



Old Braeswood News

A Letter from the President by Susan Teich

It was a quiet summer in Old Braeswood, except for the afternoon in August with a burglary and two attempted burglaries. I was in London when my alarm company called me to say that my back door sensor and every motion detector in my house had gone off. SEAL responded and, later, HPD. Entry was made by jumping my back fence, and then throwing a garden boulder through the glass door in the breakfast room. The shatterproof coating held, but the glass broke away from the doorframe and fell onto the floor in one piece. With the alarm sounding and SEAL in front, the burglar was scared off and nothing was taken. A yard crew at another house, where a break-in was attempted shortly after, gave a description of three men, but there has been no arrest. I provide this information because of what I learned that might be of value to others. When the SEAL officer responded, the front of the house was secure. The officer was not able to check the back of the house, where the door was breached, because I had not provided a gate code when I filed my Vacation Watch. Anyone wishing SEAL to have access to the back of their house, especially if they have a gated back, should provide SEAL with both the gate code and written permission to enter the premises.

Should you or your alarm company call SEAL at a time when SEAL is not on duty in Old Braeswood, SEAL will call either HPD or the Harris County Sheriff's Office. If SEAL happens to have an on-duty officer near our area, that officer will be dispatched to respond. Obviously, the response time is better with SEAL. I urge anyone who has not yet paid the voluntary SEAL subscription for this year to do so. Our number of subscriptions is significantly lower than at this time last year, and additional funding is needed to maintain our level of coverage, at 60 hours per week. For questions about the Patrol, please contact *Dee Murray* at dee@artbydee.com.

Our neighborhood system of Block Captains has been reactivated, led by *Christine Manca*. In October, the Captains will be going door-to-door to ask for ballots from those who have not voted on the initiative begun last Spring to increase patrols. (If you are voting by absentee ballot, your ballot must be received before the general POA meeting on November 19. Those at the meeting who have not yet voted may do so then. At that point, voting is closed.) Should you be one of the residents receiving a visit, please welcome your new Block Captain.

Old Braeswood is a member of the University Place Super Neighborhood, which hosts periodic breakfast meetings between residents and law enforcement agencies that operate within Old Braeswood and surrounding neighborhoods. Should you wish to attend one of these breakfasts and learn more about security issues, please email me of your interest at steich1@comcast.net.

We are thrilled to report that *Council Member Ellen Cohen* has arranged funding for additional brick entrance pillars from unused beautification funds. This is in addition to the City matching grant awarded last year. Thank you, Ellen, for your generosity to Old Braeswood!

Old Braeswood POA Annual Meeting

7 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 19, 2015

2337 Blue Bonnet Blvd.

home of Courtney & Fred Steves

Please save the date for the annual meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your neighbors and to learn more about the operation of the neighborhood. Refreshments provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

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The house at 7516 Morningside Drive first appears in the City Directory in 1949, although it is reputed to be built earlier. The first owner was Oscar Adolf Stolz and his wife, Lillian Alwine Stolz, who moved in with their children, Elaine and Raymond. Oscar owned

Houston Radiator and Fender Company. This was a repair shop at 1020 McKee starting in 1922, and at 1208 Mary St. before that.

When Lillian died in 1969, Oscar sold the house to Leo D. and Lillian M. Chambers. The City Directory lists Leo as an interior decorator. In 1976, Leo died, and the house was listed in the Directory as vacant from then until its purchase in 1983 by Drs. Sally and David Miller, the current owners.

At purchase, the Millers were told that their new home had once been a fraternity house for the University of Houston. While there is no record of such use, the long period of apparent vacancy opens the door to speculation.

Sally, a marriage and family therapist with a Ph.D. in family science, and David, an internist, met at Houston's VA Hospital when they were students. Sally had grown up as an Army brat and David had grown up in Chile as the son of Baptist missionaries. It was their studies at Texas Woman's University and Baylor Medical School that brought them to Houston. They left Houston for David's internship and military duty, but returned for his residency at Baylor and stayed permanently.

The move from a house in Woodside, off Stella Link, to Old Braeswood met the needs of their growing family. Sally liked the neighborhood as soon as she saw that it had its own park. Perfect for then 5-year-old daughter, Salisha, and soon to be perfect for then 6-month-old Breisen. The house itself had its draw. Sally liked the duality of having Main St. right outside the front door and wooded calm right outside the back door.

Over the years, Sally has been one of Old Braeswood's most active supporters. She led the POA as President in 1993-1994, chaired the Directory and Block Captain Committee for many years, served as an officer of the Garden Club, and has been tireless in finding sponsors for the directory, re-

freshments for POA meetings, and host houses for POA meetings. The Miller's house is currently on the market and their departure will be a great loss to the neighborhood.

[This is the 37th article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]



Sally & David Miller's home at 7516 Morningside Drive is currently for sale. This 1922 home sits on over half an acre.

Trees to be Replaced

The Spring newsletter showed photos of the newly planted trees on Morningside and Underwood. The drought that precluded new planting in 2014 seemed finally over. But this summer was not kind to those trees. Some died. Many with brown leaves appear dead, but are actually still alive, and will recover. In all, fewer than a dozen trees have been lost due to lack of water.

When the Tree Committee ordered the trees from Trees For Houston, it also paid for them to be watered for their crucial first two years. Trees for Houston was not able to fulfill its obligation to water because it was overwhelmed by the need to water more trees than it could service. The good news is that our dead trees are under warranty and Trees for Houston will replace them.

But for the efforts of the many residents who watered trees in front of their homes, we would have lost even more trees. Thank you!



No One Left Hungry from the Garden Club BBQ on September 27th

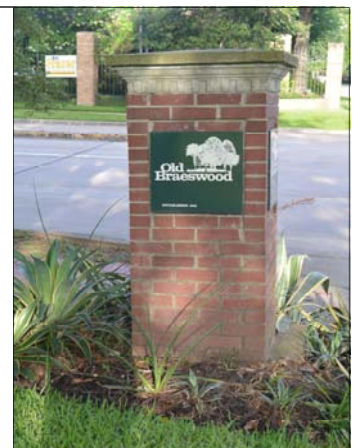


The Old Braeswood Garden Club's annual barbecue on Sept. 27th kicked off the Club's program year. Ann and Joe Garnett hosted the event as they have for many years, and their hospitality was warmly received by the many members and guests in attendance. Besides the monthly meetings, Garden Club members enjoy three evening parties a year. Don't miss the next evening event, the December Holiday Dinner at the Log House Museum on Cambridge Street. And don't be fooled by the Club's name. Gardening is not a prerequisite to membership! Contact Garden Club President Annette Brown (713-667-9187 or netteyduplechaine@yahoo.com).

Pillar Party For Sign Project Donors Coming Soon!

Inquiring minds want to know, where are the pillars and when is the party?

Fabrication of the new pillars was postponed because of delays in factory orders that preceded ours. We are told that our pillars will be constructed "soon." Once they are in place, and we have something to celebrate, the party for donors of \$100 or more will be announced by mailed invitations to those that qualify. Check the donor list on page 5 to see if you will be entitled to an invitation. If you think the list does not accurately acknowledge your gift, please contact us at info@oldbraeswood.com.



Adopt-A-Stop

Old Braeswood resident *Annette Brown* joined Houston's Adopt-A-Stop program three years ago when she became a regular babysitter for her newborn grandson, Julian. Walking Julian on her 2200 block of Maroneal and surrounding streets, she noticed that the bus shelter on S. Main at Pressler was strewn with trash. She also noticed a City of Houston sign asking for volunteers to adopt bus shelters/stops and keep them clean. An idea was born. Annette called the City of Houston and officially adopted the bus shelter. To make it fun for Julian, she nicknamed it "Walter."

Julian, now a three-year-old toddler, accompanies her on daily walks to "Walter." They pick up trash, change the trash bin liner (new ones provided by the City), and report graffiti. When construction is completed on the lot behind "Walter," Annette would like to plant flowers. The City thanks them by sending Annette complimentary light rail tickets. An even greater reward is Julian's growing awareness of the environment and the need to keep it clean.

This article serves not only to highlight Annette's efforts, but also to introduce her as the new president of the Old Braeswood Garden Club and chair of OBPOA's Garden Club Committee.

Join Annette in keeping our neighborhood clean and attractive. There are seven other bus stops bordering Old Braeswood, each available for adoption. Four are bus shelters - because they have benches, trash bins and roofs. Three are bus stops, because they lack such amenities.

Locations of Old Braeswood bus shelters available for adoption:

- # 2513, on South Main at Greenbriar
- #2515, on South Main between Underwood and Morningside
- #2516, on South Main between Morningside and North Braeswood
- #4086, on North Braeswood at South Main

Locations of Old Braeswood bus stops available for adoption:

- #4087, on North Braeswood at Kelving
- #4575, on Kirby at Glen Haven
- #4576, on Kirby at Bellefontaine

Adopt-A-Stop first began in 1990, and then was revived in 2006. Contact Adopt-A-Stop at (713) 739-6095 or AASS@ridemetro.org



Annette Brown at the S. Main & Pressler bus stop.

Invitation from Congregation Emanu El

Congregation Emanu El, at 1500 Sunset Blvd., sits with Old Braeswood on the Board of the University Place Association/Super Neighborhood. At a recent meeting, the synagogue invited OB and other member neighborhoods to events it opens to the public. A program guide for 2015-2016 is available at Temple Emanu El, but highlights include:

- Sunday, October 11, 11 a.m. (rain date Sunday, October 25, 11 a.m.) Collectors Car Show & Food Truck Event in the West Parking Lot
- Friday, November 13, 6 p.m. – Installation of Rabbi Oren Hayon, as the synagogue's new Senior Rabbi, during Shabbat services in the Barish Sanctuary. A reception follows.
- Saturday, December 5, 7 p.m. – In preparation for Chanukah, the evening begins with a religious service and then Chanukah music and a reception with latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (donuts).
- Friday, December 11, 6 p.m., by reservation (713-529-5771 or jasonp@emanuelhouston.org) - Annual Chanukah Latke Supper & Chanukah Service - 6 p.m. brisket dinner with latkes. At 7 p.m. the Chanukah service will follow.

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.

To get started visit
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OldBraeswoodNeighbors/>.

Sign up for Old Braeswood eBlasts & Crime Alerts

Would you like to receive up to the minute news and crime alerts electronically?

To subscribe, send your email address to info@OldBraeswood.com or call 713-807-1787.

Night Out Celebration on October 6th



Thank You Sign Project Donors

The following neighbors donated over \$17,000 toward the neighborhood signage project and will be invited to the donor appreciation party later this year. If you made a donation toward the project and your name is not listed below, please contact the office at info@OldBraeswood.com.

Janet & Walid Attisha
Adriana & Timothy Barnard
Drs Richard & Mary Beaver
Nancy Beren Family
Janet & Chuck Bruner
Patricia & Ian Butler
Keiko & Peirre Chevray
Margaret & Joe Clegg
Julie Cohn & John A. Connor
Eileen Brewer & Joseph Corriere
Jeff & Anna Courville
Mary Ann & Kent Crowl
Lisa & Charles Cusack
Helen & Tony Davenport
Marina & Giulio Draetta

Kathy & Bruce Ehni
Annette & John Eldridge
Fran & Mike Feltovich
Mary & Martin Fischer
Matthew Foster & Nadia Pervez
Robin Fredrickson
Milvia & Paul Gidley
June & Leonard Goldberg
Barbara & Louis Green
The Hoekel Family
Gayle & Scott Hoffer Family
Krista Heidersback & Mike Kelly
Samia & Kamal Khalil
Molly & Samy Khalil
Gail & Dr. Milton Klein
Andrea & Bob Lapsley

Meredith & Ryan Maierson
Christine & Joseph Manca
Marcella & Bryant Manning
Melissa Marschall
Sally & David Miller
Dee & Bill Murray
Robert & Dr. Joseph Naples
John N. Neese
Bonnie & Eric Nelson
Kristin Roshelli & Matthew Nicklos
Sharon Plon & Jed Nuchtern
Old Braeswood Garden Club
Catherine & Chris O'Neill
Jay Plotkin
Connie & Bud Pollon
Maria Isbel Reuter

Sally & Bill Russ
Emily & Josh Schaffer
Mollie & Randolph Schaffer
Dory & Carroll Shaddock
Barbie & Don Schaffer
Nicole & Dave Singer
Pamela Strasburger
Susan & Len Teich
Janet Horn & Don Treat
Aleslie & Ashwin Viswanathan
Terese & Gary Wagner
Linda S. Williams
Ann St. Germain & Tony Wood



Another Artist in Old Braeswood



Old Braeswood resident Nancy Eisenmenger entered four quilts in the Quilt Guild of Greater Houston's July show, and met with great success. Because it was Nancy's first time to enter, the quilts were judged as *First Quilts*. First Place in that category went to the quilt *Soundwaves*, a collaborative effort between Nancy and her daughter Lauren (designed and pieced by Lauren, quilted by Nancy). Nancy's *Lacey River* quilt won Third Place. And there was one other award. Nancy's quilt *Serendipity* received Honorable Mention in *Art Quilts*.

Congratulations, Nancy, on your beautiful quilts and the recognition you received!

Old Braeswood Real Estate Report

By Dawn Gervais, Realtor® Consultant * Greenwood King Properties

After a couple of months of rising sales, the Houston housing market slowed down a bit in August, with sales comparable to last August as prices set new August highs. Homes priced between \$150,000 and \$500,000 saw moderate gains, and the high end market experienced sales declines.

According to the latest monthly report prepared by the Houston Association of Realtors® (HAR), August single-family home sales totaled 7,454 units compared to 7,407 a year earlier, an increase of less than one percent. The time it took to sell the average home held steady at 45 days and in Old Braeswood the average was 129 days.

The Houston housing market has been robust in 2015, keeping pace with last year's record-breaking numbers. However, August sales were flat. A full 2015 report will be included in the early 2016 edition of this newsletter. Overall, the housing inventory is growing, and we are seeing signs of more sustainable inventory levels as more new listings come on the market.

Old Braeswood Real Estate Statistics: July 2015

Total Homes & Lots for Sale	6	Total Homes sold since 1/1/2015	11
Minimum List Price	\$649,990	Mini. Sales Price	\$618,400
Maximum List Price	\$2,350,000	Max. List Price	\$2,220,000
Avg sales price /sf	\$354.89	Avg sales price /sf	\$273.05
Homes under contract	2	Avg selling price	97% of list price

All statistics are based on properties listed on MLS and Houston Association of Realtors.



Meet New SEAL Patrol Officer June Ellison

Watch for our new SEAL officer, June Ellison, and introduce yourself. She is a 12-year U.S. Navy Reserve officer in the Navy's military police. One of those years was spent deployed in Kuwait. In addition, Officer Ellison has received training as an employee of the Pulaski County (IL) Sheriff's Department, the Pulaski Co. Jail, and the Missouri Department of Corrections. She has worked security patrol in Texas for the last six years.

Officer Ellison was selected by the owner of SEAL, Malcolm Goldin, specifically for Old Braeswood. Her predecessor, Officer Gregor Wosiak, who served on our patrol and managed our officers for the past two and a half years, has returned to his native Poland to spend more time with his family.



Trash & Recycling Schedule

Recycling Every other Tuesday
Dates Oct. 6 & 20 Nov. 3 & 17
 Dec. 1, 17 & 29 Jan. 12 & 26



Household Trash Tuesdays (in city provided bins)
Yard Waste Tuesdays (in biodegradable bags)
Tree Limbs & Debris 3rd Monday (in **Odd** months)
Junk Waste 3rd Monday (in **Even** months)

Place your household garbage in the city provided automated bin or recycling containers, and set them 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 ft. x 18 inches in diameter).

2015 OBPOA

Officers & Chairpersons

President	Susan Teich
Vice Pres.	Molly Khalil
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
Park	Annette Eldridge
Plan Review	Marilyn Archer
Preservation	Joe Manca
Patrol	Dee Murray
Rice U Liaison	Susan Teich
Social Events	<u>TBA</u>
Trees	Carroll Shaddock
University Place	Susan Teich
Welcome	Dawn Gervais
Manager	Evalyn Krudy

Block Captains

Old Braeswood is revitalizing its Block Captain program. The duties of Block Captains include facilitating communications between the Old Braeswood POA Board and the residents of your block. Block Captains are also encouraged to organize occasional social events such as block parties or get-togethers.

If you are interested in serving as a Block Captain or for more information, please contact your neighbor, Christine Manca, at christine.manca@att.net.



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

***Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates
for the Executive Committee***

The OBPOA Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to determine a slate of officers for the 2015-2016 term. The committee will present a slate of officers to stand for election at the Annual Meeting on November 19, 2015 at 2337 Blue Bonnet Blvd.

If you want to be a candidate for the upcoming election, please contact a Nominating Committee member, or the Old Braeswood POA office, by October 21, 2015. Committee members include: John Eldridge, Dawn Gervais, Andrea Lapsley, Sally Miller, Dee Murray, Len Teich. The Executive Committee positions to be filled are: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two At-Large positions. Volunteers are also needed to serve as Block Captains and to help with social events throughout the year. You may also send nominations to info@oldBraeswood.com or call us at 713-807-1787.

WELCOME

**New
Neighbors**

Robert Burke
2341 Blue Bonnet Blvd.

***Adam Miller &
Michelena Cairo***
7319 Greenbriar Dr.