



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

Dear Neighbors,

We leave 2008 having a list of accomplishments including new park equipment, a park award, deed restrictions enforced, garbage pick up on Morning-side, street light repairs, 5 newsletters, "Yard of the Season" implemented, "Welcome" packets to 25 new neighbors, and 6 neighborhood get-to-gethers in addition to the OBPOA and Garden Club meetings.

Many thanks to the Board members who contributed to our success. As we enter 2009, your Board is committed to achieving these goals:

1. Continue to improve our communications with you, our neighbors.
  - a. Continue frequent newsletters and eNews updates.
  - b. Continue neighborhood activities and events.
2. Increase financial support for OBPOA, Old Braeswood Park, and RACS.
3. Continue maintenance of deed restrictions.
4. Ensure deed restrictions are fully enforced and buyers are made aware of our deed restrictions during the Option Period.
5. Continue beautification of Old Braeswood.
  - a. Continue "Yard of the Season".
  - b. Submit petitions to the City for street reconstruction and storm sewer, curb, and gutter replacement.
  - c. Continue the Trees for Old Braeswood tree planting program to beautify Old Braeswood streets and improve our air quality.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## *Trees for Old Braeswood* by Evalyn Krudy

Thank you 2009 contributors to Trees for Old Braeswood! This important neighborhood project seeks to perfect the allees and groves of trees which line our streets. Such plantings not only enhance property values, but also strengthen bonds of neighborhood identity and unity. The attractiveness of our neighborhood depends not only upon the efforts of individual homeowners, but also upon the beauty imparted to *(Continued on Page 2)*

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# **SAVE THE DATE**

## **Old Braeswood Spring Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009**

**7:00 pm**

**Place: TBD**

## Neighborhood on Watch by Ryan Maierson

Did you know that only 38% of Old Braeswood residents have contributed to the Rice Area Constable Service (RACS), which funds Constable patrol of our neighborhood?

If you are not a RACS member, please contact me about contributing. A household membership is \$230 per year; a membership for seniors is \$150. If more of us contribute, we can increase our patrol services and help keep



our neighborhood safe.

With the downturn in the economy, crime is on the rise. If you see suspicious activity in the neighborhood, we encourage you to call the RACS dispatcher at **713-755-7628**.

Even if you are not a subscriber, please help us keep the neighborhood safe by calling RACS. Your call could help prevent a crime!

*Ryan Maierson*, RACS Representative  
[ryan.maierson@bakerbotts.com](mailto:ryan.maierson@bakerbotts.com)

## A Letter from the President (Continued from Page 1)

We've had great response to the street reconstruction petition mailing; and, to date, about 1/3 of our blocks qualify. Only blocks submitting 75% approval will be added to the city's waiting list for street reconstruction, which now runs between 5 and 7 years (contact [info@oldbraeswood.com](mailto:info@oldbraeswood.com) to request a petition if you haven't already signed).

My personal vision for 2009 is to engage more of our neighbors in the activities that are making Old Braeswood a great place to live. Please call me (713-666-1912) to discuss opportunities to participate in our efforts. Whether you have limited time available or your current situation provides more time for you to make a contribution, we welcome idea generators, doers, planners, advisors, and communicators—we have a spot for you!

Warmly,

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



## Old Braeswood Real Estate Report by Dawn Gervais



The real estate market in the greater Houston area has held up better than most other areas of the country. While our pocket books may appreciate the lower gasoline prices, the Houston economy didn't seem to mind \$4 per gallon. Where the rest of the country is doing horribly, our market is just weak. We are seeing a greater number of buyers that are taking advantage of the lowering interest rates. Many sellers are deciding to list their home at, or slightly below, the current market value in order to sell quickly, and then turn around and make up the difference on the purchase of their next home with the lower rates.

Real Estate Statistics for Old Braeswood  
December 1, 2008 - January 25, 2008

Total # of Homes for Sale	10	Total # of Homes Sold	2
* Minimum List Price	\$485,000	* Minimum Sold Price	\$1,215,000
* Maximum List Price	\$1,499,000	* Maximum Sold Price	\$1,560,000
* Average List Price	\$973,780	* Average Days on the Market	205

Nostalgia for small town life hinges on stability—people building their houses and living in them for a lifetime. And relatives living within spitting distance of one another. Old Braeswood is a small town embedded in a big city. Sprinkled throughout are residents who are the original owners of their houses. Often with relatives also in Old Braeswood. One of these is Dave Kaminsky.



Dave Kaminsky

Dave married a native Houstonian whose parents were living at 7309 Greenbriar near South Main. Dave's wedding took place in that house. In 1951, he bought a spec house at 2417 Maroneal for his family, which then included two sons. Now widowed, he still lives there. The sons are in Houston, one of them a resident of Old Braeswood at 2351 Underwood.

Houston was a long way off from Dave's birthplace, another small town, in what was then Poland, and now is Belorussie. The year was 1912. His father emigrated from there to Shreveport, Louisiana, when Dave was an infant, leaving behind his family in the care of relatives. At the end of World War I, Dave emigrated with his mother and siblings to join his father, coming through Ellis Island. He arrived in Shreveport knowing no English, but his father tutored him all summer, and by September he was able to enter grade school. He graduated from high school at age 15, completed a B.S. degree at Shreveport's Centenary College, and applied to medical school. Tulane, the state's only medical school, accepted him, but the annual tuition of \$500 was beyond his means. Then, Huey Long opened a second medical school, Louisiana State University School of Medicine, tuition-free for state residents, where Dave graduated in 1935.

Houston came into the picture because Dave's two sisters married and moved here. On a visit

to them, he was introduced to Edith Sud, a Bluebonnet Belle at the University of Texas. Her father owned Fit Well Manufacturing, maker of women's lingerie. The meeting was in March, and they were married in August in the Empire Room of the Rice Hotel.

Then came World War II. Dave served in the Navy. He was medical officer for the Navy's recruiting office in Cheyenne, Wyoming, then as the medical officer on various ships, first offshore Washington State, then offshore Pearl Harbor, and, finally, in the Marshall Islands. After the War, Dave opened a medical practice in Houston, caring for patients (including frequent house calls!) from 1947 to 1993, retiring at age 83. During those years, he and Edith raised two sons, were active in their synagogue (Beth Yeshurun), and enjoyed many good friends in Old Braeswood.



2417 Maroneal has been home to Dave Kaminsky since 1951.

Dave has stayed active. He enjoys golf, and shot his age when he was 82 years old. He has made three holes-in-one. None of which seems extraordinary given that Dave's sisters are still spry at ages 98 and 100.

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

The restrictions applicable to 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.

The OBPOA is authorized by its charter and bylaws to review and approve plans for construction on Old Braeswood property. 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 (ARC) of the Association whose chairperson and members are appointed by the OBPOA 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. Contact the OBPOA office for an application and instructions.

## **Trees for Old Braeswood** (Continued from Page 1)

our streets by well-planned street tree plantings.

Through donations to our general fund, street tree planting along our borders will soon be completed. In addition 53 water oaks have been planted near Bluebonnet and Morningside over the past 11 months with contributions directly from these residents. Be sure to notice these young trees.

The overall plan for our neighborhood, including our border streets (Kirby, N. Braeswood, Holcombe, and Main) requires 1,800 trees, of which over half were already in place in the spring of 2007 when we kicked off our campaign to plant 900 trees by May 1, 2017. Since then, more than 325 trees have been planted. Your support and participation are essential to our project's future success. For more about this program, please visit [www.oldbraeswood.com](http://www.oldbraeswood.com).



The following list represents contributions received through February 5, 2009.

### Johnny Acorn (\$500+)

Arthur & Annette Bracey  
Annette & John Eldridge  
Anita & Jim O'Shaughnessy  
Jennifer & James Reid  
Bill & Sally Russ  
Fred & Courtney Steves  
Buddy Steves & Rowena Young

### Tree Lover (\$250+)

Susan & Len Teich

### Tree Hugger (\$150+)

Sofia Casale  
Agust Helgason  
Anna Stool

### Forester (\$100+)

Patricia & Ian Butler  
Marilyn Archer & Jack Eby

### Forester (\$100+) (cont')

Robin Fredrickson  
Barbara & Don Schaffer  
Carroll & Dory Shaddock

### Friend (\$50+)

Fran & Michael Feltovich  
Dr. Samia & Kamal Khalil  
Christine Robins  
Maria Isabel Reuter  
Bryan & Suzanne Seigel



Mayor's Proud Partners Award Luncheon l-r: Bob Birenbaum, Becky Pivec, Dee Murray, Christine Robins, and Keep Houston Beautiful chairman Howard Linthicum.

Old Braeswood Park Corporation's (OBPC) Braeswood Park Renovation Project received a Certificate of Recognition from Keep Houston Beautiful at the Mayor's Proud Partners Award Luncheon on November 17, 2008. Thanks to all who made monetary donations and donations of time and talent to make the project a success.

OBPC's goals for 2009 are: 1) initiate further improvements to Braeswood Park, including the possibility of a shade structure, replacing dead crape myrtles, repairing gates and benches, and adding more trash receptacles; and, 2) initiate improvements to the Bluebonnet triangle at the corner of Bluebonnet and Greenbriar.

Contributions are always needed to help fund the ongoing expenses associated with maintenance of the park and other common areas in Old Braeswood. You will be receiving information from OBPC later this month to find out how you can help.

Although we in Old Braeswood think of Braeswood Park as our own park, it is a City of Houston park and is heavily used by others residing outside the neighborhood. We all know that if you walk your dog at the park, it should be leashed; and, further, that you must clean up after your dog at the park. But others may not know these City of Houston regulations (Code of Ordinances, Sec. 6-24) as they pertain to dogs: 1) All animals must be on a leash and under the direct control of its owner; and 2) Owners must pick up after their dogs. Violation of these city laws carries a fine of \$500 per incident.

Please be an advocate for the park. If you see someone letting their dog run off leash at the park or allowing their dog to do its business without cleaning it up, please advise them of these rules and point them to the tall green sign in the grassy area of the park.



## **Sidewalk Cleanup . . . Mud Jacking**

Keeping Old Braeswood's sidewalks and handicap ramps clean contributes to the pride and safety we value for our neighborhood. Please do your part to keep your sidewalks and handicap ramps clear of mud and debris.

If you have uneven sidewalks, John and Annette Eldridge note a less expensive alternative to concrete replacement called "mud jacking". Mud jacking, a concrete leveling process, involves drilling small holes in the sidewalk. Concrete is pumped through

the holes raising the slab to a desired level and then the holes are refilled.

Annette's research on mud jacking directed her to CRC Concrete Raising (Danny Chris, 281-657-5451). She says CRC may be able to lower costs for our neighborhood if the company could work with Old Braeswood residents as a group. The Eldridge's are pleased with the results of mud jacking at their home (2351 Bluebonnet) and encourage you to view their sidewalk.

Thanks for making the opening of our first Houston location...

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## Thank You 2009 Directory Advertisers

by Sally Miller

Pictured here at a recent Brazos Books cookbook-signing for their book, "Out of the Frying Pan", are:



(l-r) Katherine King (watercolorist who did the art for the book) and former Traveling Skillet caterers and authors Kathy C. Lord (who also is the new Executive Director of the Bayou Preservation Association) and Cinda Matthews.

Cookbook proceeds benefit the M. D. Anderson Cancer Research Center.

Our 2009 OBPOA address directory will soon be in your mailbox and I'd like to thank our advertisers—the people whose businesses we need to support. They have paid for our directory. Their donations also allow us to do creative things in our neighborhood.

When you use their services, identify yourself as an Old Braeswood resident and thank them for their advertising support. You will read more about these businesses in future newsletters.

Richard Gervais, DDS

William Shaw & Assoc. (design, building & remodeling specialists)

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Czech Cultural Museum Houston (open for private gatherings)

Houston Early Music

Dr. Ken Huete (chiropractor)

Sam Bernstein (real estate and small business law)

\*\*\*\*

Dawn Gervais (realtor)

Holcombe Dental Associates

Smashburger

Sunset Animal Clinic

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Errand Angel

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Bryne Payne (plumber) \* Bulldog Postal \* Buon Appetito \* Comerica Bank \* Dan's Vitamin House \* David Miller, MD (internist) \* Different Seasons Mechanical (heating & air conditioning) \* Donna's Fashion & Design \* Eric's Car Care & Fast Lube \* Exclusive Cleaners \* J & R Seafood \* Kim's Hair & Nails \* Marianne Flower Center \* Morningside Thai \* Megan McDonald Pet Sitter \* New York Pizzeria \* Nutrition Depot \* Smoothie King \* Southwell's Hamburger Grill \* 24 Hour Fitness

## Roberts Elementary School Upcoming Events

by Colleen Elliott

The Roberts Elementary PTO has an exciting spring schedule planned to share with the Old Braeswood community. Participation from residents in our neighborhood (whether you have a child attending Roberts or not) is highly encouraged. Come see for yourself why Roberts is considered one of the best public elementary schools in Houston!

Feb. 28, 6-11 pm – Arty Party, Rice University, Grand Hall, Ley Student Center.

March is a fun-filled month for 2009-2010 new students to Roberts Elementary:

March 9, 9 am – PTO Kinder Brunch, home of

Bob and Beth Brown.

March (dtbd), 1 pm – Rodeo Roundup.

April & May events include:

April 17 (ttbd) – Community Night, Roberts soccer field (South of school buildings).

May (dtbd) – May Carnival.

For more information and updates about these and other Roberts' events, please visit our website at [www.robertselementary.org](http://www.robertselementary.org). We look forward to seeing you!



## Neighbors Committee *by G. G. Hsieh*

This year, I thought it would be fun to visit the Rice University Art Gallery's exhibits. According to the website, it "is the only university venue in the country dedicated to installation art". Over the course of a year, five different artists are invited to transform the gallery space into a work of art. Creations are often fanciful and some are wildly imaginative.



Currently on view and parked outside the gallery is the more practical EMERGENCY RESPONSE STUDIO by Paul Villinski. The artist modified a FEMA-like trailer transforming it into a "green", solar-powered mobile living and work space that could be deployed to the scene of a disaster. Within the gallery are displays of the ideas and construction process for the project.

If you'd like to go with neighbors, meet at my house to carpool: Sunday, February 22, at 1:30 pm. For those going separately, information and directions can be found at [www.ricegallery.org](http://www.ricegallery.org). The whole trip should not take longer than an hour. Some walking may be involved. Look for an email for the date of the next gallery trip to see a Brazilian artist's installation.

Coffee for New Neighbors: Saturday, April 4, from 9 - 11am, at my home at 2322 Maroneal Blvd., casual attire. Old and new neighbors are invited to drop by and get acquainted.



Possibly in the works: Movies in the Park. If you have ideas where we can get a large screen and sound system, contact me. We have a projector. Hope to see you soon.

*G.G. Hsieh*, 2322 Maroneal, 713-660-9520, [gghsieh@gmail.com](mailto:gghsieh@gmail.com)

### 2009 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.	Susan Teich
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 Kelley
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

## Recycling & Trash Schedule

Regular Household Trash — Tuesdays

Yard Waste — Tuesdays

Recycling — Every other Monday  
(Feb. 9 & 23; March 9 & 23; April 6 & 20)

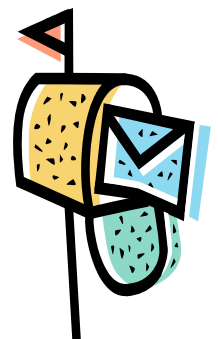
In accordance with Chapter 39 of the City's Code of Ordinances, trash may not be set on the curb for collection before 6 p.m. of the day preceding pick up. Please remind your yard service not to leave bags on the curb during the week. Please also remind crews not to blow leaves or other debris into the 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](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste).

## 2009 Membership Drive

Please watch your mailbox for the 2009 membership solicitation scheduled to arrive in mailboxes this month. When it arrives, please take a few minutes to send in your annual contribution.

Without your continued generous support, we would be unable to carry out the many activities that help preserve and enhance our property values and maintain the special character of our historic neighborhood.

Thanks for your support!



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Email: [info@oldbraeswood.com](mailto:info@oldbraeswood.com)

[www.oldbraeswood.com](http://www.oldbraeswood.com)

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