

# Old Spring Branch Bugler

September 2021 \* septiembre 2021

#### **Heavy Trash Pick-Up**

**Fourth** Thursday of the month (unless falls on holiday)

Thursday, September 23: TREE WASTE

Thursday, October 28: JUNK WASTE

#### Recolección de Basura Pesada

Cuarto jueves del mes (menos en días feriados)

jueves, 23 de septiembre: <u>Desechos Verdes</u>

jueves, 28 de octubre: Basura Chatarra

#### PLEASE REMEMBER:

OLD SPRING BRANCH IS A DEED-RESTRICTED COMMUNITY.

\*RECUERDE QUE OLD SPRING BRANCH ES UNA COMUNIDAD BAJO RESTRICCIONES.\*

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jo Lightsey

Summer has ended and kids are back in school. So how is that going? With all the threats of COVID-19, plus the new variant, I am so fortunate not to be teaching any more. 40 years I taught. So many challenges to face this day and age. Praise for our teachers! I admire all of them.

Parents be patient and supportive of your children and teachers. Education is the true savor of our future generations.

Old Spring Branch is having its second quarterly meeting Tuesday, September 14. Hopefully, our residents will consider attending. Masks are required and we will be social distancing.

Our main agenda will be deciding whether or not OSB will host NEIGHBORS NIGHT OUT. We have it on the calendar for TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021. However, with the high outbreak of this new COVID virus, it is debatable.

If the decision is made to go ahead and host NATIONIAL NIGHT OUT, plans will be discussed and made for the event. You, as a resident, will be notified by a flyer left on your doors with all the details.

We hope you will attend the September 14 meeting to help make this decision.

# OLD SPRING BRANCH CIVIC ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 | 7 p.m. Trini Mendenhall Civic Center, 1414 Wirt Rd.

Masks will be required, and we will do social distancing.





#### **LANDSCAPING**

Jo Lightsey

I have some information that I got from ArborTrue Environmental Services, since I had to use the services for my dying Red Leaf Maple. The Arborist/Advisor recommends to STOP USING "Feed & Weed" and "Round-Up". These products filter into the soil and eventually damage the roots of trees and landscaping plants.

#### Recommendations:

- 1. Use molasses, 2 tsp. per gallon of water and spray yard. Premix molasses in plastic hose attachment head with a small amount of water to make sure it doesn't stick in the spray head.
- 2. Replace Round-Up with Ammonium Nonanoate. Order online in concentrate. Not active in the soil. Kills all plants by contact with foliage, not the roots.
- 3. For selective broadleaf killer, consider using Agrilawn "Crabgrass Killer". Safe. Does not kill St. Augustine. Most broadleaf will be dead in 24 hours. Read the instructions. \*\*\*\*Use a preemergent herbicide as a weed preventative.
- 4. For fertilizers, MicroLife. All Organic. (A little expensive, but very good. I have used it). Go to microlifeferilizer.com Type in zip code to find stores in area.
- 5. For mulch, compost and other soil products, one should use Natures Way Products. Only company that does not dye their mulches. Bagged products can be found at any nursery that sells MicroLife.

Jim Blachard recommended this Environmental Service. Let me know if you need such a service.

#### **BEAUTIFICATION**

Jo Lightsey

Please continue to follow the Heavy Trash schedule. Also, please take the responsibility to help keep our neighborhood clear of litter, by taking about five minutes to pick up litter on your property and in your ditches/streets from your property line to the middle of your street. Every little bit counts.





#### **CITIZENS ON PATROL: AUGUST 2021**

Virginia Lehman

We were able to report for Citizens on Patrol a total of **33 hours for July** and a total of **29 hours for August**.

School is back in session and traffic seems to have increased dramatically in our neighborhood. The new speed bumps on Amelia and Johanna have been marked and we have more new construction going on in the area. I still have a night patrol on my schedule to check the streetlights, hopefully this month. As always, don't be a victim of a crime of opportunity!

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 911.

#### **CRIME REPORTS: AUGUST 2021**

Virginia Lehman

Listed below are the reports incidents filed with the Houston Police Department from July 30 – August 31, 2021.

- One report of Breaking & Entering: July 30, 3 AM, 2000 Block of Johanna
- One report of Property Crime: Aug 23, 4 PM, 1800 Block of Jacquelyn (damage, vandalism)
- Two reports of Quality of Life: Aug 3, 7500 Block of Long Point (disorderly conduct) and Aug 29, 9 PM, 1800 Block of Johanna (Drug, narcotic violation)
- One report of Robbery: Aug 28, 9 AM, 7800 Block of Long Point
- One report of Theft: Aug 26, 3 PM, 2000 Block of Antoine (purse snatching)
- Two reports of Theft from Vehicle: August 19, 3 PM, 2000 Block of Antoine (theft of Motor Vehicle parts/accessories and Aug 20, 8 PM, 1800 Block of Johanna (theft from vehicle)
- Three reports of Theft of Vehicle: July 31, 5 AM, 7700 Block of Hammerly; Aug 13, 11 PM, 1800 Block of Antoine; and Aug 27, 8 PM, 7800 Block of Hammerly
- Seven reports of Simple Assault: Aug 2, 11 PM, 7500 Block of Long Point; Aug 5, 5 PM, 1800 Block of Johanna; Aug 5, 8 PM, 7500 Block of Long Point; Aug 9, 4 AM, 7800 Block of Hammerly; Aug 15, 9 AM, 7800 Block of Long Point; Aug 22, 11 PM, 2000 Block of Antoine and Aug 31, 4 PM, 1900 Block of Antoine
- One report of Aggravated Assault: Aug 22, 8 PM, 1800 Block of Johanna

Please note that the above information was gathered from the <u>cityprotect.com</u>.

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.

#### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – AUGUST 2021

Loretta Nalley

Happy September everyone! We had three more members join. We now have 33. There are 400 residences in OSBCA. Could we get seven more to make 10% of our neighborhood?

Here's a quick view on how many memberships we have by street.

Antoine	Cedel	Counter Point	Hammerly	Harland	Jacquelyn	Johanna	Thonig	Todd	Turquoise	Woodvine	Other
3	1	<mark>7</mark>	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	<mark>9</mark>	1

Thank you to Woodvine (9 members) and Counter Point (7 members) for your support. Can we our single-digit membership streets -Cedel, Harland, Jacquelyn and Johanna- to bring their number up by one or two each?

Remember, you can now pay online via PayPal! (More info on last page of this newsletter.)

#### REALTORS MARKET FOR AUGUST 2021

Rosario Machorro

Old Spring Branch	Sold	Leased
Number of Houses	1	1
Average Sales Price	\$428,000	\$2,499
Average Sales Piece Per Square Ft.	\$189.97	\$1.56
Days on the Market	79	15

#### Homes for sale

Greetings my neighbors, presently, there are **8 homes listed** in the neighborhood for sale. Of which three are pending expected to close in the next 35 to 40 days. Average time on the market If priced correctly 2.63 to 2.76 months, as you can see the market is beginning to stabilize.

Although the shortage of listing is still going on, there are currently an equal number of available properties as those that are pending. That's right!

If you want to check the market value of your home, looking to get some information on the home buying process, or just have a real estate related question, feel free to give me a call: 713-391-6533. I am here to help you.

#### Homes for lease

At this moment there is **one active and one pending rental properties** in the neighborhood.

If you have any investment properties currently siting vacant, this is the right time to place them up for lease, as rental properties still in low inventory.

Welcome to all our new neighbors! Stay safe and hydrated!

#### **DEED RESTRICTIONS**

Committee of Five

We always want you, as residents, to understand why we are so persistent about upholding deed restrictions in our community.

#### WHAT ARE DEED RESTRICTIONS?

Deed restrictions are written agreements that restrict, or limit, the use of activities that may take place on property in a subdivision. These restrictions appear in the real property records of the county in which the property is located. They are private agreements and are binding upon every owner in a subdivision. All future owners become a party to these agreements when they purchase property in deed restricted areas.

A primary purpose of most deed restrictions is preserving the residential character of a subdivision by keeping out commercial and industrial facilities. For people who prefer to live in a wholly residential environment, deed restrictions are desirable.

<u>Deed restrictions may legally prohibit a person from operating certain types of businesses from their home.</u> In Houston, where property is not governed by deed restrictions, a property owner may be free to operate a commercial business in the neighborhood.

#### Deed restrictions are powerful tools to help preserve the character of a subdivision or neighborhood.

Every homeowner should have received a copy of deed restrictions upon purchase. However, it has been brought to OSBCA's attention, that this is not happening.

If you did not receive a copy of your deed restrictions when closing on your home, or have not received a copy from the Deed Restriction Committee, if sent a violation letter, one may obtain a copy from:

- Harris County Clerk at 713-755-6411
- Visit the Harris County Clerk website at www.cclerk.hctx.net
- Visit our OSBCA website:
   OldSpringBranch.org. Look for your Deed Restrictions by Subdivision.

Please read your deed restrictions to be in compliance. Contact an OSB Civic Association board member (found in the Bugler newsletter) before beginning any new construction and/or remodeling.

We are striving to make OSB a desirable community in which you enjoy living. Be proud of your subdivision and abide by the deed restrictions. Your property value is important.

#### White-Tailed Kites in OSB

Bonnie Ford

We have white-tailed kites living in Old Spring Branch! My dad and I have been observing a group of 12 of them from our backyard porch. White-tailed kites are a gorgeous, graceful small raptor. They have a snow-white head and chest, black wing patches, and a Zorro-like mask over their eyes. They have a very small range in Texas and California. They are critically endangered in Mexico. Their diet exists almost exclusively of mice and small rodents. They love to nest high up in tall trees. During the courtship the male catches a mouse and hovers in the air offering his gift to the female. She flies in midair and takes the "gift" from him. How romantic.

The term kiting comes from the kites, as they resemble a kite on string, hovering above the ground. When they spot movement in the grass, they fold their wings and go into a "power dive" straight line to the ground. They love the rain; my dad and I have watched them on numerous occasions playing and preening in the rain on top of their favorite tree.

Why do we have white-tailed kites in Old Spring Branch? I can only speculate. I think it is because we are an old neighborhood with large, old growth trees that they like to nest in. Also, we have yards. Old Spring Branch still hasn't succumbed fully to high

density development like we have seen in other areas of Houston. Here they have open space, food and places to raise their young.

What can you do to keep Old Spring Branch's white-tailed kites happy and thriving? Don't use rat/rodent poison, for obvious reasons. Protect and care for your trees, especially the big, old growth trees. Consider reaffirming your deed restrictions to prevent high density development.

We're so lucky to have our white-tailed kites!

#### YARDS OF THE MONTH: AUGUST 2021

Really hot and dry this week. Yards are showing a slowdown in growth. Taking a break in mowing did show somewhat. I am assuming that watering the lawn may be one's next move. © No matter, keep maintaining your yard. Most of us are proud of our yard and always want it to look its best and attractive to others. At least keep your yard mowed.

Amelia	7636, 7613
Antoine	*2056
Cedel	None
Counter Point	2002, 2011, 2015, 2031, 2126, 2107, 2110, 2115, 2126, 2130, 2203, 2115
Hammerly	7526, 7603, 7607, 7610, 7614, *7706
Harland	1919, 1915, 2015, 2011, 2119
Inch	None
Jacquelyn	*1839, *1905, 2050, *2067
Johanna	*2048, *2020, *2002, *1838, *1833, *1928
Silverbonnet	None
Thonig	1942, 2045
Todd	None
Turquoise	7614, 7615, 7618
Woodwine	1910, 1943, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2038, 2103, 2106, 2130,
	2131, 2134

<sup>\*</sup>Businesses who have litter free and mowed front ditches, apts that have required landscaping.

### **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Deadline: Thursday, September 30, 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



#### LITTLE FOLKS CHILD CARE

Martha McDonald Owner Beverly Ginther Director Brenda Zepeda Assistant Director

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E-mail: admissions@samtech.edu

## David Alcorta

Chef/Owner

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Address:  I am interested in the following comm				
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	□ Membership			
□ Social □ Special Events	ı			
Annual Dues/Membership Types:				
□ \$25.00 Property Represented				
□ \$12.50 Senior Citizens (62+) /Fixe	ed Income			
□ \$25.00 Business/Non-resident				
□ New Application □ Renewal				
Membership Due Amount:				
Donation Amount:				
Total Payment:				
In applying for renewal or new membership dues and to support my civic association to a neighborhood.				
Signature:				
Date:				
Membership dues are good for 5-1-21 thro	uah 1 30 22			
Bring form and payment to the next meetin	_			

P. O. Box 55172 Houston, TX 77255-5172

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

Checks payable to Old Spring Branch Civic Association or OSBCA.

## Asociación Cívica de Old Spring Branch Formulario de Membrecía 2021 – 2022 Nombre: Dirección: Correo Electrónico: Dirección de correspondencia: Estoy interesado en los siguientes comités: □ Embellecimiento □ Vigilancia de la Vecindad □ Comunicaciones ☐ Restricciones de las Propiedades □ Jardinería □ Membrecía □ Social ☐ Eventos Especiales Cuota Anual/Tipo de Membrecía: □ \$25.00 Propiedad Representada □ \$12.50 Tercera Edad (62+) /Bajos Ingresos □ \$25.00 Negocio/No resident □ Nuevo Miembro □ 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 1-5-21 hasta 30-4-22. Traiga el formulario y pago a la siguiente reunión o puede

mandarlo por correo a:

Old Spring Branch Civic Association P. O. Box 55172 Houston, TX 77255-5172

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

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WWW.THEWOMENSHOME.ORG

#### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LAUNCHES HTX COLLECTS MOBILE APP

The Houston Solid Waste Management Department has launched <u>HTX Collects</u>, a mobile app that will allow residents to stay better connected with the City's waste and recycling collection programs. With both garbage (black can) and recycling (green can) as the core operations for curbside collections, the mobile app will help residents keep track of weekly services, updates, and collection delays.



<u>HTX Collects</u>, will include collection reminders for garbage, recycling, yard waste and tree/junk waste specific to their service address. The mobile app will also send a reminder to residents of their collection days.

Residents can find and download the mobile app for **Apple** and **Android** devices via the Apple App Store or Google Play Store by searching for the keywords *Houston Trash and Recycling*. We encourage residents to use the following features of the new app:

- Collection Calendar: Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste, Junk/Tree Waste services. Set reminders and receive alerts via email, push notifications, and phone call.
- **Waste Wizard:** Searchable solid waste directory, curbside services, and drop-off location information.
- **Waste Sorting Game:** Fun, interactive educational tool to engage, challenge and change recycling behavior.

Those who do not have an Apple or Android device can visit our website HoustonRecycles.org and search their home address in the My Schedule tool. They can also:

- Sign up to receive waste collection reminders by email or phone call.
- Download their collection schedule into their iCal, Google calendar, or Microsoft Outlook calendar.
- Print their personalized collection schedule.
- Residents can also search the Waste Wizard on HoustonRecycles.org to learn how to recycle or dispose of materials properly.





## Old Spring Branch Civic Association

SEPTEMBER 2021 SEPTIEMBRE 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado		
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day		
12	13	14 OSBCA Quarterly Meeting, 7p	15	16	17	18 May put out Heavy Trash * Puede sacar basura pesada		
19	20	21	22 Fall begins	23 HEAVY TRASH: TREE	24	25		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2		
3	4	5 Neighbors Night Out (?)	6	7	8	9		

#### OLD SPRING BRANCH CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### **OFFICERS**

**President:** Jo Lightsey 713-681-0560

**Vice President:** ---Vacant---

Secretary: Linda Whatley 713-681-0560

**Treasurer:** Virginia Lehman 832-748-8088

#### **STREET REPRESENTATIVES**

**Antoine:** ---Vacant ---

**Counter Point** 

& Turquoise: Anonymous

**Harland & Todd:** 

**Jacquelyn**/ Mike McGeehon 713-956-8446

E. Hammerly:

**Johanna:** Florence Armbruster 713-688-7546

**Silverbonnet, Cedel** ---Vacant ---

& W. Hammerly:

**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

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR OSBCA MEMBERSHIP? IF YOU HAVEN'T, PAY ONLINE!

#### **Step one:**

Visit OldSpringBranch.org and click on "Membership" on the main menu.

#### **Step two:**

Select the type of membership you fall under and then click the button under it that says "Pay with PayPal".

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

Since 1991

HOME ABOUTUS MEMBERSHIP DEED RESTRICTIONS NEWSLETTER RESOURCES CONTACT

Membership

\$25.00 - Property Represented

Pay with PayPal

\$12.50 - Senior Citizens (62+)/Fixed Income

Pay with PayPal

\$25.00 - Business/Non-resident

Pay with PayPal

If you would like to pay your membership in person or by mail, click HERE to download the membership application.

#### **Step three:**

If you don't currently have a PayPal account, you can log on using "Checkout as Guest"

#### **Step four:**

Fill out the information so you can make the payment.

