

## Old Spring Branch Bugler

November 2021 \* noviembre 2021

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

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

Friday, November 26: TREE WASTE

Thursday, December 23: <u>JUNK WASTE</u>

#### Recolección de Basura Pesada

Cuarto jueves del mes (menos en días feriados)

viernes, 26 de noviembre: Desechos Verdes

jueves, 23 de diciembre: 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

Driving through the neighbor this week, I saw many homes that had the Halloween spirit.

#### Go Astros!

If you are an Astro fan, then you have been as involved as I have in watching our home team win the pennant and play hard to win the World Series. I am having to submit this article before I know the results. GO ASTROS!

#### Become a member

I want to encourage all residents to pay the annual fee of \$25 to become a member in the Old Spring Branch Civic Association. This is a continuous plea for your financial support. \$12.50 if retired or on a fixed income.

#### One of the many membership benefits

I want to thank our Membership Chairperson, Loretta Nalley for continuing to send out important email blast that contain information that misses the monthly Bugler. Everyone can access the OSB Bugler on our website, OldSpringBranch.org, but if you are a member, Loretta emails the monthly Bugler to you.

Your Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons continue to work behind the scenes all the time. I do appreciate their devoted time. Continue to be safe. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and please get yourself and your kids vaccinated.

Be kind to yourself and to others!





#### LANDSCAPING

Nino Roman

Before your lawn goes dormant, I would do the following:

- 1. Reduce water amount and frequency.
- 2. Water after the sun rises (8 a.m. 9 a.m.)
- 3. Do a fall fertilization with either an organic or synthetic fertilizer (8-12-16). Normally, hardware stores will have what you need. Water in the fertilizer.
- 4. Mow any winter weeds that come up.
- 5. Give yourself a break from mowing your lawn

#### **BEAUTIFICATION**

Jo Lightsey

Because many of us are still at home in our community, it is a time to remember that it is our responsibility to keep our neighborhood clean. Pick up litter and follow the heavy trash schedule. We are good people in this neighborhood and want to follow the rules.

I regret to see inoperative cars on properties. Also, I have observed cars parked in yards. These violations add to de-beautifying our neighborhood and lower the value of your property. I know that is hard to believe as you probably have just gotten your tax appraisal of your property.

At least, most of you have been keeping your lawns mowed. Thank you. All of us want to keep looking good regardless of our circumstances.

If you were selling your home, would it be attractive to someone? Step back, take a look. Would you want to buy your house and property to live? Make those repairs and spruce it up with a paint job.

Keep your street, yard, property free of clutter, junky items, and litter. Be proud of your residence.

#### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – OCTOBER 2021

Loretta Nalley

Happy November, everyone! We have no new members. We currently stand at 33.

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

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

There are 400 residences in OSBCA. If you haven't become a member, take this opportunity to pay your membership. Regular membership is \$25 and senior/fixed income is \$12.50.

Remember, you can now pay online via PayPal! Click here to get started.

#### CITIZENS ON PATROL: SEPTEMBER 2021

Virginia Lehman

We were able to report 31.75 hours of Citizens on Patrol for September. Due to our newsletter deadline, I will report our Citizens on Patrol hours for October in the December newsletter.

The holidays are fast approaching and there always seems to be an increase in crime activity at this time of the year. As always, don't be a victim of a crime of opportunity! Make sure you are aware of your surroundings, it seems to be a growing trend for robberies to occur when we are distracted, like checking our phones when walking in a parking lot, putting groceries in the car, etc. Please try to stay alert and aware of activity around you.

I am sure that everyone is aware of the activity at the house on the corner of Woodvine and Amelia. Please note that the City of Houston and the police department are aware of this situation and are monitoring the activity. I am hoping that things will settle down and the area will be cleaned up as soon as possible.

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: SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2021

Virginia Lehman

Listed below are the reports incidents filed with the Houston Police Department from September 1 – October 28, 2021

- Five reports of Aggravated Assaults: Sept. 5, 10PM, 2100 Block of Counter Point; Sept. 26, 3PM, 1800 Block of Jacquelyn; Sept. 26, 12PM, 2000 Block of Johanna; Oct. 9, 12PM, 2000 Block of Antoine and Oct. 12, 11AM, 1900 Block of Antoine
- Nine reports of Motor Vehicle Theft: Sept. 4, 2PM, 2000 Block of Harland; Sept. 7, 9PM, 7800 Block of Long Point; Sept. 9, 9PM, 7800 Block of Hammerly; Sept. 13, 8PM, 7600 Block of Inch; Sept. 17, 2AM, 2000 Block of Antoine; Oct. 3, 11PM, 7600 Turquoise; Oct. 4, 11AM, 1900 Block of Antoine; Oct. 5, 9PM, 2000 Block of Johanna and Oct. 19, 10AM, 7500 Block of Long Point
- One report of Theft: Sept. 10, 12PM, 7500 Block of Long Point
- Nine reports of Burglary Commercial Property: Sept. 13, 10AM, 2000 Block of Antoine; Sept. 24, 4AM, 7600 Block of Long Point; Sept. 28, 2AM, 2000 Block of Johannah; Oct. 1, 10PM, 2000 Block of Antoine; Oct. 4, 2AM, 2000 Antoine, Oct. 18, 6PM, 2000 Block of Antoine; Oct. 19, 12AM, 7800 Block of Long Point; Oct. 20, 7PM, 7700 Block of Hammerly and Oct. 22, 11PM, 2000 Block of Antoine
- Four reports of Robbery Commercial Property: Sept. 1, 12PM, 2000 Block of Antoine and 2PM, 7500 Block of Long Point; Sept. 2, 8PM, 7500 Block of Long Point; and Sept. 20, 4PM, 7800 Block of Long Point
- One report of Sexual Assault Forcible Fondling: Oct. 1, 8PM, 2000 Block of Antoine
- One report of Sexual Assault Forcible Rape: Sept. 13, 10AM, 2000 Block of Johanna
- One report of Homicide/Manslaughter Oct. 9, 11PM, 7500 Block of Long Point

These last three incidents are shocking, and it is hard for me to even imagine that they could happen so close to our homes.

Please note that the above information was gathered from LexisNexis Community Crime on the Houston Police Department website.

### **BUILDING PERMITS: THE CITY OF HOUSTON & DEED RESTRICTIONS**

#### **IMPORTANT!!!** Building permits must follow 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 buildouts, 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.

#### **DEED RESTRICTIONS**

Committee of Five

The Committee of Five tours the OSB neighborhood looking for violations of deed restrictions. Violation notice letters are sent to each resident that are not in compliance with the deed restrictions of their subdivision. If the address has not been given a copy of deed restrictions, a copy may be requested.

Most violations cease with a warning letter. However, OSB has residents in our Civic Association area that refuse to comply. The Committee may collect evidence such as photos and activity logs. This information may be filed after sufficient evidence is obtained for investigation. Not every investigation will result in litigation.

The City Attorney's Office assists in Enforcement. The Neighborhood Services Section investigates complaints from residents and enforces written deed restrictions on the behalf of the City at no charge.

The Committee of Five has tried to work with residents over a long period of time. It is frustrating to try to understand why residents will not comply to the deed restrictions.

We, as a committee want to encourage folks to respect the rules of the land. Your subdivision voted to accept these regulations in 1994. When you moved into your subdivision, you were automatically under these restrictions. These restrictions are in place to keep our neighborhood from looking trashy.

For what it is worth, most all OSB residents abide by their deed restrictions. However, we know of businesses being run out of homes. We hope to have the mayor's office inspection officer investigate those residents soon.

We appreciate those of you who are concerned with upholding the deed restrictions in one's respective subdivision. Thank you.



#### WORDS TO LIVE BY

#### **BELIEVE IN YOURSELF**

Anything is possible

#### **NEVER GIVE UP**

Practice makes perfect

#### BE GRATEFUL

Appreciated what you have

#### WORK HARD

Make every job count

#### BE KIND

Treat others with respect

#### **STAY STRONG**

Overcome life's lumps and bumps

#### KEEP SMILING

Think positively

#### YARDS OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER 2021

Well, if you read your Bugler through e-mail or the OSB Website, OldSpringBranch.org, you noticed there were no September yards article. "Yards of the Month" is back. At the end of November, that may be the last "Yards of the Month" article until Spring. So, celebrate that your yard made the list. I was somewhat generous this time.

Keep up the good work. OSB appreciates you!

| Amelia        | *7636, *7635  |
|---------------|---|
| Antoine       | *2056   |
| Cedel         | 7706  |
| Counter Point | 2006, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2031, 2126, 2107, 2110, 2126, 2130, 2203, 2115, 2118  |
| Hammerly      | 7526, 7603, 7607, 7610, 7614, *7625, *7706                                    |
| Harland       | 1919, 1915, 2015, 2011, 2031, 2081, 2122                                      |
| Inch          | None  |
| Jacquelyn     | *1839, *1905, 2050, *2067   |
| Johanna       | *2041, *2048, *2020, *2002, *1905, *1906, *1928 *1838, *1833                  |
| Silverbonnet  | None  |
| Thonig        | 1942, 2045, 2039, 2031, 2107  |
| Todd          | None  |
| Turquoise     | 7614, 7615, 7618  |
| Woodwine      | 1910, 1918, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2018, 2022, 2038, 2102, 2106, |
|               | 2134, 1927, 1951, 1954  |

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

#### **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Deadline: Friday, November 26, 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



J. DAMIEN GARZA President

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**Old Spring Branch Civic Association** 2021 – 2022 Membership Form Address: Address: I am interested in the following committee(s): □ Citizens on Patrol □ Deed Restrictions □ Membership □ Special Events **Annual Dues/Membership Types:** Property Represented Senior Citizens (62+) /Fixed Income Business/Non-resident  $\square$  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 Signature: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ *Membership dues are good for 5-1-21 through 4-30-22.* 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 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

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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## COVID-19 VACCINES FOR KIDS AGES 5 TO 11: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Katie McCallum, Houston Methodist

#### Below is an excerpt from Houston Methodist's On Health blog...

Like many parents, you're eager to get your kids vaccinated against COVID-19. But that doesn't mean you don't have questions — starting with when exactly your younger children will even be eligible. Fortunately, the time may finally be coming for some parents.

On Oct. 7, Pfizer asked the FDA to authorize its COVID-19 vaccine for kids ages 5 to 11.

"Although Pfizer is confident in their vaccine, the FDA and CDC still need to review the trial data and consult the necessary scientific panels. Both agencies have committed to considering this decision as swiftly as safely possible," says Dr. Ashley Drews, medical director of infection prevention and control at Houston Methodist.

In the meantime, here's what you need to know as you prepare to get your child vaccinated.

- When will kids be able to get vaccinated against COVID-19?
- Will the vaccine for kids still be two shots?
- Will kids get a smaller dose?
- Are the side effects similar for kids?
- Can my child get a flu shot at the same time, or do we need to wait?
- Do kids *really* need to be vaccinated?
- Does my kid still need to get vaccinated if he or she has already had COVID-19?

To read the answers to these questions, please make sure to <u>click here</u>.





## Old Spring Branch Civic Association

| NOVEMBER 2021 |        |         |           |                    |                            |   |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday        | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday           | Friday                     | Saturday  |
| domingo       | lunes  | martes  | miércoles | jueves             | viernes                    | sábado  |
| 31            | 1      | 2       | 3         | 4                  | 5                          | 6   |
| 7             | 8      | 9       | 10        | 11                 | 12                         | 13  |
| 14            | 15     | 16      | 17        | 18                 | 19                         | 20<br>May put out Heavy<br>Trash * Puede sacar<br>basura pesada |
| 21            | 22     | 23      | 24        | 25<br>Thanksgiving | 26<br>HEAVY<br>TRASH: TREE | 27  |
| 28            | 29     | 30      | 1         | 2                  | 3                          | 4   |

## 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

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Membership

\$25.00 - Property Represented

Pay with PayPal

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

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\$25.00 - Business/Non-resident

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.

