diana & Steve Brown  
Janet & Charles Bruner

Courtney & Richard Butler  
Ian & Patricia Butler  
Keith Calder  
Cathlyne Camp-Murray  
Sofia Casale  
Sonia Rosero & Mario Chacón  
Barbara Boggs & Craig Chinault  
Claire & John Coale  
Sharon & John D. Coan  
Lisa & David Cohen  
Eileen Brewer & Joseph Corriere, Jr.  
Farrah Kheradmand & David Corry  
Mary Ann & Kent Crowl  
Lisa & Charles Cusack, III  
LaVerl & Dr. Louis Daily  
Carmen & Patrick Dessauer  
Dorothy Dickey  
Ted Donnelly & Sommer Raines  
Aliza & Bryan Dutt  
Laurie & David Eckman  
Margo & Peter Elgohary  
Mary & Greg Erwin  
Eugenia Georges & Robert H. Etnyre, Jr.  
Sara & Les Fendia  
Rhonda & Seth Freedman  
Martha E. & Jay M. Frost, III  
Gloria & Mike Gonzales  
Dr. Barbara Schachtel-Green & Louis Green, MD  
Mary & Richard Greenlaw  
Bettie & Harry Greenman  
Janice & Charles Gregory  
Ned & Debbie Hartline  
Mary S. Hipp  
Gayle & Scott Hoffer  
Christine & Ernesto Infante  
Lollie Jackson  
Yansong Wang & Zerong Jiang  
Linda Joekel  
Jan & Rick Kaminsky  
Dave Kaminsky  
Harriet & Michael Katzeff  
Kathy & Matthew Kelley  
Drs. Samia & Kamal Khalil  
Shahid Khan & Anjum Khan  
Deborah & William Kizer  
Elayne & Demo Kouzounis  
Costa Kouzounis  
Andrea & Robert Lapsley  
Melissa Rubenstein Levin & Daniel Levin  
Mrs. Beadie Lewis & Alyssa Webb  
Mr. & Mrs. J. K. Light  
Laurie & Todd Lonergan  
Martha & Brian Long

Ron Lopes  
Clara & Eddie Luke  
Marcella & Bryant L. Manning  
Pat Ward & David Marshak  
Donald McDonald  
Dr. Patrick McNamara & Daniel Chanis  
Houshyar & Rene Moarefi  
Hugh & Sara Morrison  
Marcia & Sam Munroe  
Delores & William Murray  
John W. Neese  
Luz & Jaime Nino  
Lisa & Adrian O'Malley  
Sharon & Roger G. O'Neil  
Kathy Overly  
Joanna & Allen Pasternak  
Constance & Arnold Pollon  
Arnold Prenskey  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Rakel  
Maria Isabel Reuter  
Christine & David Robins  
Cheryl & Richard Rosenberg  
Kelly & Mary Lynn Rushing  
Nadia Leibovitz & Kenneth Sapire  
Barbara & Don Schaffer  
Susan & Stanley Schneider  
Nancy & Peter E. Shaddock  
Dorothy & Carroll Shaddock  
Laura Vandeverle Slavin & Michael L. Slavin  
Kevin & Jordana Slawin  
Sandra & Sanford Smith  
Elizabeth & Brian Patrick Smith  
Mary & Wayne Snodgrass  
Cindy Snow  
Joy & Norman Speck  
Evelyn Stewart & John Ray McFerren  
Anna E. Stool & Linda Prinz  
Diane Myers Stool  
Maureen & Pat Swanson  
Carlos Taboada MD  
Col. & Mrs. John Ben Taub  
Jenny & Sam Tavor  
Janna & William Taylor  
Carol & James Tindall  
Janet Horn & Don Treat  
Mary Van Sickle, MD  
Liz Alhand & Ross Van Wassenhove  
Gary & Terese Wagner  
Marcella & Dan Watkins  
Mrs. Lyn Weycer  
Laura Pang & Bill Wheeler  
Linda S. Williams  
Ann Germain & Tony Wood  
Dr. Fred Worth

## Update on Braeswood Park Renovations *(Continued from Page 3)*

<u>Patron Level</u> (cont')	<u>Amount</u> (cont')	<u>Patron Benefits</u> (cont')
\$1,000-\$2,499	Park Backer	8 x 8 paver installed at park entrance
\$500-\$999	Park Supporter	4 x 8 paver installed at park entrance
Up to \$499	Park Booster	

We will be placing an order for the pavers offered as an incentive at the \$500 or higher donation level on June 27th so any donations received after that date will have to wait until next year for the installation of their paver.

To make a tax deductible donation, please mail your check directly to Liz Alhand, Treasurer of Old Braeswood Park Corporation, 2402 Glen Haven, Houston, Texas 77030. Checks should be made payable to Old Braeswood Park Corporation.

Donors at and above the \$500 level will be invited to a reception at the home of Anita and Jim O'Shaughnessy in September. Hope to see you there!

## Your House Has a History *(Continued from Page 3)*

by different combinations"? Or that the automatic air vent "prevents any gas fumes or odors from permeating the air in the house"? Or that it would be necessary to explain that deep-freezes are "becoming popular because of the type of cooling and the tremendous capacity"?

After Becky and Wayne bought their house in 1998, they made improvements and one was to sandblast paint from the brick façade, thinking they were "restoring" the house. Little did they suspect, until seeing the article, that the brick was painted at the time of construction. "It is of two-story construction and has white brick and clapboard."

Although the article does not give the asking price for the house, numerous other articles on the same page provide a perspective on prices of the time for high end neighborhoods. One house in River Oaks sold by the River Oaks Corporation for \$11,750 (2018 Timber Lane). On the Boulevards, houses sold for \$9,600 (3750 Sunset Blvd.) and \$45,000 cash (1318 North Blvd. in Broadacres) In Avalon, there was a sale for \$17,000 (2510 Reba). Near MacGregor Park, a house on 1.75 acres sold for \$12,000 (5025 Calhoun). The Texas Company leased the southeast corner of Montrose and Westheimer to build a \$15,000 service station. A partnership of developers announced that they were ready to start construction on 414 acres of Poor Farm Property that they had bought for \$256,500 in 1923. It extended from Bellaire Blvd. on the north to the S.A.A.P. tracks, between Edloe on the east and Auden on the west. At purchase, "the partners reasoned that Houston's mushroom growth would in a few years reach the block of ideally located tracts located southwest of the city limits." Were they ever right!

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

### 2008 Old Braeswood POA 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
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Directory & Block Captains	Sally Miller
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Newsletter	Sharon Lund O'Neil
Park	Christine Robins
Enforcement	Sam Bernstein John Eldridge David Robins
RACS rep	Ryan Maieron
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Welcome	Dawn Gervais
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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