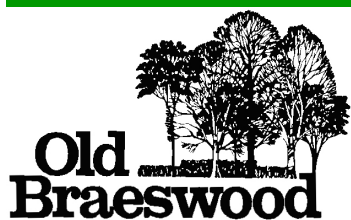


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June 2016



OLD BRAESWOOD
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Old Braeswood News

A Letter from the President by Susan Froehly Teich

As the many pictures in this newsletter attest, we are a neighborhood of residents who enjoy partying together. We also are a neighborhood of residents that occasionally are in disagreement on issues that directly impact the neighborhood. While the disagreements can be uncomfortable, they have one positive aspect. They show the strength of our interest in our community and our commitment to participating in the decisions made about it. We are not apathetic about Old Braeswood!

Currently, there are 2 main areas of disagreement. The 2015 ballot for mandatory dues/patrol payments, that missed passage by less than 30 votes, is not a dead issue. There are residents who wish to bring a new ballot with different wording. Those residents disagree among themselves as to the timing and wording of the new ballot and sometimes their disagreements become public, as they did at the Members Meeting on April 26.

The other disagreement regards the wisdom of contracting for mosquito fogging throughout the summer months. Many residents have requested fogging, something that OB did years ago. Several residents strongly oppose fogging for environmental reasons and perceived health reasons. It was because of their concerns that fogging was discontinued in the past.

Since then, Houston has become home to additional mosquito borne diseases. Zika is the most recent. There is some misunderstanding about the best time to fog in combating the Zika mosquito. Newspaper accounts state that the Zika mosquito is active during the day. True. Most mosquitoes are active mainly at night. The Zika is different in that it is active at all hours, day and night. However, fogging for one type of the Zika mosquito is most effective at dusk or dawn, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Dawn appears to be the effective time that would least interfere with the activities of OB residents.

The Executive Committee of the POA has discussed the issue of fogging at length and has cautiously approved fogging on a weekly basis during the months of June-September (more often during periods of heavy infestation). We will be on the midnight to dawn schedule and have requested to be fogged as close to dawn as our vendor's scheduling permits. In addition, sewer drains will be treated to kill mosquito larva. This will be done on a monthly basis June-September. The cost will be about \$400 per month. Details are still being worked out.

The company we intend to use is Cypress Creek Pest Control, which also fogs West University and Southside Place. Information about the fogging chemical is being added to the Old Braeswood website (www.oldbraeswood.com).

Some of you will have questions. Please send them in and we will respond. If a question seems to be of general concern, an email will be sent around with the information needed. Best wishes to all for a relaxing summer!

Patrol Funding Committee

Idea people needed!

Are you interested in helping with an initiative to explore options for funding of our neighborhood patrol? Residents interested in serving on an ad hoc committee for this purpose should contact Marcella Watkins at dritte@gmail.com.



Councilmember Mayor Pro-Tem Ellen Cohen spoke at the OBPOA meeting on April 26.

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The original Old Braeswood house at 2315 Glen Haven Blvd. is different from other early Braeswood houses. While contemporaneous houses were built in Colonial, Tudor, Greek Revival and other equally sedate styles, 2315 stood alone in the 1930s as an example of the Mediterranean Revival style then popular in California and Florida. It was built as a spec house by the Belmain Company, the company that took over all assets of Braeswood Corporation in early 1930.

Designed by local architect Charles S. Chase, the house was completed in 1931. By 1933, it appeared in the Houston City Directory as owned by E. H. Borden, owner of E. H. Realty Co. Mr. Borden occupied the house apparently to promote its sale, because the next year it was owned by Marcella M. and Harold G. Wise. Mr. Wise was a manager for First Municipal Securities Corp., which specialized in Texas municipal bonds. He and his wife stayed until 1940. By then, Mr. Wise was a broker with his own company, Harold G. Wise & Co., and had moved to Houston's Hyde Park neighborhood.

Leontine T. and Harry S. May owned the house from 1940 to 1945. He was both secretary and treasurer for Adams Oil & Gas Co. They sold to Carroll and Thomas E. Moshelm. Thomas, an attorney with Kelley, Lockett & Lockett, remained there with Carroll until 1956, when they sold to Margaret and Arthur H. Stanwood. The Stanwoods remained only a year. Arthur was a salesman for R.B. Brady Co.

At this point a little romance seeps into the records. The 1957 City Directory shows that Ruth Bynum, a typist for Texas Gas Corp., occupied the house. Ruth was listed as "Mrs. Ruth Bynum," but she undoubtedly was not currently married. The custom at the time was to list the man of the household, with the woman either omitted or represented in parentheses by first name only. A woman listed solo, without parentheses, was living alone. After two years of being listed by herself, the Directory began showing the house occupied by Charles E. Jones, also a typist for Texas Gas Corp., with Ruth as his wife and using his surname. We can guess how they met. The Bynums stayed until 1970.

Europe along the Mediterranean Sea is noted for its hospitality and the house lived up to its architectural style by welcoming a long succession of owners and occupants: Helen and John C. McIver, a postal service carrier (1971-1974); Elaine and Thomas Rogers, a microbiologist at St. Luke's

Hospital (1975-1977); Sue and Eldon Dennis Megarity, a chemist for Browning-Feris Industries (1978-1984); Lynne S. and John Randolph Parten (1985-1988); Jan Pasternak (1988-1997); James R. Rothbauer (1996-2005). During Rothbauer's ownership, he rented the house to T. Stephen King and Dr. M. Delahower (1998); and to T.S. King (1999-2000)

It is worth noting about John Randolph Parten, listed above, that he is the son of J.R. Parten, once board chairman of the Parten Oil Company of Houston, a trustee of the University of Texas (there is a J. R. Parten Chair in UT's Archives of American History), an appointee of Har-

ry S. Truman as chief of staff of the Allied War Reparations Commission in 1945, a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and an oil-policy adviser to the Interior Department in the Administration of President John F. Kennedy.

The current owners, Randa and Todd P. Banks have owned



the house since 2006. They own Mosquito Management Systems, a company that installs and services mosquito misting systems throughout the greater Houston area, and Mosquito Pro, the company that manufactures their equipment.



The house has been rewarded for its history of welcoming so many occupants. The Mediterranean mode of architecture, popular in the first decades of the last century, has cycled back. The house is again in style!

[This is the 41st article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]

Houston B-Cycle Coming Closer to Old Braeswood

Houston B Cycle is a public program of on-the-spot bike rental. Stations have proliferated around Houston. New stations are being added to our border neighborhoods of Rice Village, Rice University, and the Medical Center, connecting with stations already in Hermann Park and the Museum District. Look for them! Once they are up, go to the map at <https://houston.bcycle.com>. Even better, go to the website and suggest a location for a new station.

Join the program and pick up a bike at any station without prior reservation. When finished, return the bike to any station. Houston members can check out bikes in other B-cities including: Austin, San Antonio, Fort Worth, and Denver, Nashville, and Kansas City.

Usage fees are \$5 for a 24-hour card, \$15 for a 7-day card, and \$65 for an annual card. Members can use a bike anytime for a full hour without charge. After an hour, the cost is \$2 per each additional half hour. The cost structure reflects the expectation that the bicycles will be used as an alternative to driving when making a specific trip rather than used for a day of recreation.

With your login account, you have access to the number of miles you rode, the calories you burned, and your amount of carbon offset. Local businesses support B Cycle by providing discounts to members.



Book Club

The Book Club year is only half over and it's not too late to join. The club meets throughout the summer! Mark as summer reading for discussion with your neighbors and friends:

The Spy Who Loved: The Secrets and Lives of Christine Granville (for discussion June 14)

Let the Great World Spin (for discussion July 12)

Inside the O'Briens (for discussion August 9)

For information about the location and time of Book Club meetings, please contact Annette Brown, netteyduplechain@yahoo.com.

Zika Virus Prevention Tips

Remove ALL mosquito breeding opportunities around your home by eliminating all standing water, or items that may hold water.

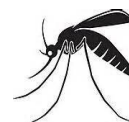
Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitos out.

If you are traveling to Central or South America or the Caribbean, it's important to prevent mosquito bites. Use insect repellent that contains DEET and wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants

Continue using DEET containing insect repellent for two weeks.

For more information on the Zika virus in our community, pregnancy tips, and travel alerts visit: http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology/Zika_Virus.html

Frequently Asked Questions can be on the city's website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/citizensnet/zikavirus-qanda.pdf>



Brays Bayou Association Meeting Report by Len Teich, Old Braeswood Rep

Why did it flood Memorial Day weekend 2015, and recently, even with all the improvements made after tropical storm Allison?

The enormous box culverts installed after Allison and the enlarging of Brays and other bayous by the Army Corps of Engineers prevent flooding only if water can get to them. The narrow neighborhood pipes for runoff cannot do the job during a deluge. Water backs up through storm sewers into streets, even when the culverts and bayous are not at capacity.

Why is there a wastewater treatment plant on the outskirts of our neighborhood (North Braeswood just west of Kirby)?

Driving past the plant on N. Braeswood, the air stinks. Same thing at the 29 other wastewater treatment plants in Houston. It may seem a necessary inconvenience of urban life, but the entire City of New York has only 6 such plants and the District of Columbia has only 1. We are different because Houston's growth occurred at the hands of developers. Developers created new neighborhoods, each complete with a treatment plant, and the City then annexed them. Our 30 plants will eventually be consolidated by the City, but funding is scarce and consolidation is occurring slowly.

Flower Show

The Flower Show is the highlight of the Old Braeswood Garden Club's year. The 2016 show was held on April 24 at the home of Terese and Gary Wagner with a Disney theme that inspired 16 entries, all displayed anonymously until voting was completed. First place went to Terese Wagner for Tinkerbell's Fairy Forest. Second place, Dee Murray's Cowboy Woody from Toy Story. Third Place, Laurie Eckman for Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Even the food was Disney themed with a wide ranging selection from Lady and the Tramp spaghetti to Alice in Wonderland's tea sandwiches. Amanda Voie presented a cake displaying Little Mermaid characters.



Water Your Street Trees

Despite the recent rains, we urge you to water newly planted trees in the right-of-way. Their survival depends on regular water throughout the hot months. We cannot rely on Trees for Houston to do this, so please water your trees! Please let us know if you need assistance with watering. Our goal is to keep all newly planted trees alive and thriving through the summer.

Did you know that urban trees absorb 15 times more carbon dioxide than forest trees? And that urban trees catch 7%-22% of rainwater runoff on impermeable surfaces? They are also a SECURITY BENEFIT with 14% fewer burglaries in areas with trees. Property values on streets with trees are 5%-15% higher. And property values of homes next to (well-maintained) parks are 8%-20% higher.

Old Braeswood Garden Club May Meeting *by Nancy Eisenmenger*



Pictured Left to Right: (1) GG Hsieh, Maribel Reuter, Nancy Eisenmenger, and Annette Brown; (2) Andrea Lapsley and Dee Murray; (3) Nancy Eisenmenger and Dawn Gervais.



Maribel Reuter hosted the May meeting in her lovely home. It was time to say thank you to the 2015-16 officers and elect their replacements. New officers for The 2016-17 term are:

Co-President's - Nancy Eisenmenger and Dawn Gervais
Vice President - Annette Brown
Secretary - Margo Elgohary
Treasurer - Maribel Reuter

We had a wonderful time discussing the next year's programs, and, as our "program," we each shared a little known fact about ourselves. Maribel made a wonderful Mexican meal with enchiladas, flan and tres leches!

We have three evening events with spouses every year: the Welcome Back BBQ Dinner Party, the Holiday Dinner Party and the Spring Flower Show and Dinner. (Some members can't come to the daytime programs, but join just to be included in these three parties.)

Our monthly daytime programs for the 2016-2017 year will include: Backyard Beekeeping, Mexican Holiday Traditions, Show & Tell, Breast Cancer Prevention Updates, Ikebana Flower Arranging, and the Officers' Induction & Lunch.

If you are interested in joining in our activities for next year (beginning in September), please email the Garden Club at info.obgc@gmail.com.

Historic designation of Hobby House

The Governor P. Hobby House, at 2115 Glen Haven Blvd., now owned by Rita and Bal Sareen, was made a Houston Historic Landmark House by vote of the Houston City Council on April 21, 2016. The house was featured in the last two issues of this newsletter because of its outstanding restoration by the Sareens. They not only preserved most of the original construction and much of its detailing, but they also restored the garden to its original appearance using Governor Hobby's own landscape plans. It is the second house in Old Braeswood with historic designation. The other house is at 2240 Glen Haven, owned by Susan and Len Teich. OB's two officially historic houses share the same block! Many other houses in OB would qualify for historic designation. If interested in getting historic designation for your house, contact Susan Teich (steich1@comcast.net) for information.



National Trust for Historic Preservation to tour Old Braeswood Nov. 18

For the first time, Houston is the site of the annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The conference will take place downtown in November with four days of educational courses, workshops, and field studies, culminating in a 'grand finale' Candlelight House Tour in partnership with Houston Mod on Friday, November 18. The Trust has chosen Old Braeswood for the tour because of its architectural history and the extent to which that history has been preserved. Fourteen houses were nominated for the tour and letters are being sent to the homeowners for their consent. Please support the Tour and this opportunity to showcase our neighborhood!

The 2016 annual Park Party on May 1st was great fun for all !



April Member's Meeting

The Spring meeting of the Old Braeswood POA was a smashing double feature. Our own City Council Member, Ellen Cohen, was there to meet residents, answer questions and comment on some of the tough issues facing the City of Houston. The other major attraction that night was the house where we met. Hosts Dr. Michelina Cairo and Adam Miller recently completed a total remodeling of an original OB home, one that appeared in the 1929-30 edition of the City Directory. Their decorator knew them well. Chris Cairo, Michelina's mother, produced a clean, modern look that still preserves many of the house's original features. Between meeting Ellen Cohen and seeing the house at 7319 Greenbriar, there was reason for the extraordinary turnout on April 26th. Thank you, Michelina and Adam!



Pictured on this page: [1] Michelina Cairo & Adam Miller; [2] Courtney Steves, Christine Manca with Mayor Pro Tem & Council Member Ellen Cohen; [3] Marianne & Kent Crowl; [4] Miller's darling dog ; [5] Ashwin Viswanathan, Fran Callahan and Azam Kundi; [6] Sandeep Singhal & family; [7] Janet & Paul Sanders; [8] Rubin Bashir; [9] Michael & Adriana Mann; [10] Susan & Kenny Edwards ;[11] Garrett & Sherri Walsh; [12] Kathy Lord and JoAnn Mattheisen; [13] Shilpa Jain.

2016 OBPOA

Officers & Chairpersons

President	Susan Teich
Vice Pres.	Andrea Lapsley
Vice Pres.	Joe Manca
Vice Pres.	Buddy Steves
At-Large	G.G. Hsieh
At-Large	Courtney Steves
Treasurer	David Leathers
Secretary	Dawn Gervais
Past President	John Eldridge

Block Captains	Christine Manca
Enforcement	John Eldridge
Flood Control	Kathy Lord & Len Teich
Garden Club	Annette Duplechain
Newsletter	Zack Liu / E. Krudy
Park	Annette Eldridge
Plan Review	Marilyn Archer
Preservation	Joe Manca
Patrol	Dee Murray
Rice U Liaison	Susan Teich
Social Events	GG Hsieh
Trees	Carroll Shaddock
University Place	Susan Teich
Welcome	Dawn Gervais
Manager	Evalyn Krudy



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank You Party for Signage and Pillar Donors on 4/17



Donors to the sign toppers and brick pillars, added to our neighborhood in the last year, were honored at a Pillar Party on Sunday, April 17th, at the home of Susan and Leonard Teich. Thank you to each donor and especially to Joe Manca and the Preservation Committee for bringing the project to fruition.