VOL. 15, ISSUE 4 FALL 2019



President's Message by Julie Cohn

Just a few weeks ago a hateful sign appeared at Morningside and Main Street - sadly disrupting the tranquility of our neighborhood. The HPD officer who collected the sign spent a little bit of time chatting with me. He went out of his way to emphasize that ours is one of the safest neighborhoods he's seen over many years of policing in Houston! How cool is that?

Here's a little bit of data to back this up. Through the generosity of all of you who pay subscription fees for our Patrol Service (staffed by S.E.A.L. Security), and some subsidy from our general dues, we have a uniformed officer in a marked car patrolling our neighborhood 60 hours every week. The specific hours vary, minimizing the opportunity for a criminal to know in advance whether or not someone is on patrol. S.E.A.L. collaborates with us to maximize this service for dates and times that might be at higher risk for unwanted activity.

The officers do more than sit in the car and watch what's going on – they respond to burglar alarms, perform health and welfare checks, issue criminal trespass warnings, escort trespassers off our properties, talk to neighbors, attend our meetings, provide vacation watches, and even occasionally find and return lost pets. We have a dedicated hotline to S.E.A.L. (713-422-2770) for reporting problems and concerns.

In just the first nine months of this year, the Patrol performed 76 vacation watches, addressed activity by suspicious persons 27 times (including 16 times last January with one particular homeless individual), responded to 11 burglar alarms (mostly false alarms!), and addressed numerous other requests from us. When we call, S.E.A.L. answers!

Officer Khan is the primary officer assigned to our neighborhood. He reports that he "absolutely loves" working in Old Braeswood, knows many of us by name, and knows many of our pets as well. Residents often ask specifically for Officer Khan when they need help from the Patrol.

S.E.A.L. is our extra neighbor who helps us watch out for each other and enjoy our homes, streets, and park in relative security. When you are out and about, please share a friendly greeting with the officer on patrol. AND, if you have not done so, please pay your annual subscription right away online at www.OldBraeswood.com or by mail to OBPOA, PO Box 541346, Houston TX 77254.

Oh, and what about that hate sign? Well, by the next morning, a beautiful peace sign appeared in its place. That's why I love Old Braeswood!



3rd Annual Neighbor to Neighbor House Tour

Sun. November 10 by Joe Manca

The third annual Old Braeswood Neighbor-to-Neighbor House Tour is for Old Braeswood residents and their invited guests who accompany them. The purpose of the tour is to provide an opportunity for neighbors to get to know each other and enjoy visiting different homes in our neighborhood. You are welcome to bring friends who would like to see some lovely homes in our wonderful neighborhood. The tour will include houses from throughout the Old Braeswood's history, from the 1920s to more recent times. It is organized by the Old Braeswood Preservation Committee. The tour is free of charge. The homes may be visited in any order. A list of homes and the addresses will be provided later, and publicized through the newsletter, the OB website, and a mailing to each home, so be on the lookout. For now, mark your calendars for Sunday, November 10, from 2 to 5 p.m.

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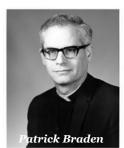
Your House Has a History by Susan Froehly Teich, OBPOA Historian



The house at 2351 Kelving joined Old Braeswood in 1932, with a listing in the Houston City Directory. The first owners were Dr.

Albert Henry Braden and his wife, Kathleen. Dr. Braden was a pathologist practicing in Houston since 1922, the year St. Joseph Hospital hired him as its first fulltime pathologist. His death was a news item in the *Houston Chronicle* [July 22, 1953, p. 12], describing him as "one of Houston's leading physicians." The Bradens had five children – Albert Henry Jr., Joseph C., Mary Kathleen, Patrick O., and David J. Two sons followed their father into medicine - David practiced in Galveston and Albert Henry Jr. practiced in Houston. (The tradition continues currently with Albert Henry III, an internist in Houston.)

ert Keenan



Son Patrick, however, took a different path. He earned a doctorate in mechanical engineering from UT-Austin, became a Basilian priest, and served as the 4th president of the University of St. Thomas (October 1967 to June 1979).

His tenure as president of St. Thomas had a rocky start. Dominique and John de Menil, longtime patrons of St. Thomas, disagreed with Fr. Braden about the

future direction of the university and they withdrew their support in 1968. One immediate consequence of the de Menils' break was that Rothko Chapel, planned for the St. Thomas campus, was built instead at its present location, opening in 1971. Ironically, its first executive director, Dr. Thompson L. Shannon, was living at 2401 Maroneal, a stone's throw from Fr. Braden's childhood home on Kelving. [See the February/March 2019 Newsletter.]

At the center of the de Menils' disagreement with St. Thomas was the Board of Trustees. To make St. Thomas a world class university, the de Menils believed, it had to be ecumenical, with laymen as trustees. Further, the Trustees should have authority to elect the University's presidents. Further, the de Menils wanted control over selection of Trustees. The Basilian fathers agreed to put laymen on the Board, but not to cede selection of Trustees to the de Menils. In the end. Fr. Braden reaffirmed the school's commitment to conservative Catholicism and the de Menils switched their allegiance to Rice University. [Texas Monthly, April 1983, p. 200].

Despite losing the de Menils, St. Thomas grew. Enrollment doubled during Fr. Braden's presidency. When he left St. Thomas, Fr. Braden became president of St. John Fisher College, Rochester,

New York (1980-1986). Eventually he returned to St. Thomas, where he taught physics and math until his death in 2016.

The second owners of the house were Dr. Robert Thomas Solis and his wife Barbara. Tom was a pulmonary surgeon in the Houston Medical Center. Barbara was a Master Gardener. Together, they were patrons of the arts. They began collecting art by Mexican masters in Mexico City on their honeymoon and kept going. Through the years, their donations to the accession fund of MFAH's Latin American Art Department helped grow its collection.

When Tom and Barbara Solis downsized in 2000, they sold to Deborah McCoy. Deborah became a pilot for Continental Airlines in 1978, 1 of only 7 female airline pilots then nationwide. Initially, she was based at IAH and lived in Kingwood. In 2000 she was promoted to Sr. VP of Flight Operations with an office in Downtown Houston and moving to Old Braeswood improved her commute. Deborah's proudest memory of Continental dates to the creation of an Operational Performance Department and her appointment by Gordon Bethune to head it. In just 4 months her department brought Continental from last place to first place in all U.S. Department of Transportation service metrics. In 2010, Deborah married Continental Airlines' pilot Robert Keenan. She remained based in Houston. He was based in Los Angeles. For a while, it was an airline marriage. Now they are retired. Robert's last aircraft flown was the B787 Dreamliner.

The Old Braeswood residents described in this column were frequently in lofty careers. For Deborah McCoy and Robert Keenan this was true literally.

[This is the 58th article in a continuing series on houses and people in Old Braeswood. Suggestions for future columns are welcome.]

PAGE 2 FALL 2019 OLD BRAESWOOD NEWS

Old Braeswood – A Neighborhood of Single-Family Residences Boulevard which may be used for duplexes). Period. That's it. No stores, no office buildings, no restaurants or bars. No

Let's take a deep dive into the opening sections of our deed restrictions!

The first section of text in each of the three sets of restrictions is essentially a preamble delineating the physical area covered by the restrictions. This lets the homeowner know whether or not the restrictions apply to any given lot. To find out which restrictions govern your lot, visit: oldbraeswood.com/wp/deed-restrictions/

The next section in each (No. 1 in the 1928 restrictions, and (a) in the 1939 and 1945 restrictions) defines frontages, corner lots, and exceptions. This is helpful for determining which edge of your lot is the "front" – in some cases there are two fronts – and which edges are the "sides" and the "back." This becomes relevant when determining set-backs for buildings, outbuildings, fences, etc. – a topic for a future newsletter.

The very next section in each (No. 2 in the 1928 restrictions, and (b) in the 1939 and 1945 restrictions) delineates permitted and prohibited uses of lots in Old Braeswood. These are the sections that establish the residential character of our neighborhood. Unless we work to ensure that all property owners abide by these sections, we risk becoming a multi-use neighborhood.

Here's a short-hand version of what the restrictions say: the lots may be used for private residence purposes only – by a single family (except for the first five lots on Maroneal

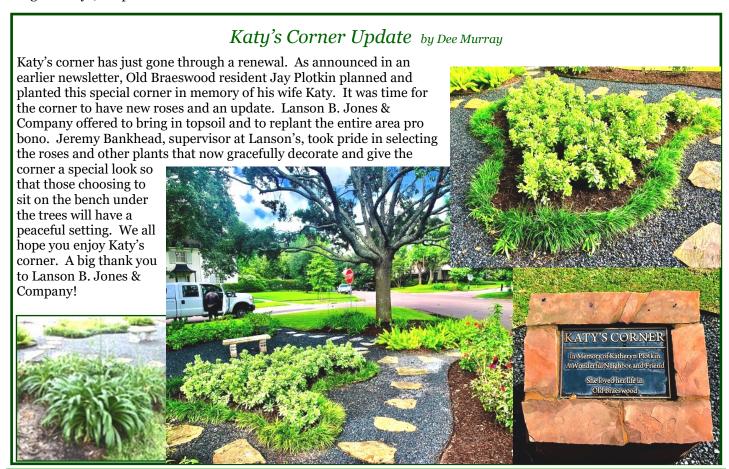
Boulevard which may be used for duplexes). Period. That's it. No stores, no office buildings, no restaurants or bars. No repair shops. No apartment or rooming houses. No sales to the public. (Well, except the State of Texas recently guaranteed the right of children to operate lemonade stands — a welcome blessing for walkers, runners, and bike riders passing through on hot days!)

Property owners may have an outbuilding with quarters, BUT residential use is limited to six months during construction, or (in somewhat outdated language) as a residence by servants working on the property. In other words, we MAY NOT rent out our garage apartments.

Finally, these sections prohibit the erection of signs in the neighborhood, with the exception of "For Sale" or "For Rent" signs that do not exceed five square feet in size. Because the Constitution guarantees free speech, we of course allow political yard signs, but as a matter of policy, these should not be erected sooner than sixty days before an election and should adhere to the size limit in the deed restrictions.

This should tell us what we need to know about using our lots: Old Braeswood is a neighborhood of residences with minimal signage and no commercial activity. A great place to live!

[This is the 2nd article in a continuing series on Old Braeswood's deed restrictions. Questions about the restrictions should be directed to info@OldBraeswood.com.]



Helpful Numbers & Information

EMERGENCIES: 9-1-1

OLD BRAESWOOD PATROL

(SEAL Security): 713-422-2770

Call our neighborhood patrol service, SEAL Security, at 713 -422-2770 whenever you encounter problematic or suspicious activity in the neighborhood. SEAL's daily activities include investigating suspicious vehicles and people 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 (includes checking homes 3 times per day), responding to calls for assistance, checking out front doors left open, and reporting 311 issues for attention and repair by city crews. Some of the things that SEAL can act on and report include:

SEAL can also help with:

Party activities that interfere with traffic

- Individuals "camping" on private property
- Home or car burglaries
- Parking violations
- Noisy activities and events

NOISE: 713-884-3131. Noise complaints can also be made directly to the Police Department's non-emergency line: (713) 884-3131. HPD will dispatch officers to address the complaint. See also this Helpful Article from a local law firm. (https://feldman.law/news/rights-citizens-have-under-the-houston-sound-ordinance/)

Reporting Other Nuisances: 3-1-1 or 713-837-0311 from a cell phone, or use the City of Houston 311 Mobile App, or email 311@houstontx.gov

Inappropriate placement of trash, overgrown lots, and commercial vehicles operating out of a driveway, are all examples of nuisances that the City will address. A community service inspector will inspect the property to determine if a violation exists. The owner will be given time to comply and depending on the violation, if compliance is not met the city may abate the property and place a lien on the property.

311 can also help with:

- Water Leaks, Water Service, Sewer and Wastewater
- Nuisances on Property
- Missed Trash and Recycling Collection
- Garbage Container Issues
- Traffic Signal Maintenance
- Street Hazard

Parking Enforcement: 832-393-8690 Contact the city's Parking Management Division for assistance with cars parked illegally or parked without permission in Permit Parking zones. Parking Mgmt. officers write tickets and issue warnings.

Houston City Council, District C: 832-393-3004 The City Councilperson for our District is Ellen Cohen, <u>DistrictC@HoustonTX.gov</u>

Plan Review Reminder



Plan review is required for all projects impacting a home's exterior, including new construction, renovations, fences, windows, doors, awnings, roofs, retaining walls, walkways etc. The ARC (Architectural Review Committee) is happy to meet with owners in advance to ensure plans will comply with requirements when they are formally submitted. Visit our website for plan review submission information, or contact ARC@OldBraeswood.com.

Please don't wait until your plans are completed or materials ordered before requesting a preliminary meeting. The ARC can provide guidance that should help ensure that your project can move swiftly through the approval process, resulting in a savings of time, money and unnecessary frustration.

Recycling Etiquette

If you have more trash than will fit in your bin, you can purchase "tags for Bags" at your local grocery store.

Tagged bags can be placed at the curb on collection day.

To dispose of excess recycling, visit the Westpark Recycling Center near Fountain View where staff will unload your vehicle. If you prefer, ask a nearby neighbor for permission to use their bin. But follow the *golden rule* and leave bins as clean as you found them. Be sure to follow City Trash & Recycling Rules:

Place only <u>clean</u> recyclables in the bins. Dirty, drippy, smelly food containers are unwelcome additions and disrupt the recycling process through contamination. (And if you have dumped your unwashed take-out containers in a neighbor's bin, you've left them with a nasty smelly mess to clean up.

Plastics - place <u>only</u> **CLEAN Plastic Containers** in recycling ins. **No Plastic Bags** or **wrappers** of any kind in the Recycling bin. Plastic grocery bags can be recycled at HER

Cardboard - Only Flattened Carboard is allowed

Styrofoam is not allowed in the green bins, but you can take it to the Westpark Recycling Center for recycling.

Ensure there is at least 3 ft between bins to allow for operation of the automated control arm.

Visit <u>www.Houstontx.gov/solidwaste</u> for more information about the city's recycling program

Thank You 2019 Members and Patrol Subscribers!

Old Braeswood appreciates the support of the neighbors listed allow that pay for our operations and Patrol. Those listed below have contributed toward membership dues and/or the 2019 Patrol Subscription of \$300. See key below for more information.

Patron Level (\$575)

Rouhieh Ahmadi &
ShiShi Amadi Anya
Vanessa & Charles Ames
Janet & Charles Bruner:-)
Julie Cohn & John A. Connor:-)
Eileen Brewer &
Joseph Corriere, Jr.
Susan & Paul Danziger
Helen & Tony Davenport
Marina & Giulio Draetta

Susan & Paul Danziger
Helen & Tony Davenport
Marina & Giulio Draetta
Annette & John Eldridge
Dawn & Richard Gervais:-)
Carla Giannoni & Bill Marchbank
Ms. Edens Houston:-)
G.G. Hsieh
Patricia & Michael Inselmann
Anna & Raghu Kalluri
Meredith & Ryan Maierson
Deborah McCoy &
Robert Keenan:-)

Robert Keenan :-)
Michelina Cairo & Adam Miller
Jay Plotkin
Christopher Rich &
Volker Hirsinger
Rita & Bal Sareen :-)
Mollie & Randy Schaffer
Amanda & John Seaberg :-)

Courtney & Fred Steves Rowena Young & Buddy Steves Pam & John Strasburger Susan & Leonard Teich Marcella & Dan Watkins Cynthia & Mark Wood

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Ann Schutt-Aine & Rubin **Bashir** Nancy Beren Jean & Eugene Boisaubin Joanne & Donald Brodsky Lisa Blume & Robert Burke Sharon & John D. Coan, MD Mary Ann & Kent Crowl :-) Lisa & Charles Cusack, III Carmen & Patrick Dessauer JoAnne & Andy Doyle Marilyn Archer & Jack Eby Fran & Dr. Mike Feltovich Rhonda & Seth Freedman Kathy B. & Lee P. Gunner Alicia & Robert Jackson :-) Linda Joekel Elayne & Demo Kouzounis Andrea & Robert Lapsley:-) Martha & Brian Long* Christine & Joseph Manca Teryle & Lyle Morrow Reka & Sri Neela John W. Neese Matthew Nicklos & Kristin Roshelli Keila Torres & Jason Reed Janet & Paul Sanders :-) Barbie & Don Schaffer Susan Takiff Schneider & Stanley Schneider

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Regular Level (\$425)

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Dorothy Dickey &
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Milvia Pleitez de Gidley &

Paul W. Gidley Aziz & Sania Gilani Ann & Berk Glass June Ferbrache & Leonard Goldberg Erin & Brian Goldman
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Bernard Katz
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Elizabeth & Jesse Rodriguez :-) Carmen W. Landrau Adorno & Edwin Rodriquez-Reyes Nadia Leibovitz &

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Carolyn Ben Taub *
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Dee & Ned Thomas :-)
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Carol S. & James H. Tindall
Janet Horn& Don Treat
Virginia & Bill Tubbs
Melissa Butler &

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Patrol Subscription Only (\$300)

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Teri & Howard Gerber
Kolbrun Helgason
Tari & Boyd Hoekel
Conor Lynch & Christina Rumore
Manny & Adrian Melissinos
Robin Fredrickson & Jeff Munoz
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Elsa & Carlos Torres-Cabala
Bo Yang & Zhuoyi Li

Kev

Member only— No Patrol

:-) Additional Patrol Contribution



PARK CORPORATION

Fall 2019

Dear Old Braeswood Neighbor,

The Old Braeswood Park Corp. is a 501(c)3 charitable corporation that oversees the care and maintenance of our three neighborhood parks and our neighborhood monuments and signs. These amenities are enjoyed by all neighbors and add value to all of our homes.

Keeping our greenspaces clean and attractive requires the time and attention of volunteers and funding for the weekly mowing and maintenance. Each year we need your continued support to fund the maintenance of our parks and greenspaces! This past year we incurred extra expenses replacing the solar panel powered timer on our irrigation system.

The Old Braeswood Park Corporation is separate from the Property Owners Association. The Park Corporation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all donations are fully tax-deductible. We hope you will make a contribution. Tax receipts are provided for donations at the \$100 level and up, or upon request at any level. Suggested levels are included below.

Please join with us in keeping the parks and greenspaces attractive and well-maintained, and return your donation today. A commitment of \$100 for each of the next three years qualifies you as a "Park Patron" and special recognition in the Old Braeswood newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Annette Eldridge, President

Old Braeswood Park Corporation

OLD BRAESWOOD PARK CORPORATION

Name:				
	(As you	would like to be listed in the newsletter)		
Address:		Phone /Email:		
Suggested 1	Donation Levels:			
	\$50.00	\$250.00	\$1,000.00	
	 \$100.00	\$500.00	\$ Other	
Would	Patron: I pledge to donate d you like a tax receipt? your employer have a mate	≥\$100 annually through 2020 ching funds program?	Yes No Yes No Yes No	

Bandit Signs

Bandit signs appear in our neighborhood, especially on busy border streets such as South Main, Kirby and Greenbriar. They are put up as advertising and violate not only the deed restrictions of Old Braeswood, but also City of Houston ordinance. They create clutter and cheapen the look of our neighborhood. Feel free to take them down! You can also report them to the City's 311 hotline or via the 311 app.

Start Reading for Book Club

Want to join Book Club? The book for discussion in October is *Indianapolis: The True Story of the Worst Sea Disaster in U.S. Naval History* by Lynn Vincent and Sara Vladic.

The November meeting will focus its discussion on the novel *Burial Rites*, by Hannah Kent.

For more information contact Krista Heidersbach at (713) 667-5391 or BookClub@OldBraswood.com

Join the Garden Club and Have Fun!

The Garden Club opened its Program Year with a BBQ Kick Off in late September. Join now to catch up with all the fun! (Pictures to follow in the next newsletter.)

October 15, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to learn about Feng Shui. November 20, Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. for a picnic garden tour. December 8, Sunday, 6:00 p.m. for the annual Holiday Party (spouses and other guests welcomed).

Interested? It's easy. Contact Treasurer Maribel Reuters and pay the Garden Club dues. (713) 668-4366 or GardenClub@OldBraeswood.com

Welcome, New Neighbors!

Daniel Parker 2436 Glen Haven Austin Jones 2424 Bellefontaine

Trash & Recycling Schedule

Recycling Every other Tuesday (B)

Dates Oct. 1, 15 & 29

Nov. 11 & 26 Dec. 10 & 24

Household TrashYard WasteTuesdays (in city provided bins)Tuesdays (in biodegradable bags)

Junk & Tree Limbs 3rd Monday of each month

Junk Waste (& tree limbs) in Even months

Tree waste only in Odd months

Recycling or household garbage should be placed at the curb in the city provided automated bins no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening preceding pick up and no later than 7 a.m. the day of pick up. Remove bins no later than 10 p.m. on collection day. Bins left on the street beyond these times are subject to city fines. Please ensure bins are accessible and not blocked by vehicles, etc. For more information visit www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste.

Yard waste must be contained in city approved biodegradable bags and placed at the curb at least 3' from bins. Branches must be bundled and tied into 3 to 4 ft lengths.



On September 23, Old Braeswood lost a wonderful friend and neighbor. Courtney Steves was involved in nearly every aspect of the neighborhood at one time or another during



her 20 years in residence.

Our deep condolences to Fred, Courtney's husband of over 50 years, and sons Ben and Roy, and brother and sister in law Buddy Steves and Rowena Young.

2019 OBPOA

Officers & Chairpersons

Julie Cohn President Vice Pres. Joe Manca Vice Pres. Kellie Nwokedi Vice Pres. **Paul Sanders** At-Large John Eldridge At-Large Jean Boisaubin Bill Marchbank Treasurer Samia Khalil Secretary Past President Andrea Lapsley Arch. Review **Paul Sanders**

Arch. Review Paul Sanders
Advisory Dee Murray
David Leathers

Block Captains Christine Manca
Directory Sally Miller
Enforcement John Eldridge
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Newsletter

Garden Club Alicia vonGreisman-

Jackson Susan Teich

Evalyn Krudy
Park Annette Eldridge
Preservation Joe Manca

Preservation Joe Manca
Patrol /Security Dee Murray
Rice U Liaison Andrea Lapsley
Social Events Krista Heidersbach
Trees Carroll Shaddock

Paul Sanders
University Place Andrea Lapsley
Welcome Dawn Gervais



PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 541346 Houston, TX 77254-1346 Phone: 713-807-1787 Email: info@OldBraeswood.com www.0dBraeswood.com

FALL 2019

Volume 15, Issue 4

Happy Birthday, Rose!

Rose Pu is not only an Old Braeswood resident, but she is its only teacher of Tai Chi. Her classes, given without charge, meet Saturday mornings and have been a neighborhood tradition since March of 2012. Thank you, Rose! Some of Rose's neighborhood Tai Chi followers gathered to celebrate her 92nd birthday on September 13th.



Left to Right: Susan Teich, GG Hsieh, Alicia VonGreisman-Jackson, Maribel Rueter, Rose Pu, Liz Alhand, Annette Brown, and Ruth Kosieracki and her daughter.