

Old Spring Branch Bugler

APRIL 2025

Para leer este boletín en español, haga clic aquí.

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

Fourth Thursday of the month (unless falls on holiday)

Thursday, April 24: JUNK WASTE

Thursday, May 22: TREE WASTE

*For most accurate date, visit the Solid Waste Management Dept.'s website at HoustonTX.gov/solidwaste/holiday.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jo Lightsey

I learned from one of our members in the March 11, 2025, meeting that I am too brash in my messages to the OSB residents. It is probably true that I am not a diplomat, but I am to the point and "if the shoe fits"... I truly respect the residents in our community and hope that each of you respect the fact that as your President of the Civic Association, it is my duty to remind everyone to abide by the City Codes, Deed Restrictions, and HPD laws.

The Board of Directors, 2025-2026, Election Slate is included in this Bugler. If any of you are willing to fill one of the vacancies, the OSBCA will welcome you. Please contact me, Jo, at 713-681-0560. Leave your name and phone number and I will call you back. Your help will be appreciated.

May is Membership Drive month. A Board Committee is planning a "Member Appreciation" social. The event is encouraging all residents to come and become a member. Details will be in the May hard copy Bugler. This hard copy will be delivered to all OSB residents.

A yearly membership is \$25 yearly (just .07 cents a day); \$12.50 yearly for retired/seniors, membership (just .03 cents a day). Just for "grins" put these amounts in a jar every day, and one will have saved for the required amount for a membership per household for one year.

I am depending on all OSB residents to do their part to uphold high standards that require all of us to live a better life. Since my moving here in 1975, I have seen this area change in different ways, but those of us who have been here for years, love our OSB and hope that those who move into OSB will take as much pride in your home as we longtime residents do in our homes.





HPD'S DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE TEAM WORKS WITH OSB

Jo Lightsey

"The purpose of the Police Department's Differential Response Team (DRT) Unit is to work with the Central Business District Community to reduce crime and improve quality of life."

It was explained to me that violations existing in neighborhoods can sometimes lead to more serious illegal activities. This is not always true, but the removal of violations does improve the quality of life and property value. Therefore, it is important that OSB residents be encouraged to follow the City of Houston ordinances (codes), Subdivision Deed Restrictions, and HPD laws. The City of Houston 3-1-1 Division also sends inspectors out to neighborhoods to encourage citizens to eliminate a nuisance found on their property. Compliance is necessary to keep neighborhoods attractive and high in value.

Please respect the Subdivision Deed Restrictions. As an owner or renter, you are responsible for knowing the "rules of the land" on which you own or rent. Copies of all the Deed Restrictions can be found on OSB's website: OldSpringBranch.org/Deed-Restrictions

CURB APPEAL COUNTS: WHY BEAUTIFICATION MATTERS IN OSB

Jo Lightsey

What makes a neighborhood truly beautiful? It's not just flowers and fresh paint—it's also about how well we care for our properties and follow the rules that keep OSB looking its best. Here are the key elements that help maintain a clean, attractive neighborhood:

- 1. **Following OSB Deed Restrictions -** These help preserve the residential look and feel of our neighborhood. They prevent things like someone starting a toilet repair business in their front yard, keeping farm animals on the property, or parking construction equipment like a bulldozer in the driveway.
- 2. **Complying with City of Houston Ordinances -** City codes help prevent the storage of junk cars and other unsightly items in plain view from the street.
- 3. **Following the Heavy Trash Schedule -** Only place large trash and tree limbs out during the designated collection week. This keeps our streets clear and prevents lingering debris.
- 4. **Keeping Property Clean and Clear -** Avoid storing appliances, junk, or indoor furniture on porches. Litter scattered around the yard or driveway hurts the look of the entire street.
- 5. **Mowing, Edging, and Weed Control -** A well-maintained lawn shows pride in your home. Keeping your grass trimmed and neat ensures your yard doesn't resemble a cow pasture—and it really elevates the whole block.

When homes in a neighborhood are neglected, it impacts all of us—bringing down property values and making it harder to sell or take pride in our community.

So ask yourself: What do you look for when shopping for a home? What would help you sell one? Chances are, it starts with curb appeal—and that begins with all of us.

PREVENTING CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

Help keep our community safe by taking simple precautions:

- ✓ Lock your car doors and keep valuables out of sight.
- ✓ Close your gates and garage doors when not in use.
- ✓ Turn on your porch lights at night to deter suspicious activity.

A few small steps can make a big difference in keeping OSB a secure and welcoming place to live!

BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Your safety starts with awareness! Stay alert and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement. If the police aren't aware of what's happening in our neighborhood, they won't know to patrol the area.

Non-Emergency Police Number: 713-884-3131

Emergency? Call 911!

Together, we can keep OSB safe!

CRIME REPORTS - MARCH 2025

Listed below are the incidents reported in our area for February 27 – March 27, 2025:

- One (1) report of Aggravated Assault: March 11th @ 3am, 2000 Block of Antoine.
- Four (4) reports of Intimidation: March 6th and 7th @ 5pm, 1900 Block of Thonig and March 23rd and 24th @ 2pm, 7600 Block of Hammerly.
- Six (6) reports of Simple Assault: February 27th and 28th @ 2pm, 7600 Block of Hammerly, March 9th and 10th @ 9pm, 7600 Block of Hammerly, and March 22nd and March 23rd @ 12pm, 2000 Block of Jacquelyn.
- Three (3) reports of Theft: March 11th and 12th @ 7pm, 2000 Block of Antoine (shoplifting) and March 9th @ 8pm, 7600 Block of Hammerly (All other larceny).
- Two (2) reports of Vandalism: March 21st and 22nd @ 10pm, 2000 Block of Jacquelyn.
- Two (2) reports of Arrest: March 4th @ 10pm, 2100 Block of Harland (Drug, narcotic violations) and March 5th @ 9pm, 7800 Block of Long Point (Driving Under the Influence).
- One (1) report of Motor Vehicle Theft: March 6th@ 5am, 1900 Block of Antoine.
- Two (2) reports of Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts: March 9th and 10th @ 11pm, 7600 Block of Hammerly.
- Two (2) reports of Robbery: March 10th and 11th @ 3am, 2000 Block of Antoine.
- One (1) report of Other: March 3rd @ 12pm, 7600 Block of Amelia.

Please note the above information was gathered from SpotCrime website.

SPRING INTO LANDSCAPING: TIPS TO GET YOUR YARD READY

Nino Roman

With the first day of spring behind us (March 20), it's time to roll up our sleeves and get back into the garden! Here are a few helpful tips to get your landscaping in shape for the spring and summer months ahead.

Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring/Summer

Start by fertilizing your lawn and garden beds with a good organic fertilizer. Trim back any plants damaged by the winter freeze and clear out any weeds from your beds and landscaped areas.

Add a fresh layer of mulch—about 1½ to 2 inches—to help retain moisture and keep weeds down. Now's also a great time to replace or relocate any plants that didn't survive the winter or just aren't thriving where they are.

Check your sprinkler system to make sure everything is working properly before the heat kicks in, and don't forget to add a splash of seasonal color with some new flowers. Finally, give your trees a trim if needed, then sit back and enjoy the results of your hard work!

Everyone has their go-to spot for gardening supplies, so swing by your favorite store to grab some mulch, organic fertilizer, and the trees, shrubs, or flowers that'll make your yard pop.

Special thanks to LMC for their continued care and service to the Hammerly medians and our two OSB esplanades. Your work helps keep our neighborhood beautiful!

OSBCA MEMBERSHIP: LET'S MATCH LAST YEAR (AND MAYBE BEAT IT!)

Loretta Nalley

The new OSBCA membership year officially begins **May 1**, and while we haven't hit our big goal of 75 members just yet, we're holding strong at 52. Last year, we ended with 55 members—a 10-person increase from the year before. We'd love to meet (or beat!) that number again this year, and we need your help to do it.

If you've been thinking about joining or renewing, now's the time! Membership is just \$25 per household (or \$12.50 for seniors or those on fixed incomes), and your support goes a long way in helping us fund community efforts like beautification, safety patrols, social events, and enforcing deed restrictions.

Why Join? Here's One Easy Reason:

One of the best perks of membership is that you'll receive **The Bugler newsletter delivered straight to your inbox every month**—keeping you in the loop on neighborhood updates, projects, events, and more. And while many of the benefits we provide are enjoyed by all residents, it's the support of our paid members that makes it all possible.

Help Us Finish Strong

We've noticed a few streets that had more paid members last year than they do now: Amelia, Antoine, Cedel, Johanna, Silverbonnet, Turquoise, and Woodvine. If that's your street, consider renewing your membership—or better yet, **invite a neighbor to join or gift them a membership** as a friendly way to stay connected and involved.

Stay Connected with OSBCA Online

Our website, <u>OldSpringBranch.org</u>, is a helpful resource year-round. There, you'll find the **recycling and** heavy trash schedules, a copy of our deed restrictions, important phone numbers, and past issues of The Bugler.

Want to know what's going on in the broader Spring Branch area? Follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, where we share **local events, community happenings, and updates** beyond OSB.

A Thank-You Social Is On the Way

We're planning a **Membership Appreciation Social** to celebrate all of you who help make this community thrive. More details will be shared in May's newsletter!

So, whether you're renewing or joining for the first time, now's your moment to support OSBCA and be part of something bigger.



Let's keep OSB strong, safe, and connected—all year long.

2024-2025 Membership (52 total)												
Amelia	Antoine	Cedel	Counter Point	Hammerly	Harland	Jacquelyn	Johanna	Silverbonnet	Thonig	Todd	Turquoise	Woodvine
1	2	2	12	3	7	2	1	0	3	5	2	12
2022-2023 Membership (55 total)												
2	3	3	12	2	4	2	3	1	3	1	3	15

THE "ROAD HAWK" IS READY TO RIDE AGAIN AT THE END OF APRIL

Jo Lightsey

Spring is here, and it's a great time to get outside and refresh our yards! I love seeing how our OSB neighbors bring new life and beauty to their landscaping and gardens each year. It's always exciting to see the transformation—and your hard work doesn't go unnoticed. By following the updated criteria below, you could land your spot on the "Yards of the Month" list and be featured in *The Bugler* each month. Thanks for your hard work and dedication to keeping OSB beautiful!

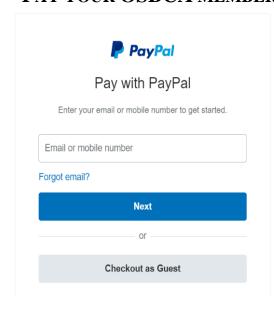
Want to be included in Yard of the Month? Here's How to Make Your Yard Stand Out!

Every month, OSB celebrates residents who go the extra mile to keep their yards beautiful. Want to earn the spotlight? Here are **5 simple ways** to boost your curb appeal and increase your chances of being named **Yard of the Month**:

- 1. **Keep Your Lawn Green & Groomed:** A healthy lawn is the foundation of a standout yard. Mow and edge regularly, water as needed, and stay on top of weed and pest control to maintain that lush, green look.
- 2. **Maintain a Neat & Tidy Appearance:** Make sure your yard is free of clutter, debris, and visible trash. Trim overgrown trees and shrubs, and keep walkways, curbs, and driveways swept and clean for a polished, well-kept appearance.
- 3. **Add Color & Curb Appeal:** Incorporate flowers, decorative plants, or small shrubs to give your yard a vibrant, welcoming feel. A well-planned layout and healthy greenery can make all the difference.
- 4. **Stay Up to Code:** Keep fences, porches, and patios in good repair, and follow all City of Houston Codes and OSB Deed Restrictions. Trash and recycle bins should be stored out of sight when not in use to help maintain a clean streetscape.
- Remove Seasonal & Outdated Items: Take down any decorations from past holidays and clear out items
 that don't belong outside, like indoor furniture. Your porch and patio should look clean, current, and
 inviting year-round.

Before you finish, take a step back and view your yard from the street. Is it visually appealing? Are your plants healthy and well-maintained? Does everything look fresh and damage-free? If so, you might just be in the next Yard of the Month!

PAY YOUR OSBCA MEMBERSHIP ONLINE!



Step one:

Visit <u>OldSpringBranch.org</u> and click on "<u>Membership</u>" 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.

OSBCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ELECTION SLATE FOR 2025-2026

Jo Lightsey

It's time to prepare for a new leadership term for our neighborhood civic association! Below is the current **nomination slate for OSBCA Officers** (2025–2026) and **Board Members** (2025–2027). We will vote on this slate at our next quarterly meeting on **Wednesday**, **June 11**, 2025.

Interested in Serving?

We still have a few open positions on the Board, and we'd love to have you involved! If you're interested in helping lead our community, please call **713-681-0560** and leave your name and number. I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Street Representatives Needed

We're currently looking for Street Reps for Antoine, Harland/Todd, and Johanna.

You don't have to live on these streets to serve as their representative—Street Reps are **voting members of the Board** and play an important role in neighborhood communication and decision-making.

Term Information

- Officers serve a one-year term from 2025 to 2026
- Board Members serve a two-year term from 2025 to 2027

Thank you to everyone who continues to support and serve OSB. Together, we help keep Old Spring Branch strong and thriving!

OFFICERS		STREET REPRESENTATIVES		
President	Jo Lightsey	Antoine	Vacant	
Vice President	Loretta Nalley	Counter Point/Turquoise	Anonymous	
Secretary	Linda Whatley	Harland/Todd	Vacant	
Treasurer	Virginia Lehman	Jacquelyn/E. Hammerly	Mike McGeehon	
		Johanna	Vacant	
		Silverbonnet/Cedel	Eric Schmidt	
		Thonig	Sybil Sanchez	
		Woodvine	Rosario Machorro	

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: Friday, April 25, 2025

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

RECYCLING AND HEAVY TRASH PICK UP -2025 SCHEDULE-

MONTH	RECYCLING (Every other Friday)	HEAVY TRASH (Fourth Thursday of the month)		
April	□ 4/4 □ 4/18	□ JUNK Thurs., 4/24		
May	□ 5/2 □ 5/16 □ 5/30	□ TREE Thurs., 5/22		
June	□ 6/13 □ 6/27	□ JUNK Thurs., 6/26		
July	□ 7/11 □ 7/25	□ TREE Thurs., 7/24		
August	□ 8/8 □ 8/22	□ JUNK Thurs., 8/28		
September	□ 9/5 □ 9/19	□ TREE Thurs., 9/25		
October	□10/3 □10/17 □10/31	□ JUNK Thurs., 10/23		
November	□ 11/7 □ 11/21	□ TREE Thurs., 11/27		
December	□ 12/5 □ 12/29	□ JUNK Thurs., 12/27		
January 2026		□ TREE Thurs., 1/22		

YES! Put these in your GREEN RECYCLING bin:

- Metal and Cans: Aluminum and Tin Cans. Examples include soup cans, vegetable cans, fruit cans, coffee cans (emptied and rinsed)
- Cartons: Both gable top and shelf-stable food and beverage cartons. Examples include milk cartons, juice cartons, soup cartons, soy milk/alternative milk cartons (emptied and rinsed)
- Glass: Bottles, jugs and jars only (emptied and rinsed)
- Paper: Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, office paper
- Cardboard: Cardboard and cereal boxes (emptied of packing materials and flattened)
- Plastic: Bottles, tubs and jugs #1 5 and 7. Examples include water and soda bottles, milk jugs, yogurt cups, margarine tubs, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles. (emptied and rinsed)

NO! Do NOT put these in your GREEN RECYCLING bin:

- Batteries/Electronics
- Shredded Paper
- Tanglers (cords, hoses, wires, clothing)
- Food/Liquids; Trash and Bagged Recycling
- Furniture and Household Goods
- Scrap Wood and Scrap Metal (NO Helium Tanks)
- Yard Waste

^{*}For most accurate date, visit the Solid Waste Management Dept.'s website at <u>HoustonTX.gov/solidwaste/holiday</u>.

* Para la fecha exacta, visite el sitio web del Departamento de Manejo de Residuos Sólidos.

REALTORS MARKET UPDATE: MARCH 2025

Rosario Machorro

Home Sales in OSB | March 2025

• Number of Homes Sold: 3

• Average Sales Price: \$387,267

• Average Price per Square Foot: \$259.96

• Days on the Market: 41

Spring is upon us! The real estate market knows it—and just like the rising temperatures, new listings are starting to heat up. We currently have **five properties expected to close within the next 2 to 53 days**, all of which are **new construction**.

In addition, there are **nineteen properties** listed for sale, **eleven** of which are new builds. Many of these are offering buyer incentives that can help with closing costs or agent commissions (yes, these are the same ones mentioned last month).

The average time a home stays on the market varies. If priced correctly, it's about **1.3 months**. If overpriced, it can take up to **10.4 months** to sell.

Curious about your home's market value? Thinking of buying? Or just have real estate questions? I'm here to help—call me at **713-391-6533**.

Homestead Exemption Update

If you've had your **homestead exemption** for more than five years, it's **critical** to check with the county. Recent policy changes now require homeowners to **renew the exemption every five years** in order to prevent fraudulent filings from non-owner-occupied properties.

Leases in OSB | March 2025

• Number of Homes Leased: 0

• Average Lease Price: \$0

• Average Price per Square Foot: \$0

• Days on the Market: 0

While no homes were leased this past month, the **rental market remains active**. There are **seventeen properties currently available**, including a cozy **bungalow being offered as business space**, and another property **zoned for commercial use**—perfect for a workshop.

If you have a vacant investment property, now is a great time to list it. **Rental demand remains strong**, and pricing varies widely:

Maximum: \$6,000Minimum: \$800Average: \$1,801

Welcome to all our new neighbors—and as always, stay safe!

A special thank you to the following businesses/organizations for their advertisement in our monthly newsletter, The Bugler.



Mike Brubaker, SRA President

7626 Hammerly Houston, Texas 77055

713-464-4666 | 713-464-4669 fax brubakerandassociates.com





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

E-mail: admissions@samtech.edu



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- -Selling / Venta
- -Buying / Compra
- -Leasing /Renta
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1905 Jacquelyn Dr. Houston, TX 77055

Offering community based care to Spring Branch East residents that includes:

- CASE MANAGEMENT
- YOUTH PROGRAMS
- COUNSELING SERVICES FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED
- RECOVERY SERVICES
- HEALTH CLINIC
- FOOD ASSISTANCE
- SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

For more information call 713-328-1963

WWW.THEWOMENSHOME.ORG

We appreciate your support of our Old Spring Branch Civic Association!

If you would like to advertise, please contact Gerry Thielemann at 713-682-9634. You may also reach out via email at sybilsanchez@yahoo.com.

Old Spring Branch Civic Association

APRIL 2025							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
30	31 Cesar Chavez Day	1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Passover begins	
13 Palm Sunday	14	15 Tax Day PIP, 7p	16	17	18	19 May put out Heavy Trash * Puede sacar basura pesada	
20 Easter Passover ends	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 HEAVY TRASH: JUNK	25	26	
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	

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

Board	OF	DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President:Jo Lightsey713-681-0560Vice President:Loretta Nalley832-868-8751Secretary:Linda Whatley713-681-0560Treasurer:Virginia Lehman832-748-8088

STREET REPRESENTATIVES

Antoine: ---*Vacant* ---

Counter Point

& Turquoise: Anonymous
Harland & Todd: ---Vacant---

Jacquelyn/ Mike McGeehon 713-922-0116

E. Hammerly:

Johanna: Roman Nunez

Silverbonnet, Cedel Eric Schmidt 281-840-1521

& W. Hammerly:

Thonig: Sybil Sanchez 832-722-2331

Woodvine: Rosario Machorro 713-391-6355

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising:

Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634

Beautification:

Jo Lightsey, 713-681-0560

Citizens on Patrol (COP):

Virginia Lehman, 832-748-8088

Communications:

Sybil Sánchez, 832-722-2331

Deed Restrictions:

Committee of Five Contact: 713-681-0560

In Touch:

Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634

Landscaping:

Nino Roman, 832-877-4701

Membership:

Loretta Nalley, 832-868-8751

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 neg	ocio, 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 Interest	esado en estos comités
Communications Comunicaciones Deed Re	on Patrol Vigilancia de la Comunidad estrictions Restricciones de Propiedades ship Membresía
Social events Eventos sociales Street re	presentative Representante de su calle
Membership Type (Annual Dues) Tipe	o de membresía (cuotas anuales)
 \$25 - Residential Residencial \$12.50 - Senior Citizen/Fixed Income Tercera Edad/Bajo \$25 - Business Negocio 	New Member Nuevo miembro Renewal Renovando
Membership is for May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025. Mer	mbresía es para 1 de mayo 2024 a 30 de abril 2025.
\$ Membership Amount	Cantidad de la Cuota Anual
\$ Donation Donación	
\$ Total Payment Pag	jo 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.



