



Old Spring Branch Bugler

February 2020 * febrero 2020

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

Fourth Thursday of the month (unless falls on holiday)

Thursday, February 27: JUNK WASTE

Thursday, March 26: TREE WASTE

Recolección de Basura Pesada

Cuarto jueves del mes (menos en días feriados)

jueves, 27 de febrero: Basura Chatarra

jueves, 26 de marzo: Desechos Verdes

PLEASE REMEMBER:

OLD SPRING BRANCH IS A DEED-RESTRICTED COMMUNITY.

For further information, please attend our monthly meetings.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jo Lightsey

DID YOU READ THE JANUARY BUGLER? I

hope that you read the January Bugler. Our Newsletter is an IMPORTANT WAY to communicate to all residents and businesses within the boundaries of our Old Spring Branch Civic Association. The Association is an umbrella that helps direct the subdivisions and residents of being aware of what is going on in the Neighborhood.

PLEASE READ THIS BUGLER. IT IS THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOU & US.

We remind the residents of City of Houston Codes and rules of Deed Restrictions. These standards of living, if followed, help keep our properties high in value.

Enclosed in this month's Bugler are rules of Garage/Yard Sales, knowledge of who and what needs a Building Permit to improve your property. Do not be caught in violation of not having a permit. It will cost you a "fine" up to, at least, \$300!

ATTENTION THONIG RESIDENTS

A bit of news from the neighborhood. The resident that lives at 2045 Thonig has purchased 2025 Thonig. He intends to re-plat into four lots in order to build four townhouses. As I understand, it is the vacant area next to 2024 Thonig (where the food trucks were stored). Yeah! OSBCA will insist on the builder following and being in compliance with Thonig Tract Deed Restrictions.

Several properties on Thonig are in violation of the subdivision's deed restrictions. If the restriction was present on the property before 1994, those violations are grandfathered in. However, other residents are ignoring and breaking the deed restriction laws.

If you live in a deed restricted subdivision, please do your part to uphold the deed restrictions. Do your part to follow City of Houston Codes. City of Houston, 3-1-1 inspectors may appear at your door with a citation if you break the city ordinances.

Hopefully, in 2020, you will get involved, pay your membership, and become interested in your Civic Association's purpose.

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

General Meeting: Tuesday, February 11 | 7 p.m.

(Junta Mensual: martes, 11 de febrero | 7 p.m.)

Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd.



Follow us for OSBCA updates and news!
[Facebook.com/OSBCA](https://www.facebook.com/OSBCA)



Check out our website!
neighborhoodlink.com/Old_Spring_Branch

GARAGE/YARD SALES

Ordinance Highlight regarding Texas Tax Code

As we begin the spring/summer months, garage/yard sales will become a focus. We would like to remind residents of the rules and regulations behind these kind of sales.

Garage/yard sales are not regulated by the City of Houston. The Office of the State Comptroller regulates these types of sales.

Residents are allowed to have only two (2) such sales within a twelve (12) month period.

Any more than two, the resident is recognized as having a business and must obtain a **tax permit from the State.**

Since many subdivisions prohibit solicitation and commercial businesses within residential areas of a neighborhood, such activity is restricted.

For residents who try to operate a business in their homes, there are other city requirements that must be met. Specifically, at a minimum, the resident must obtain a Certificate of Occupancy.

There is NO PERMIT known as a “garage sale permit”.

The Texas tax code, Title 2, Chapter 151, Section 304 underlines the use of sales tax in occasional sales (too much information for most folks that have only two garage/yard sales a year).

For more information on the regulation of garage/yard sales or on the state taxation, please visit the Office of the State Comptroller at 1-800-252-5555 or 713-462-8200.

LANDSCAPING

Nino Roman

Well, with spring around the corner, I know everybody is ready to do some gardening. These are a couple of things you can do to get ready for the spring and summer.

Getting your garden ready for Spring/Summer

- Fertilize turf/beds with an organic fertilizer
- Trim back freeze-damaged plants
- Remove weeds from beds
- Add 1½ - 2 inches of mulch in flower beds
- Replace/relocate plants
- Check sprinklers
- Plant seasonal color
- Remove weeds from landscapes
- Trim trees
- Enjoy

Everybody has their favorite place to shop for yard improvement, so pick up some organic fertilizer, mulch, and your choice of trees, shrubs and seasonal color.

OSB thanks LMC for their continuing service to our two esplanades.



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CRIME REPORTS: JANUARY 2020

Listed below are the 'reported' incidents filed with HPD for January 1, to January 28, 2020.

- Three reports filed for Assault: 1/01/2020 at 10PM on 1700 block of Jacquelyn and at 12AM on 7400 Block of Long Point, 1/22/2020 at 3PM on 7500 Block of Long Point.
- One report of Robbery on 1/16 at 5PM on 7800 block of Long Point.
- Two reports of Breaking & Entering, one on 1/03 at 4PM at 1200 Block of Todd and second on 1/17 at 4 AM on 1700 Block of Jacquelyn.
- One incident of Theft of Vehicle on 1/23 at 6PM at 2000 Block of Antoine.
- There was one incident of Quality of Life (Drug Narcotic Violations) reported on 1/15 at 12PM at 7800 Block of Long Point.
- One Property crime reported 1/24 at 7AM on 2100 Block of Thonig.

Please note that the above information was gathered from the cityprotect.com website.

CITIZENS ON PATROL UPDATE

Virginia Lehman

Happy Valentines Day!

We reported 31.0 patrol hours for the month of January. Remember, criminals don't like to be seen so we need to keep our porch lights on at night.

I'm glad to report we have gotten a new member for our CP group. The patroller's responsibilities are to observe and report situations that require emergency responses by the police. Criminal acts, fire and other incidents affecting public safety fall into this category.

As always, we encourage you all to get to know your neighbors and, if possible, exchange phone numbers so there is some point of contact if ever needed. One never knows when an 'emergency' might arise, and your neighbors help will be needed or vice versa.

We all need to stay alert and report any incidents that seem suspicious. If you see something, please call the police at 713-884-3131 (their non-emergency phone number). If it is a life-threatening situation, please call 911!

“The presence of the Citizen Patrol program can reduce the opportunity for criminal activity and enhance the general safety of the community.”

(From Citizens Patrol Training Manual)

We are required to have at least 7 members and report at least 30 patrol hours a month. You will be required to pass a background check and attend a short training session to qualify to be a Citizens Patrol volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Virginia Lehman at 832-748-8088 or Loretta Nalley at 832-868-8751.



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TIPS TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF AUTO CRIME

From Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority

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1. Hide your valuables from plain sight to avoid attracting thieves.
2. Lock your vehicle and take your keys.
3. Never hide a second set of keys in or on your vehicle. Extra keys can easily be found by thieves.
4. Park in well-lit areas or attended lots. Auto thieves may target unattended parking lots.
5. Never leave your vehicle running unattended, even if you will only be away for a moment.
6. Don't leave documents with important personal details such as the title or insurance card, in your vehicle. A thief can use these to sell your stolen vehicle. File the title and registration receipt at your home or office and carry your insurance card in your purse or wallet.
7. Park with your wheels turned toward the curve and use your emergency brake, making your vehicle less easy to tow away.
8. Your vehicle may be more vulnerable when you park it outside. If you have a garage, use it. Lock your garage as well as your vehicle doors.
9. Disable your vehicle when leaving it unattended for an extended period.
10. Engrave your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or personal ID number on expensive accessories and parts.



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10007 Haddington
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TRY ONE NEW THING IN 2020

Loretta Nalley

Hello neighbors! Welcome to a new year! "The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should try one new thing." Quote off the internet. One new thing is to try to get involved in your neighborhood. Here are some ideas of how:

- Volunteer in the neighborhood. For example, becoming a Citizen Patrol volunteer.
- Come to an Old Spring Branch Civic Association (OSBCA) meeting.
- Pay your yearly dues to OSBCA.

We try to keep everyone involved and informed of what is going on in your area. By joining OSBCA, not only will you be better connected to what's going on but you'll also be supporting OSBCA efforts on the upkeep our neighborhood.

To stay up to date with what's happening in District A, send an email to District A Council Member Amy Peck, amy.peck@houstontx.gov and districta@houstontx.gov.

OSBCA membership dues

Ready to make the commitment? Membership for property owners and business/non-residents is \$25. For senior citizens and households on fixed income, the membership is \$12.50.

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BUILDING PERMITS: THE CITY OF HOUSTON & DEED RESTRICTIONS

IMPORTANT! Building permits must be in compliance with Deed Restrictions!

In order to protect the neighborhood character and property values, the City of Houston is cooperating with citizens to ensure building permits are not in conflict with deed restrictions. You as a responsible homeowner are required by law to abide by your Deed Restrictions.

Before you begin any construction:

Before you begin any construction or home improvement project, please consult your civic association regarding possible deed restrictions within your area. You may not purchase a building permit without signing a sworn deed restriction affidavit stating that you are aware of and agree to abide by deed restrictions pertaining to your project. That is the law.

Building Permits:

The building permit application needs to have the correct legal description, including the subdivision name and the Deed Restrictions Affidavit on the back of the Permit, must be filled out; (a legal description can be found on the title to your property). Customer Service Representatives will check the subdivision listed on your permit application against a database index of restrictions.

ALL construction projects MUST comply with the community's deed restrictions. If you knowingly, or unknowingly, sign the deed restriction affidavit under false pretenses, you could be subject to municipal court citations, fines, and the removal of the structure or violating portion thereof at any time in the future.

To research restrictions, you can:

1. Check to see if a Notice of Restrictions was provided at your closing (required by title insurance in some areas). If not ask your agent to research and provide you a copy.
2. Obtain a copy of restrictions from either Harris County Clerk's office or through your Civic Association. Attend our monthly meetings and request a copy if necessary.
3. Contact a title abstract company to obtain a copy of the restrictions or a letter stating that there are no restrictions.

Projects that require a permit include:

- New construction of building or structures
- Alterations, repairs or additions to existing buildings or structures. Changes in the use or occupancy of an existing building or structure. Interior tenant lease build-outs, remodeling and repairs.
- Exterior remodels, alterations or repairs. Moving/relocation existing buildings.
- Demolition (interior and complete buildings).
- Fences over 8' high.
- Driveways and sidewalks (in city R.O.W.)
- Parking lot paving.

If you need clarification concerning fees or have questions concerning building permits, please call 832- 394-8852, before beginning any project to be informed.

LITTLE FOLKS CHILD CARE

Martha McDonald Owner
Beverly Ginther Director
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Old Spring Branch Civic Association

2019 – 2020 Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Mailing _____

Address: _____

Would you like to be listed in the membership directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I am interested in the following committee(s):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Citizens on Patrol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Deed Restrictions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |

Annual Dues/Membership Types:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | Property Represented |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12.50 | Senior Citizens/Fixed Income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | Business/Non-resident |

☐ *New Application* ☐ *Renewal*

Membership Due Amount: _____

_____ *Committee*

Donation Amount: _____

Total Payment: _____

In applying for renewal or new membership, I agree to pay dues and to support my civic association to achieve a better neighborhood.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Membership dues are good for 5-1-19 through 4-30-20.

Bring form and payment to the next meeting or mail to:

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

P. O. Box 55172

Houston, TX 77255-5172

Checks payable to Old Spring Branch Civic Association or OSBCA.

Asociación Cívica de Old Spring Branch

Formulario de Membrecía 2019 – 2020

Nombre: _____

Dirección: _____

Correo
Electrónico: _____

Dirección de
correspondencia: _____

¿Le gustaría formar parte del directorio de
membrecía? ☐ Sí ☐ No

Estoy interesado en los siguientes comités:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embellecimiento | <input type="checkbox"/> Vigilancia de la Vecindad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comunicaciones | <input type="checkbox"/> Restricciones de las Propiedades |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jardinería | <input type="checkbox"/> Membrecía |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Eventos Especiales |

Cuota Anual/Tipo de Membrecía:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | Propiedad Representada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12.50 | Tercera Edad/Bajos Ingresos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | Negocio/No resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nuevo Miembro</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Renovando</i> |

Cantidad de la Cuota Anual: _____
Comité

Cantidad de la Donación: _____

Pago Total: _____

Al solicitar membrecía nueva o al renovar, está de acuerdo a pagar su cuota y apoyar a su asociación cívica a obtener una vecindad mejor.

Firma: _____

Fecha: _____

Cuota de membrecía válida del 1-5-19 hasta 30-4-20.

Traiga el formulario y pago a la siguiente reunión o puede mandarlo por correo a:

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Cheque a nombre de Old Spring Branch Civic Association o OSBCA.

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JESSICA FARRAR

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District 148

CAPITOL OFFICE

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DISTRICT OFFICE

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SPRING BRANCH ISD'S SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

Spring Branch ISD's transfer window has opened. To be considered for a Transfer, an online application must be completed by the required deadline. **The application window closes Friday, March 6, 2020, at 11:59 PM.** APPLY at <https://springbranchisdtransfers.schoolmint.net/>

Families may select up to three schools per child; availability varies by school. There are no changes to any application once the application window closes. The application must be completed by the parent or guardian.

The **Dual Language Programs** provides students with an enriched education program that is designed to prepare students for a bilingual education. SCHOOLS: Cedar Brook Elem., Pine Shadows Elem., Sherwood Elem., Spring Forest MS, Spring Woods MS, Spring Woods HS, Westchester Academy for Int'l Studies.

The district partners with KIPP Public Schools and YES Prep Public Schools, each located within a Spring Branch school. **Charter schools** are typically smaller, each with their unique academic and social cultures. Cornerstone Academy (6-8), KIPP Courage @ Landrum Middle School (5-8), YES Prep @ Northbrook MS (6-8), YES Prep @ Northbrook HS (9-12).

International Baccalaureate (IB) schools provide a challenging and varied curriculum, focusing on international relations and international problem solving, creating a love of learning and emphasizing good citizenship. Westchester School for International Studies: MYP (6-10) and IB (11-12).

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2020

Got ideas or suggestions? Send them to sybilsanchez@yahoo.com, Subject line: OSBCA

The Old Spring Branch Civic Association publishes the Old Spring Branch Bugler monthly. OSB serves the area between Wirt & Antoine, north of Long Point and southwest of Todd. Material in this publication may not be reproduced without permission from the OSBCA communications committee. Due to time and space not all letters or articles may appear. Any correspondence must include your name and address (which may be withheld upon request). Please print or type any submissions. For advertising information or to submit articles, mail to: OSBCA Bugler; P. O. Box 55172, Houston Texas 77255-5172



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Se habla español!

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

FEBRUARY 2020				FEBRERO 2020		
Sunday domingo	Monday lunes	Tuesday martes	Wednesday miércoles	Thursday jueves	Friday viernes	Saturday sábado
9	10	11 OSBCA meeting	12	13	14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
16	17 <i>President's Day</i> SBISD-No School	18	19	20	21 	22 <i>May put out Heavy Trash * Puede sacar basura pesada</i>
23	24	25 <i>Mardi Gras</i>	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	27 Heavy Trash – JUNK	28 	29
1	2 <i>Read Across America Day</i>	3 Primary Elections	4	5	6 	7

OLD SPRING BRANCH CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President:	Jo Lightsey	713-681-0560
Vice President:	Marvin Thielemann	713-682-9634
Secretary:	Linda Whatley	713-681-0560
Treasurer:	Virginia Lehman	832-748-8088

STREET REPRESENTATIVES

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Counter Point & Turquoise:	Anonymous	----
Harland & Todd:	Georgia Meza	713-688-2737
Jacquelyn/ E. Hammerly:	Mike McGeehon	713-956-8446
Johanna:	Florence Armbruster	713-688-7546
Silverbonnet, Cedel & W. Hammerly:	---Vacant---	
Thonig:	---Vacant---	
Woodvine:	Rosario Machorro	713-391-6355

OSBCA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising:

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Beautification:

Jo Lightsey, 713-681-0560

Citizens on Patrol (COP):

Loretta Nalley, 832-868-8751

Virginia Lehman, 832-748-8088

Communications:

Sybil Sánchez, 832-722-2331

Lorna Gast, Bugler Mail Out

Deed Restrictions:

Committee of Five

In-Touch:

Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634

Landscaping:

Nino Roman, 832-877-4701

Membership:

Loretta Nalley, 832-868-8751

Social:

Georgia Meza, 713-688-2737

Website:

Christi Hicks, 281-460-5883