

Old Spring Branch Bugler

May 2024 * mayo 2024

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

Fourth Thursday of the month (unless falls on holiday)

Thursday, May 23: TREE WASTE

Thursday, June 27: <u>JUNK WASTE</u>

Recolección de Basura Pesada

Cuarto jueves del mes (menos en días feriados)

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

jueves, 27 de junio: Basura Chatarra

REMEMBER: OLD SPRING BRANCH IS A DEED-RESTRICTED COMMUNITY.

RECUERDE: OLD SPRING BRANCH ES UNA COMUNIDAD BAJO RESTRICCIONES.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jo Lightsey

First things first. **May is Membership Drive for Old Spring Branch**. As you can see, an addressed envelope to the Old Spring Branch Civic Association (OSBCA) has been attached to make it easier for you to mail in your annual 2024-2025 dues. You will find a membership application in this Bugler. You also have the option of bringing the form and your payment to our June quarterly meeting or paying online with PayPal (see page 3 for more information). Thank you for your support!

Secondly, **four new trees have been planted on the Hammerly esplanades**. This is my special opportunity to thank OSB volunteers, Murphy Critelli, Virginia Lehman, and OSB Landscaper, Nino Roman, for planting the trees. The trees, crape myrtles, were free from the nonprofit Trees of Houston. OSBCA is hoping to get three more trees. Meanwhile, the City of Houston is supposed to remove the "downed" tree on the 7800 block of Hammerly.

Whether you were aware of it or not, you should have been, **every eligible resident house number was put in a drawing**. Two house numbers, for \$100 each, were drawn May 1. (See article on page 2.) Thank you, Virginia Lehman, for helping me record all the eligible house numbers. Another important helper was Zoe, Loretta Nalley's granddaughter, who pulled the two winning house numbers.

This part of my message to OSB residents does not make me happy. Folks, I am very concerned about how many homes are in **violation of Deed Restrictions and/or Ordinances**. Owners and/or renters, you are expected to abide by your subdivision's deed restrictions and follow the City of Houston Ordinances (codes). Those of you who refuse

Continued page 2...

OSBCA Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 | 7 – 8 p.m. Mendenhall Civic Center, 1414 Wirt Rd.





From the President, continued from front page...

to comply to the "rules of the land" and the City of Houston codes are lowering our property values and "trashing out" our neighborhood. You are being disrespectful to those who DO uphold the standards of deed restrictions and City Ordinances. You are considered a nuisance. Do your part in making sure you are in compliance.

I believe that we all have an "attitude". What is your "attitude"? Is it positive or negative? I believe that everyone can and could have a "positive" cooperative attitude toward how we approach and live our life. Hopefully, we will all think about how we can be positive toward how we will make our neighborhood, OSB, a better place to live.

I look forward to seeing you at the OSBCA Quarterly Meeting, Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

TWO WINNERS OF THE \$100 "HOUSE NUMBERS" DRAWING

Jo Lightsey

For the last couple of months, we have been promoting the "House Numbers" drawing. This drawing was an effort to have your house numbers visible in case of an emergency. If there were an emergency, emergency personnel may have difficulty locating your house if the house numbers are not well lit and/or if they are too small or not visible from the street.

We had the drawing on May 1, 2024, at 6 p.m. The drawing was executed by Zoë, 6-year-old granddaughter of OSBCA's Vice President.

Congratulations! Drawing Winners: 2207 Silverbonnet and 1840 Woodvine



The residents from these two drawn house numbers must claim their \$100 at the OSBCA's Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 7-8p.m., at the Mendenhall Civic Center, 1414 Wirt Rd. An ID is required. No other strings attached. We look forward to meeting you.

Thanks to everyone who made sure they followed the rules for the House Numbers. For those who didn't get around to it, below you will find the list once again. Please make sure that your house numbers comply.

RESIDENT HOUSE NUMBERS - ARE YOURS IN COMPLIANCE?

Below is a combined list of the City of Houston Ordinances and recommendations from your OSBCA.

- 1. Numbers must be at least 3" tall.
- 2. Numbers must be in contrasting color to their background.
- 3. Numbers must be posted to be seen from the street (day or night).
- 4. Numbers may/can be posted on front (fascia of house), carport, or garage.
- 5. No objects should be obstructing the view of the address numbers from the street.

TOP 10 BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OSBCA

Reasons Why You Should Support with Your Membership

Jo Lightsey

Our new membership year has begun! It is time to renew your membership (or become a new member) for the 2024-2025 year. Becoming a member of the Old Spring Branch has several benefits. For only \$25 a year (or \$12.50 for seniors or those on a fixed income), the OSBCA does the following for our neighborhood:

- 1. General quarterly meetings where we invite guest speakers and residents can make suggestions
- 2. Website and Facebook page to keep our members informed: OldSpringBranch.org, Facebook page
- 3. **Monthly newsletter**, *The Bugler*, published on our website and emailed to paid members
- 4. Hard copy of the newsletter delivered every January and May to the homes of residents
- 5. Citizens on Patrol (COP) where volunteers drive the neighborhood with the purpose of reducing crime
- 6. Community landscaping and esplanades maintenance
- 7. Yards of the Month recognition in the newsletter, as well as hosting Top 6 Best Holiday Decorations contest
- 8. Social Events including Neighbors Night Out in October
- 9. **Enforce Deed Restrictions** to the best of our abilities
- 10. Report City of Houston Ordinance Violations to 3-1-1 to keep our neighborhood up to code

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

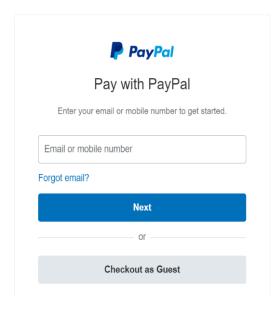
Loretta Nalley

This month we begin with our new membership cycle. Current members, please don't forget to renew your membership for the 2024-2025 year. For those who have yet to join, this is your invitation. Last year we beat the previous year's total by 10, let's get ambitious and aim for 75 total members this new year. As mentioned above, OSBCA does a lot for our community and we can use your support by becoming a member.

An upcoming opportunity to become involved is supporting our current work with the nonprofit Trees of Houston. They have donated trees and now we need volunteers to go by and water the trees weekly. If you are interested in helping, call or send a text to 832-868-8751.

	2023-2024 Membership (55 total)											
Amelia	Antoine	Cedel	Counter	Hammerly	Harland	Jacquelyn	Johanna	Silverbonnet	Thonig	Todd	Turquoise	Woodvine
			Point									
2 (+1)	3 (+1)	3	12	2	4 (+1)	2 (+1)	3	1 (+1)	3	1	3	15 (+1)
2022-2023 Membership (45 total)												
0	3	2	7	2	4	1	1	1	5	2	2	15

PAY YOUR OSBCA MEMBERSHIP 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".

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.

CRIME REPORTS – APRIL 2024

Virginia Lehman

Listed below are the incidents reported in our area for April 1-30, 2024:

- 2 reports of Aggravated Assault: April 9, 12am, 7600 Block of Hammerly; April 9, 6pm, 2100 Block of Woodvine.
- 2 reports of Simple Assault: April 3, 1am, 1900 Block of Thonig; April 15, 11pm, 7400 Block of Long Point.
- 2 reports of Intimidation: April 13, 12pm, 1900 Block of Thonig; April 28, 3am, 7400 Block of Long Point.
- 1 report of Motor Vehicle Theft: April 15, 9pm, 2100 Block of Counter Point.
- 1 report of Theft from Motor Vehicle: April 15, 6pm, 7400 Block of Long Point.
- 5 reports of Burglary (Breaking & Entering): April 6, 3pm, 2100 Block of Counter Point; April 8, 6pm, 1900 Block of Antoine; April 22, 2am, 11300 Block of Todd; April 23, 2pm, 1900 Block of Johanna; March 31, 8am, 2000 Block of Woodvine (this report did not show up until April).
- 4 reports of Theft (all other larceny): April 12, 7am, 2100 Block of Antoine; April 22, 11am, 11200 Block of Todd; April 23, 2pm, 1900 Block of Johanna; April 27, 7pm, 7400 Block of Long Point.
- 1 report of Theft (shoplifting): April 12, 7pm, 7400 Block of Long Point.
- 2 reports of Robbery: April 5th, 2am, 2000 Block of Johanna; April 22nd, 2pm, 7400 Block of Long Point (convenience store).
- 3 reports of Vandalism: April 9, 12am, 7600 Block of Hammerly; April 22, 11am, 11200 Block of Todd; April 28, 6am, 2000 Block of Johanna.
- 2 reports of Other (all other offenses): April 18, 1am, 2000 Block of Harland; April 19, 1pm, 2000 Block of Harland.
- 1 report of Arrest (Drug, Narcotic violations): April 1, 11pm, 2000 Block of Antoine.

Please note that the above information was gathered from the Spot Crime on the Houston Police Dept website.

You can file a police report online if you have 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://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/https://doi.org/10.1001/journal.org/https://doi.org/https://doi.org/https://doi.org/https://d

CITIZENS ON PATROL – APRIL 2024

Virginia Lehman

We will be reporting a total of **32.50 patrol hours for the month of April**. Thanks to all our Citizens on Patrol (CP) volunteers, I do believe we make a difference. We are always looking for volunteers, if you are interested, please contact me at 832-748-8088 and leave a message. We would love to hear from you!

Driving around in April, we noticed a couple of side gates that were opened, and three or four garage doors opened with no homeowner in site, please note it is very easy for someone to just step in your garage or in your backyard and possible take something or even worse gain access to your house. These are 'crimes of opportunity, let's not be an easy target.

Updates: The group of individuals hanging out at Long Point and Woodvine seems to be dwindling and they don't appear to be sitting there all day. I have driven by, and they are there and when I come back, maybe 2 or 3 hours later they are gone. However, the trash cans on Jacquelyn (once again an average of 15 cans) remain standing on the street outside the gated community they belong too!

As always, be aware of your surroundings! Stay alert, be diligent and report any incidents that you see or hear. If the police department is not aware of anything going on in our neighborhood, they will not patrol our area. You can call the non-emergency number at 713-884-3131. If it is a life-threatening situation, please call 911!

YARDS OF THE MONTH – April 2024

Jo Lightsey

I must say, this is not the best month that I have ever seen for outstanding yards. I think that everyone has lost his/her lawnmower. Many yards were overgrown. What is going on my yard friends? Check the article below for a reminder on the yard criteria to be listed in "Yards of the Month".

What is even sadder, there were, at least, fifteen (15) city code/deed restriction violations, not counting the overgrown yards through-out the neighborhood. Folks, please don't do this to our OSB!

Congratulations to those who DID make the yard list. Keep it up!

Old Spring Branch						
Amelia	None					
Antoine	*2056					
Cedel	None					
Counter Point	2203, 2018, 2014, 2015, 2035					
Hammerly	rly 7603, 7607, 7610, 7614, *7706, *7626, *7625					
Harland	2015, *2102, 2011, *1927					
Inch	None					
Jacquelyn	*1839, *1905, *2067					
Johanna *2069, 2054, *2048, *2031, *2020, *2002, *1928, *1905 *1906, *1838,						
	*1840					
Silverbonnet	2211, 2209, 2207, 2205, 2230					
Thonig	1942, 2039, 2029, 2011					
Todd	None					
Turquoise	7714					
Woodvine 1943, 1951, 1954, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2014, 2022, 2103, 2106, 2011, 2030, 213						
	2134					

^{*}Businesses who have litter free and mowed front ditches, apts that have required landscaping.

YARDS OF THE MONTH - CRITERIA

Every month, on the last week, the "Yard Hawk" will ride through the neighborhood making a note of the yards eligible for the Bugler "Yards of the Month".

Below is OSB's guide for getting your yard placed on the Yards of the Month.

Criteria for Yards of the Month:

- 1. **Be well-groomed** (i.e. yard mowed, sidewalks edged, shrubs/trees pruned, flower beds weed-free, no dead plants)
- 2. **Be attractive, neat and pleasing to the eye** (i.e. green lawn, variety of plants/flowers, color contrast in landscaping, walkway/driveway/curb clean, no out-of-season decor)
- 3. **Have buildings, fences, porches and patios in good condition** (i.e. minimal distraction from the landscape due to deterioration, damage/construction)
- 4. **Be free of litter, junk and debris** (no appliances or indoor furniture on porches or patios; free of junked or inoperable vehicles; no parking on the lawn)
- 5. Observe all City of Houston Codes and OSB Deed Restrictions

BEAUTIFICATION & LANDSCAPING

Jo Lightsey

Ok, ok! We are a week overdue for Junk Heavy Trash Collection. I have been working on it and have talked to Amy Peck's office about it. So, the neighborhood looks "Trashed Out". Pick-up is delayed all over the city. Hopefully by the time you all get the Bugler Solid Waste Dept. will have caught up. If NOT, each resident should call 3-1-1 and report their Heavy NOT collected.



Pictured above: Virginia Lehman and Murphy Critelli

Now, for some good news. Old Spring Branch got four Crape Myrtle trees free from "Trees for Houston" to plant on the Hammerly esplanades. Nino Roman, our landscaper, Murphy Critelli, Virginia Lehman, and I got the trees planted, fertilized, mulched, and watered. Preparation has been made to plant three more soon.

Unfortunately, one of the older trees on Hammerly was twisted off during the windy weather last week. The City of Houston is taking care of removing the down tree from the esplanade. Nino will begin replanting the flower bed on the Hammery/Wirt Rd esplanade in a couple of weeks. OSBCA funds part of the labor and all the materials, plants, sprinkler parts, etc. Another reason one should pay their annual membership dues, \$25 or \$12.50 per residence. Thank you LMC for continuing to maintain the Hammerly esplanades.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Deadline: Thursday, May 30, 2024

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



Address: 1911 Antoine Dr Houston. Texas 77055 Tel: (713) 683-3817 Fax: (713) 683-7077

E-mail: admissions@samtech.edu





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HOW TO REPORT A CRIME

HPD website

- Dial 9-1-1 to report an emergency.
- Dial (713) 884-3131 to request non-emergency police service for locations within the city limits of Houston. If you live outside the jurisdiction of the Houston Police Department and have a problem or situation that requires police service, please contact your local law enforcement agency.
- To Report a Minor Crime (Theft or Property Damage, under \$5,000): www.houstontx.gov/police/online_report.htm
- Alert Slip: Citizens can use this form to request increased patrols around their home or business for a prowler, speeding vehicle, excessive burglaries and thefts, being on vacation or for reasons causing them concern in the 'other' box. www.houstontx.gov/police/alert_slip/
- Crime Stoppers Report a Tip: Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000. Here is the link: www.crime-stoppers.org/houston-crime-stoppers
- I watch Houston Make the Call: Terrorism continues to be a threat to Houston. While our law enforcement agencies work diligently every day to help prevent terrorist attacks, you can be part of the solution. iwatchhouston.org
- Gang Activity: Report suspected gang activity/information to the Gang Division tip line: <u>stophoustongangs.org</u>.

BUILDING PERMITS – CITY OF HOUSTON & DEED RESTRICTIONS

Committee of Five

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

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 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.

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. Request a copy at an OSBCA meeting. You can also visit our website: www.oldspringbranch.org/deed-restrictions
- 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 right of way).
- 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.

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

MAY /JUNE 2024 *MAYO/JUNE 2024*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado
Mother's Day	13	14 Chief's Citywide PIP Meeting at 1602 State St., 7p	15	16	17	18 May put out Heavy Trash * Puede sacar basura pesada
19	20	21 PIP, 7p	22	23 HEAVY TRASH: TREE	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Last day of school for SBISD	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	OSB Meeting, 7 p.m.	12	13	14	15

Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meetings – Third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Faith Center Chapel, 8009 Long Point.

<u>B</u>	OARD OF DIRECTOR	<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u>			
	OFFICERS		Advertising: Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634		
President:	Jo Lightsey	713-681-0560	Beautification:		
Vice President:	Loretta Nalley	832-868-8751	Jo Lightsey, 713-681-0560		
Secretary:	Linda Whatley	713-681-0560	Citizens on Patrol (COP):		
Treasurer:	Virginia Lehman	832-748-8088	Virginia Lehman, 832-748-8088		
ST	REET REPRESENTATI	Communications: Sybil Sánchez, 832-722-2331			
Antoine:	Vacant		Lorna Gast, Newsletter mail out		
Counter Point & Turquoise:	Anonymous		Deed Restrictions: Committee of Five Contact: 713-681-0560		
Harland & Todd: Jacquelyn/ E. Hammerly:	Mike McGeehon	713-922-0116	In Touch: Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634		
Johanna: Silverbonnet, Cedel & W. Hammerly:	Roman Nunez Eric Schmidt 281-840-152		Landscaping: Nino Roman, 832-877-4701 Membership:		
Thonig:	Sybil Sanchez	832-722-2331	Loretta Nalley, 832-868-8751		
Woodvine:	Rosario Machorro	713-391-6355	Social:Vacant		



2024-2025 Membership Form

2024-2025 Formulario de Membresia

Member Information | Información de miembro Full name | Nombre completo: If business membership, add name of main contact. | Si es membresía de negocio, nombre del contacto principal. Business name | Nombre de negocio: For business membership only. | Sólo para membresía de negocio. Address | Dirección: E-mail | Correo electrónico: Phone | Teléfono: Interested in these committees | Interesado en estos comités Beautification | Embellecimiento Citizens on Patrol | Vigilancia de la Comunidad Communications | Comunicaciones Deed Restrictions | Restricciones de Propiedades Membership | Membresía Landscaping | Jardinería Street representative | Representante de su calle Social events | Eventos sociales Membership Type (Annual Dues) | Tipo de membresía (cuotas anuales) \$25 - Residential | Residencial New Member | Nuevo miembro \$12.50 - Senior Citizen/Fixed Income | Tercera Edad/Bajos Ingresos Renewal | Renovando \$25 - Business | Negocio Membership is for May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025. | Membresía es para 1 de mayo 2024 a 30 de abril 2025. Membership Amount | Cantidad de la Cuota Anual Donation | Donación Total Payment | Pago Total

Checks payable to | Cheque a nombre de: Old Spring Branch Civic Association or/u OSBCA

If sending by mail | Si mandando por correo:

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

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



