



Old Spring Branch Bugler

December 2020 * *diciembre 2020*

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

Fourth Thursday of the month (unless falls on holiday)

Thursday, December 24: JUNK WASTE

Thursday, January 28: TREE WASTE

Recolección de Basura Pesada

Cuarto jueves del mes (menos en días feriados)

jueves, 24 de diciembre: Basura Chatarra

jueves, 28 de enero: Desechos Verdes

PLEASE REMEMBER:

OLD SPRING BRANCH IS A DEED-RESTRICTED COMMUNITY.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jo Lightsey

We are fast approaching the final days of the holiday season, and the new year of 2021. I am sure we all have some reason to wish for the year of 2020 to come to an end.

During the last days of this year, we should look forward to celebrating within our homes and immediate family. **OSBCA is canceling its traditional Christmas Party.** However, we hope families in our neighborhood choose to decorate their yards and homes with the brightness of Christmas lights and scenes.

OSBCA IS having its Christmas decoration contest. (See article inside.)

It is so difficult to write the thoughts of this old president's mind when one is not in touch with the Board of Directors and members in a meeting situation or social event. I am hoping that we can all pull together with great effort to win over this health crisis sooner than later. I would like to be able to feel sure and hope that the OSBCA is not losing touch with all the residents that live within the boundaries of our Civic Association neighborhood. Because funds were running low and little interest of folks becoming OSBCA members, our finances could no longer support the Bugler (newsletter) hard copy. Emailing the Bugler to members only was the decision. I am thinking that it may be in order to rethink that decision.

The hard copy of the "BUGLER", in my opinion, was the connection and communication line between you folks in the OSB area and the Old Spring Branch Civic Association. OSBCA still needs the annual membership dues of \$25 or \$12.50, advertisers, and donations in order to maintain esplanades, support social events (if that ever is possible again), and eventually bring back the door-to-door delivered Bugler, and do necessary mail outs.

From the President, continued page 2...



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Check out our website!
[OldSpringBranch.org](https://www.OldSpringBranch.org)

From the President, continued ...

The year, 2021, will be better. Hopefully, I will meet with the OSBCA Board of Directors soon and we will have a chance to do some brainstorming about our Civic Association's future. We are not going away. However, I want for us to revel what we have learned from the experiences of 2020 in order to improve our approach to our Civic Association.

Do have a Merry Christmas! Stay home with family. Continue to mask up, wash your hands, and keep your 6 feet distance.

Let's look forward to welcoming in a SAFE 2021!

YARDS OF MONTH WILL RESUME IN THE SPRING

Jo Lightsey

This time of the year, we may be still chasing the mower. I did drive through the neighborhood several times during the last 2 weeks. I thought the majority of the OSB yards were being well groomed. Very good!

Now is the time to prune those over grown shrubs, doctor your yards for bugs and brown spot. Mulch those leaves if possible. **Use City of Houston Approved Bags for your yard cuttings and bundle/tie the small branches for Friday pick up.**

Plan your landscaping for 2021. Spring will be here before we know it...

I will send the CRITERIA FOR YARDS OF THE MONTHS in the February or March Bugler.

REMEMBER TO TAKE DOWN YOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS whenever the tradition of the season ends for your family.



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CRIME REPORTS: NOVEMBER 2020

Listed below are FOUR (4) reported incidents filed with the Houston Police Department for October 28 – November 1, 2020.

- Two reports of Assault: November 1, 12 AM, 2000 Block of Antoine Dr. and November 13, 9 AM, 2000 Block of Harland Dr.
- Two reports of Theft (Counterfeiting, forgery): November 2, 4 PM, 2000 Block of Counter Point and November 3, 10 AM, 2000 Block of Antoine Dr.

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

Once again, I was surprised at the number of reported incidents. I hope this trend continues. There is always a concern especially around the holidays, with an increase of criminal activity. I have seen an increase in HPD patrols throughout the neighborhood and surrounding areas when I have ventured out this last month. I have also seen a decrease in ‘gatherings’ around our local convenience stores throughout the day and evening hours. My fear, once again is that maybe we are not reporting incidents to HPD for one reason or another. Please note that if we don’t report incidents, even minor ones, due to HPD personnel shortage, we will not see any patrol units in our area.

You can file a police report online if you access to a valid, functioning e-mail address and you are the actual victim of the theft, loss or criminal mischief (not a witness, relative, friend, etc.) Website is https://www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm.

CITIZENS ON PATROL UPDATE

Virginia Lehman

We reported a total of 31.25 patrol hours for October and a total of 35 patrol hours for November.

Many thanks to our patrol volunteers for volunteering their time, remaining diligent and dedicated to OSB. I truly believe the CP Patrol makes a difference!

Christmas holidays will be here before we know it and, unfortunately, this holiday usually comes with an increase in crime. My favorite subject the last three months of the year is ‘Crime of Opportunities’!

Let us all try to limit crimes of opportunities as much as possible. If you can’t carry your valuables (laptops, phones, purses, guns, etc.) into your home every night, keep them out of sight and keep your car doors locked. (Remember, guns have been the number one theft item in recent months). Garage doors and fences should be closed and/or locked to prevent unwanted access. Be alert to your surroundings. Travel in groups. Park in well-lighted areas.

Our HPD storefront has been closed until further notice. If we have any HPD questions or concerns, we have been asked to visit the NW station at 6000 Teague. Their phone number is 832-394-5500. Once again, 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 9-1-1.

If you would like to volunteer for the Citizens on Patrol program, please contact Virginia Lehman at 832-748-8088 or Loretta Nalley at 832-868-8751.

LANDSCAPING

Nino Roman

Well, I'm happy to get a break from the heat and to see rain. As we know, we will be back in the heat of summer before we know it. For this winter, if you have plants that died, don't remove the root ball until spring time or when you see new leafs coming out. For the fall, I will recommend to mulch your plant material with pine needles, mulch or leafs to protect plant material when we start to get freezing temperatures, and don't forget to water before a hard freeze.

A special thank you, again, to LMC, who, so faithfully, take care of OSB's Entrance esplanades at Wirt Road/Hammery, and Antoine/Long Point.

BEAUTIFICATION

Jo Lightsey

Driving through the neighborhood this past few weeks, I did notice that residents had respected the City of Houston Code of "No Junk/Tree Heavy Trash" on curbside six (6) days before scheduled pick-up date. Please DO keep following that policy.

I did notice several violators, but a 3-1-1 call did the trick for those residents to remove that Heavy Trash from the curbside until the scheduled pick-up. However, I have discovered that folks that live in our much older apartments and condos, that do not have dumpsters, illegally place all sorts of Heavy Trash on the streets. Mostly, this violation is done because it is difficult for one to find out who did it.

I am working on how this problem can be solved with 3-1-1 inspectors.

I did notice during and after the two (2) days of rain, that the streets, ditches and yards were flooded, especially Jacquelyn south of Amelia, Johanna, and Thonig.

What I observed was that the ditch coverts were blocked with litter and debris. I will try with the City to come clean that blockage. On the curbed streets, it is really up to us, the residents to clear and keep clear, the drain grids along our entire street. Litter and debris must be picked up.

I will be talking to Amy Peck to see the possibility of Public Works helping solve the flooding problem on the streets of Old Spring Branch.

DEED RESTRICTION VIOLATIONS

Committee of Five

Notify the City of Houston's Legal Department if you suspect that a permit violates your community's deed restrictions regarding any of the following areas: Building use, setbacks, lot and/or building size, building height, number of structures on lot, and fence height. Contact Louis Rossitto, Asst. City Attorney, Dist. A, City of Houston, 832-393-6292. Contact the Deed Restriction Hotline 832-393-6333.

Please verify your deed restrictions before filing a complaint. If you do not have a copy of the deed restrictions for your area, you may obtain a copy from the Harris County Clerk at (713) 755-6411, or visit their web site at ccinfo@cco.hctx.net. Call OSBCA Committee of Five at 713-681-0560. Leave your name and number. Your call will be returned.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CITY OF HOUSTON'S APPROVAL OF ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED VIOLATIONS ARE VALID IF THERE ARE DEED RESTRICTIONS ON A PROPERTY.

2020 CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

While our annual OSBCA Christmas Party has been cancelled this year, we hope to be able to reschedule the party in 2021.

OSBCA always enjoys having the neighborhood in our annual Christmas Decorating Contest!

OSBCA members will be judging the decorated homes in the neighborhood during the week of December 16 - 23. **This year, the top six (6) homes, overall, will be listed.** It is important that you have your lights on every night of the judging week and that **your house address number is visible from the street.** If your address cannot be read, your home cannot be listed in the judging.

There is no right or wrong. **However, there must be a house number visible from the street.** Otherwise, there are no set guidelines. Judging is done on personal preference. Anyone can be a judge. Contact Secretary Linda Whatley at 713-681-0560, if you intend to judge. When you have made your six top selections, turn your vote in to Linda via phone, paper or e-mail: whatleyl@sbcglobal.net.

Deadline for turning in your judging list is Thursday, December 24, 2020.

REALTORS MARKET FOR SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020

Rosario Machorro

Old Spring Branch	Sold	Leased
Number of Houses	4	7
Average Sales Price	\$350,925	\$1,928
Average Sales Piece Per Square Ft.	\$180.19	\$1.27
Days on the Market	256	68

Howdy Neighbors, I hope y'all are doing well and enjoying the cold weather when going out.

Presently, there are 13 homes listed in the neighborhood for sale. Of which five are pending expected to close in the next two to 120 days. Average time on the market is no longer affected by COVID-19 as lenders have adapted and created new provisions and requirements to provide funding. If priced correctly time on market is .66 to 8.5 months.

We continue to be extremely low in inventory at the moment. If you have been considering selling you can take advantage of it this summer, as residential properties are in short supply, it is a seller's market.

If you want to check the market value of your home, or just have a real estate related question, please do not hesitate to give me a call, 713-391-6533. I am here to help.

Lease

At this moment there are five active rental properties in the neighborhood, one pending. If you have any investment properties currently siting vacant, this is the right time to place them up for lease.

Welcome to our new Neighbors!

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Old Spring Branch Civic Association

2020 – 2021 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 5-1-20 through 4-30-21.

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 2020 – 2021

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"/> Nuevo Miembro <input type="checkbox"/> Renovando | |

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 1-5-20 hasta 30-4-21.

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

Old Spring Branch Civic Association
P. O. Box 55172
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Cheque a nombre de Old Spring Branch Civic Association o OSBCA.

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damiens@esuinc.com

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: Thursday, January 7, 2021

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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Old Spring Branch Civic Association

DECEMBER 2020				DICIEMBRE 2020		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado
		1	2	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10 <i>Hannukah begins</i>	11 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 	19 <i>May put out Heavy Trash * Puede sacar basura pesada</i>
20	21 <i>First day of winter</i> <i>SBISD break begins</i>	22	23	24 Heavy Trash – JUNK	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <i>Kwanzaa begins</i> 
27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1	2 

OLD SPRING BRANCH CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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

STREET REPRESENTATIVES

Antoine:	---Vacant---	
Counter Point & Turquoise:	<i>Anonymous</i>	----
Harland & Todd:		
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:

Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634

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:

Website:

Sybil Sánchez, 832-722-2331