



New Patrol Service and Vehicle For Old Braeswood! Neighborhood Support Needed For This Vital Service

Our new Patrol contract with SEAL Security service was officially launched on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. We hope you have had a chance to meet Officer Jim Wyatt, the SEAL security officer assigned to Old Braeswood for 40 hours a week. He drives and walks our streets at varying hours and days each week. Please take time to introduce yourself to him. He is eager to get to know everyone and is very willing to help neighbors feel safe and secure in our neighborhood.

SEAL Security solutions has a 24-hour Dispatcher: 713-422-2770. You may also call this number to request vacation watch or to report any suspicious activities. The dispatcher is in constant contact with Officer Wyatt, who patrols in a marked white SUV.

We encourage you to support the patrol service with your dues. If participation is high enough we hope to expand the service to include additional hours.



Officer Jim Wyatt on Patrol in Old Braeswood

This project is the result of many months of due diligence by the Safety & Security Committee, whose members considered a variety of options for replacing RACS, and eventually solicited requests for proposals, and conducted interviews of a half dozen highly recommended services. With many proposals in hand, they evaluated each one based on multiple factors, including training, experience, resources, and cost, conducting on site interviews to make the final selection.

The process was objective and data driven, as the committee reviewed crime data to get a better feel for where and when the resources would be most effective. It's important to know that Old Braeswood is overwhelmingly safe and secure, with very little crime. We do however have occasional property crimes like driveway thefts and burglaries throughout the year. The research revealed that the bulk of these crimes occur Monday through Friday, from morning to afternoon, while many residents are at work. Highly visible security patrols during this block of time will serve to deter these types of crimes, and will hopefully make our neighborhood even safer.

The SEAL Officers are armed, private security contractors who provide value-added services such as vacation watch and phone dispatch. Their presence and ability to respond to calls immediately is a tremendous deterrent to crooks. The SEAL Officers are inside our neighborhood 100% of their time, and are accountable through GPS monitoring.

We believe that our dedicated officer from SEAL Security will provide a much higher level of service than we have had previously. We will be monitoring the results closely and reporting the performance to members on a regular basis.

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This month's Garden Club speaker, Gary Moss, is the grandson of Peter and Julia Moss, who lived for many years in an early Old Braeswood house at 2246 Glen Haven Blvd. According to Stephen Fox's book *Braeswood, An Architectural History*, it was built on spec in 1930. The first owner was a Mary T. O'Riordan, widow of a John E. O'Riordan. She and her daughter, Mary, first appeared at that address in the City Directory for 1930-1. The second owner, William M. Loving and his wife Edna, moved to the house in 1935, and their son William M. Jr. lived in the garage apartment. Mr. Loving owned rice mills. Then, in 1942, ownership changed to the Moss family.

Peter and Julia emigrated separately from Greece. Peter arrived through Ellis Island in 1915 from Koroni, a city in the Messenia region of Peloponnese. His original name, "Mousouliotes", changed to the more pronounceable "Moss" when he became a citizen. The Houston City Directory variously listed him under his Greek name and under his American name, but never got the spelling of the Greek name quite right. Julia came from the Aegean island of Icaria in 1920 with her mother. It is Icaria where, by tradition, the mythical Icarus landed after the sun melted his wax wings and he fell to Earth.

Before buying a house in Old Braeswood, Peter and Julia also looked at other neighborhoods and considered buying a house in Riverside Terrace (on Parkwood) or in River Oaks (on Inwood). Old Braeswood won because, at the time, the Glen Haven house sat on a double lot that occupied a corner, and Peter didn't like to "feel hemmed in."

Peter owned a block of land downtown where the Central Library now sits. Back then, it was separated from the Julia Ideson Library by a segment of Brazos St. On Peter's block was his restaurant Federal Grill, so named because the Federal Land Bank was on one side across Lamar St. His block also had a couple of apartment houses, a parking lot, and Houston's first Social Security office, built in 1937. The 1964 Directory lists Peter as president of the Chemical Building Corporation. He formed that company with the intent of building an 18-story building on the block, but the project fell through when the City refused him a permit. His site was across McKinney St. from City Hall and considered part of *Civic Center*.

Sunday dinners were a family affair. After their three sons were grown and there were daughters-in-law and grandchil-

dren, Peter and Julia seated 10-14 at the table each week. Julia's traditional Greek dishes were favorites.

Their son Arthur, an architect, designed the Penguin Arms, one of the best surviving examples of Googie architecture, an exuberant mid-century style inspired by the Atomic Age. Built in 1950, it still stands at 2902 Revere St. Speculation is that the "Penguin" nickname came from the giant down-pointing triangles of green terrazzo tiles on the building's side.



2246 Glen Haven was built in 1930.

Arthur's brother Phil joined him in real estate development. Arthur acted as architect and Phil as the businessman. They bought 12 acres on Westheimer and developed the Briargrove Shopping Center. In addition to this and other shopping centers, they developed various apartment buildings. Their brother Manuel worked for the City of Houston in the Department of Public Works.

Phil's son Gary, who grew up enjoying Julia's Sunday dinners in Old Braeswood, is today the owner of Moss Landscaping, with many neighborhood clients.

Julia, widowed in 1971, remained in the house. It was sold by her estate to Stephen Barrett in 1995. He works for FMC Technologies Inc., an oil services company, as Director of Global Subsea Product Lines. He currently lives there with his wife, Sheryl, and their son Brendan.

[This is the 25th article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]

Membership Drive in Progress

Our annual membership drive is in progress and we encourage you to send in your dues promptly if you haven't done so already. Old Braeswood's fiscal year is from January through December, but the annual membership drive takes place January to April. Annual Association dues are due at the beginning of each year. Even if you paid your 2012 dues late in the year, please send in your 2013 dues as soon as possible, and you will be credited through December 31, 2013. If you have questions about your account, please contact us at info@OldBraeswood.com. Thank you for your continued support!

Reminder: No Yard Sales or Garage Sales in Old Braeswood

Some of you may not know that our deed restrictions were put in place more than 85 years ago to ensure that Old Braeswood remains an enjoyable place in which to live. Among the many rules in our deed restrictions are prohibitions against commercial use of property and signs. All types of commercial activity including yard sales and garage sales are prohibited. In short, any commercial activity to which the general public is invited is not allowed. Following this rule keeps traffic out of the neighborhood, making our streets safer. It also ensures criminals are not invited in to the neighborhood to case homes.

There are many alternatives to yard and garage sales that we encourage you to consider. Many charities would love to have your unwanted items and that will haul them off and will leave you with a tax receipt. There are also estate sale firms that will sell your items offsite.

Park Corporation Appreciation

Special thanks to this year's Park Patrons! These neighbors have made donations during 2012. Contributions to the Park Corp. help pay for maintenance of the park including mowing, treating ant hills, repairing and repainting the fence, and repairing the irrigation system at the Park and at Katy's Corner. Without their generosity, the park would be a dusty desert. But instead it is a treasure that is used by families in and around the neighborhood. It is also one of a handful of City of Houston parks with a fenced play area.

Jungle "Gems" (\$500 & up)

Julie Cohn & John Connor

High Flyers (\$200 & up)

Kolburn Helgason
Susan & Leonard Teich
Mollie & Randy Schaffer
Nicole & David Singer

Park Patron (\$100 & up)

Lisa Mann & Brad Bingham and Family
Janet & Charles Bruner
Margaret & Joe Clegg
Biman & Bhagvanti Das
Carmen & Patrick Dessauer
Annette & John Eldridge
Fran & Michael Feltovich MD
Ann & Berkeley Glass
G.G. Hsieh & Mark Hausknecht
Gayle & Scott Hoffer and Family
Dave Kaminsky

Melissa Marschall
Sally & David Miller
Dee & Bill Murray
Richard & Grace O'Brien
Sharon Plon & Jed Nuchtern
Jay Plotkin
Connie & Bud Pallon
Beverly Guadagnolo &
Jean LeClerc Raphael
Maria Isabel Reuter
Wendy E. & Jeffrey M. Schneider
Judy & Jim Schwartz
Jordan & Dylan Seff
Ann St. Germain & Tony Wood
Eleanor R. Thomas
Janet Horn & Don Treat
Terese & Gary Wagner
Sherri & Garrett Walsh

Friends (\$50 & up)

Patricia & Ian Butler

Tree Program Donations

Thanks to the generosity of the neighbors listed below, Trees for Old Braeswood has raised \$2500 this planting season. \$1000 of this amount is earmarked for special watering projects in the esplanades surrounding the neighborhood and at the park. The rest of the funds will be used to plant trees on Morningside and in locations where street trees succumbed to drought this past year. Donations to the tree fund are fully tax deductible. Please consider making a donation that benefits your community directly. For more information, visit www.oldbraeswood.com.

Regular: \$50 & up

Jean & Eugene Boisaubin
Biman & Bhagvanti Das
June & Dr. Leonard Goldberg
Dr. Barbara S. Green & Louis Green, MD
Dave Kaminsky
Beadie Lewis
Delores & William Murray
Luz & Jaime Nino
Maria Isabel Reuter
Leslie Walker & Pheroze Tamboli
Laura Pang & Bill Wheeler

Sustaining: \$100+

Patricia & Ian Butler
Annette & John Eldridge
Fran & Michael Feltovich
G.G. Hsieh & Mark Hausknecht
Linda Joekel
Drs. Samia & Kamal Khalil
Sharon Plon & Jed Nuchtern
Cathey Ginger & Carlos Ramos
Emily, Josh & Jacob Schaffer
Barbie & Don Schaffer
Jordan Jones & Dylan Seff
Dorry & Carroll Shaddock
Maureen Glancy & Sued Wamique Yusuf

Patron: \$150 & up

Kolburn Helgason
Laura Reed Jackson

Tree Hugger: \$250 & up

Marilyn Archer & Jack Eby
Christine & Jeff Hollinden
Evelyn Stewart & John Ray McFerren
Susan & Leonard Teich*

Johnny Acorn: \$500 & up

Old Braeswood Garden Club*
Jay Plotkin

(* Watering Program Donation)

New
WELCOME
Neighbors

Laura & Sam Sukkar
2410 Bellefontaine

**Keiko & Pierre-Yves
Masaki Chevray**
2218 Glen Haven

Renee & Gerald Gehm
2325 Glen Haven

Eric Nelson
2523 Glen Haven

Jessica & Ethan Phillips
2333 Underwood

Nadia Pervez & Matthew Foster
2319 Gramercy

Shan Guo & Russ Paine
7400 S. Main St.

**Sign up for
Old Braeswood
eBlasts & Crime Alerts**

Would you like to receive up to the minute news and crime alerts electronically? To subscribe, call the Old Braeswood office at 713-807-1787, or send your email address to info@OldBraeswood.com.

**Join Old Braeswood's
Yahoo Group**

This is a real time group where you can send messages to other members without delay. The Yahoo group has been very helpful for tracking down lost pets and has even been used to help the Patrol track down thieves. Please note that the Yahoo group is not related to the eNews and crime alert service. Visit this link to get started:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OldBraeswoodNeighbors/>.

Garden Club News



Houston Landscaper Gary Moss addresses the Garden Club at their January meeting.

The Old Braeswood Garden Club welcomed speaker Gary Moss, owner of Moss Landscaping, at its monthly meeting in January at the home of Maribel Reuter. Growing up, Gary lived west of downtown Houston, but ate Sunday dinner each week at the Old Braeswood home of his grandparents on Glen Haven. Gary has spoken in the past to Old Braeswood neighbors, and the Garden Club was eager to have him back.

As usual, Gary brought with him a wealth of information for gardening in our special climate and with our special soil. Just a few nuggets:

When building or renovating, do not allow workers to park within the drip line of your trees. Doing so will compact the soil. Also, motor vehicles may drip oil that will get into the soil and damage the trees.

The brass PVB (Pressure Vacuum Breaker) on your irrigation system is a target for thieves who can sell it for scrap metal. They typically tie it to a vehicle and pull it out, leaving you (probably while you are away from home) with a water geyser. If your PVB is in front, hide it behind a potted plant.

The cost of installing a dedicated irrigation water meter is recouped by savings on your water bill. The time needed to recoup varies depending on the size of your yard and the amount of your usage, but typically it occurs in 2 to 3 years.

After pruning branches from your trees and bushes, clean the pruner with alcohol to prevent any contamination from disease or infestation to spread to other plants when you reuse the pruner.

The OB Garden Club welcomes new members. Come make new friends, see old friends, and get to know your neighbors! **The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 12th, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Annette Eldridge, 2351 Blue Bonnet.** The speaker will be professor, stage director and author Kate Pogue, speaking on *Shakespeare in the Garden*.



The January 2013 Garden Club meeting was held in the beautiful home of Maribel Reuter.

Recycling & Trash Schedule

Recycling Dates	Every other Tuesday Feb. 12 & 26 March 12 & 26 Apr. 9 & 23 May 7 & 21
Household Trash Yard Waste	Tuesdays (in city provided bins) Tuesdays (in biodegradable bags)
Tree Limbs & Debris Junk Waste	3rd Monday (Odd months) 3rd Monday (Even months)



Place your household garbage in the city provided automated bin or recycling containers on the curb no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening preceding pick up and no later than 7 a.m. the day of pick up, and remove it no later than 10 p.m. on collection day. Bins left on the street beyond these times are subject to city fines. Bins must be accessible to the automated collection truck (not blocked by vehicles, trees, etc).

Yard waste must be bagged in city approved biodegradable bags, weighing no more than 50 pounds, and placed at the curb at least 3' away from automated bins. Yard waste mixed with paper, plastic or any other type of waste will not be collected. Small branches may be put in bundles (no more than 4' in length and no more than 18" in diameter).

Heavy Trash/Junk Waste Collection Moves to the 3rd Friday of Each Month

Please remember that the city now collects heavy trash (junk & tree waste) on the third Friday of each month. Tree debris only is collected in odd numbered months, and junk waste only is collected in even numbered months. You may leave large limbs out every month. If you have trouble remembering which month is tree waste only, think of January as the month when you can leave your Christmas tree out for collection and count from there. You can also call 311 or visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/schedule.html to check the schedule.

Be sure to place your heavy trash times at the curb by 7 a.m. on the collection day. And call 311 immediately in case of missed pick up.

2013 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	Molly Khalil
At-Large	G.G. Hsieh
Treasurer	David Leathers
Secretary	Dawn Gervais
Past President	Dee Murray
Architectural Review	Marilyn Archer Matthew Kelley Prince Ambooken
Block Captains	Sally Miller
Historic	Susan Teich
Newsletter	<u>Volunteer Needed</u>
Park	Annette Eldridge
Enforcement	Sam Bernstein John Eldridge Bill Marchbank
Patrol Rep	Ryan Maierson
Rice U Liaison	Bob Birenbaum
Social	<u>Volunteer Needed</u>
Trees	Carroll Shaddock & Molly Khalil
University Place	Kathy Lord
Welcome	Dawn Gervais
Manager	Evalyn Krudy

Volunteers Needed

The events committee is looking for new leadership to help with future events in any capacity. Volunteering is an excellent way to get to know your neighbors while having a great time. Please contact G.G. Hsieh at gghsieh@gmail.com or call 713 -660-9520 for more information.

The Newsletter and Welcome committees also need assistance. For information about what is entailed, please contact 713-807-1787 or info@oldbraeswood.com.

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Monthly Patrol Report

During his first month on the job, Officer Wyatt stayed very busy. His activities are detailed in daily logs that are shared with our security committee. His daily log entries have included: investigating suspicious vehicles and persons in the neighborhood and asking them to leave if they have no legitimate business here; chasing off solicitors; logging license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles; vacation watch service and checking homes three times per day; meeting nearly 100 neighbors in person and getting to know who belongs in the neighborhood and who does not; responding to dozens of calls for assistance; checking out front doors left wide open and securing swinging gates; reporting 311 issues; welcoming new neighbors when they move in and presenting them with patrol service information.

To date we have received patrol dues from over 100 neighbors, but for this program to continue and to be successful, we need over 200 families to contribute. Please encourage your friends and neighbors in Old Braeswood to support the Patrol service with their annual patrol dues of \$300. Reminder notices have been included in this mailing for households that have not yet contributed. If no form was included, your patrol dues have been received.

We strongly encourage you to call the new Patrol at 713-422-2770 whenever you see suspicious activity. Program the dispatch number into your cell phones and call when you see suspicious activity or to request vacation watch. We want you to be convinced that this valuable service is well worth paying for. Please give them a try, and if you agree that they are providing great service, send in your patrol dues of \$300 payable to OBPOA and mail to PO Box 541346, Houston, TX 77254. If you have questions about your account or about this service, please contact us at info@oldbraeswood.com or call 713-807-1787.

Please do your part by helping prevent crime before it occurs. Officer Wyatt is a great crime deterrent, but residents must also do their part by following common sense crime prevention rules. Please remember to lock your doors and windows and set your alarm when leaving your home. Close gates. Don't let papers or FedEx deliveries build up on your lawn and porch while you are away (a clear signal that no one is at home). Always turn on your porch lights at night.

Shooting of jogger on January 25 likely gang related

The shooting of an unarmed resident who was on an early morning jog on January 25, 2013, has left our neighborhood reeling and police struggling for answers about a crime with no motive.

The victim, who was shot in the legs at 5:30 a.m. as a dark colored vehicle passed by on Bellefontaine, is recovering. Special thanks to the neighbors who raced to the man's aid and called 911. Police currently believe that this incident was random and that it was probably a gang initiation ritual.

This incident was also extremely alarming to SEAL, our new security service, which responded immediately and proactively by sending nine armed officers to patrol our streets over the weekend after the incident. These officers began their vigil at 5:30 a.m. on January 26 along with one trained patrol dog. They walked abreast down the middle of our streets and were followed by 5 security vehicles which drove up and down all of our streets for an hour. This service was provided at no additional cost to our neighborhood.

Burglaries & Thefts

1/18 @ 6 p.m. Burglary - 2300 Dorrington
1/19 @ 1 p.m. Burglary - 2400 Gramercy



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
