



Old Spring Branch Bugler

MARCH 2026

To view this and past newsletters visit oldspringbranch.org/newsletter

Heavy Trash Pick-Up

Fourth Thursday of the month (unless falls on holiday)

Thursday, March 26: TREE WASTE

Thursday, April 23: JUNK 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

Howdy!!! It is Rodeo time in Houston. Many of you will schedule your time at the Rodeo during Spring Break, March 15–20, especially if you have children. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo began Monday, March 2, and runs through Sunday, March 21. I hope you will go and have a good time!

I find it very sad that the “Cinco de Mayo” Parade has been cancelled this year due to safety concerns. Our Hispanic culture is an important part of Houston. Please stay safe.

Several important topics are addressed in the March *Bugler*: Heavy Trash, Garage Sales, Building Permits, and Yards of the Month. The reason? It is springtime and folks feel the need to “clean,” “build or remodel,” have “sales,” and get their “yards” in shape. Of course, City codes and deed restrictions are always expected to be followed.

A city ordinance that Old Spring Branch has had since 2014, “No Parking in the Yard,” will now be enforced by the Department of Public Works rather than HPD. “Yard cars,” as OSB refers to them, will be reported to **3-1-1**. A reference number is required in order to follow up with 3-1-1 if the problem is not resolved within 10 days. After the first warning, the fine is **\$150 per day** until the car owner comes into compliance.

OSBCA’s next meeting is **Tuesday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd.** Come join us!

Old Spring Branch Civic Association (OSBCA)

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd.



Follow us on Facebook!
[Facebook.com/OldSpringBranch](https://www.facebook.com/OldSpringBranch)



Check out our website!
OldSpringBranch.org

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS: SPRING INTO NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORT

As spring begins in Old Spring Branch, it is a great time to renew your OSBCA membership or encourage a neighbor to join.

Last year, 52 households supported the Old Spring Branch Civic Association. Currently, we have 41 members, and with a little neighborhood pride and teamwork, we can reach that number again.

Your membership helps OSBCA advocate for our neighborhood, support beautification efforts, share important community updates, and continue the work that keeps Old Spring Branch a great place to live. Thank you to everyone who supports OSBCA and helps keep our community strong.

Visit OldSpringBranch.org or contact any OSBCA board member listed in this issue to get started.

2025-2026 Membership (41 total)													
Amelia	Antoine	Cedel	Counter Point	Hammerly	Harland	Jacquelyn	Johanna	Silverbonnet	Thonig	Todd	Turquoise	Woodvine	Other
0	3	3	10	2	2	2	0	1	3	0	2	11	2
2024-2025 Membership (52 total)													
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	

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.

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!

BUILDING PERMITS – CITY OF HOUSTON & DEED RESTRICTIONS

IMPORTANT: Building permits must comply with deed restrictions.

To protect neighborhood character and property values, the City of Houston works with residents to help ensure that building permits are not issued in violation of deed restrictions.

Before beginning any new construction or home improvement project, please consult your civic association regarding possible deed restrictions. You may not obtain a building permit without signing a sworn Deed Restriction Affidavit stating that you are aware of and agree to abide by the deed restrictions related to your project.

The building permit application must include the correct legal description, including the subdivision name. The Deed Restriction Affidavit on the back of the permit must also be completed. 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 of recorded 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 may be subject to municipal court citations, fines, and the removal of the structure or any violating portion.

How to Research Deed Restrictions

You may research restrictions by:

- Checking whether a Notice of Restrictions was provided at closing (required by title insurance companies in recent years).
- Obtaining a copy from the Harris County Clerk's Office at 713-755-6411, or through the appropriate homeowners association or civic association.
- Contacting a title abstract company to obtain a copy of the restrictions or a letter stating that no restrictions exist.

Projects That Require a Permit

The following projects generally require a permit:

- New construction of buildings 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 or relocation of existing buildings
- Demolition (interior demolition or entire structures)
- Fences over 8 feet high
- Driveways and sidewalks located in the City right-of-way

If you need clarification regarding fees or have questions about building permits, please contact the **Houston Permitting Center at 832-394-8820** before beginning any project.

You may also email: Houston.PermittngCenter@houstontx.gov

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The Old Spring Branch Civic Association would like to extend a sincere thank you to those who help keep our neighborhood looking its best.

A special thank you to **Bill Cox of LMC** for his continued work maintaining the Hammerly and Antoine/Long Point esplanades. These landscaped areas help create a welcoming first impression for everyone entering our neighborhood and contribute to the beauty of Old Spring Branch.

We also appreciate **Nino** for his ongoing work tending to the esplanade sprinkler system and assisting with various maintenance tasks throughout the area. Keeping the irrigation system functioning properly ensures that the landscaping remains healthy and vibrant.

We are grateful for the dedication and care that go into maintaining these shared spaces for our community.

SOLID WASTE DEPT. NOTIFICATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM AMY PECK'S OFFICE:

As quoted by Liz Miranda, Chief of Staff, to Jo Lightsey, President of OSBCA.

Rumors about a change in the Solid Waste Department's Heavy Trash pick-up schedule that we have heard about, starting in March, are NOT OFFICIAL. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW OSB'S CURRENT HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE** until you are notified of an official change.

Garbage and recycling will continue as usual on the OSB schedule.

Be reminded that with an OSBCA membership, "News Blasts" like the one above are sent between monthly Bugler issues when important updates arise. The monthly Bugler is sent to OSBCA members every month.

NOT A MEMBER?

Non-members can read the *Bugler* on our website: **OldSpringBranch.org**

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: Thursday, April 2, 2026

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

-2026 SCHEDULE-

MONTH	RECYCLING <i>(Every other Friday)</i>	HEAVY TRASH <i>(Fourth Thursday of the month)</i>
March 2026	☐ 3/6 ☐ 3/20	☐ TREE Thurs., 3/26
April 2026	☐ 4/3 ☐ 4/17	☐ JUNK Thurs., 4/23
May 2026	☐ 5/1 ☐ 5/15 ☐ 5/29	☐ TREE Thurs., 5/28
June 2026	☐ 6/12 ☐ 6/26	☐ JUNK Thurs., 6/25
July 2026	☐ 7/10 ☐ 7/24	☐ TREE Thurs., 7/23
August 2026	☐ 8/7 ☐ 8/21	☐ JUNK Thurs., 8/27
September 2026	☐ 9/4 ☐ 9/18	☐ TREE Thurs., 9/24
October 2026	☐ 10/2 ☐ 10/16 ☐ 10/30	☐ JUNK Thurs., 10/22
November 2026	☐ 11/13 ☐ 11/27	☐ TREE Fri., 11/27
December 2026	☐ 12/11 ☐ 12/25	☐ JUNK Thurs., 12/24
January 2027	☐ 1/8 ☐ 1/22	☐ TREE Thurs., 1/28

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

KNOW WHAT TO RECYCLE: WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BIN

YES! You Can Recycle These:

- **Metal & Cans:** Aluminum and tin cans such as soup, vegetable, fruit, and coffee cans. *(Be sure to empty and rinse.)*
- **Cartons:** Both gable-top and shelf-stable food and beverage cartons like milk, juice, soup, and soy milk cartons. *(Empty and rinse.)*
- **Glass:** Bottles, jugs, and jars only. *(Empty and rinse.)*
- **Paper:** Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, and office paper.
- **Cardboard:** Flattened cardboard boxes and cereal boxes. *(Remove all packing materials.)*
- **Plastic:** Bottles, tubs, and jugs numbered **#1–5 and #7**. Examples include water and soda bottles, milk jugs, yogurt cups, margarine tubs, detergent, and shampoo bottles. *(Empty and rinse.)*

NO! Keep These Out of the Green Bin:

- Batteries or electronics
- Shredded paper
- “Tanglers” such as cords, hoses, wires, and clothing
- Food, liquids, trash, or *bagged* recycling
- Furniture or household goods
- Scrap wood or scrap metal *(no helium tanks)*
- Yard waste

A SPECIAL REMINDER: GARAGE AND YARD SALES

As we enter the spring and summer months, garage and yard sales tend to become more common throughout the neighborhood. We would like to remind residents of the guidelines that apply to these types of sales.

Garage and yard sales are **not regulated by the City of Houston**. Instead, they fall under the authority of the **Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts**.

Residents are allowed to hold **only two (2) garage or yard sales within a twelve (12) month period**. If more than two sales are held, the activity may be considered a business and the resident may be required to obtain a **Texas sales tax permit**.

Because many subdivisions prohibit solicitation and commercial business activity within residential areas, operating a business from a home may also violate neighborhood deed restrictions.

Residents who attempt to operate a business from their home may be subject to additional City of Houston requirements. At a minimum, a **Certificate of Occupancy** may be required. It is also important to note that **there is no permit issued by the City of Houston specifically for garage or yard sales**.

The Texas Tax Code, Title 2, Chapter 151, Section 304 addresses occasional sales and the application of sales tax requirements.

For more information about the regulation of garage or yard sales or state tax requirements, please contact the **Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts** at **1-800-252-5555** or **713-462-8200**.

DEED RESTRICTION INFORMATION

Deed Restriction Committee

Deed restrictions are agreements that help protect the character of our neighborhood. While enforcement is usually handled by homeowners and the civic association, the City of Houston Legal Department can enforce certain restrictions related to property use, building setbacks, lot size, structure placement, and some fence permits.

To report a possible violation, call the City of Houston Deed Restriction Hotline: 832-393-6333.

Note: The City cannot provide legal advice about deed restrictions. For legal guidance, please contact a private attorney.

Finding Your Deed Restrictions

Copies may be obtained from the Harris County Clerk's Office at 713-755-6405 or in person at the Harris County Civil Courthouse, 201 Caroline, 3rd Floor.

Stay Informed

Residents can sign up for City of Houston permit alerts by ZIP code to monitor new permits issued in the neighborhood.

GETTING OUR YARDS READY FOR SPRING

Jo Lightsey

The “Road Hawk” will be riding again at the end of April! Spring is a wonderful time to get outside and give our yards and gardens some attention. Many neighbors spend this season trimming, planting, and improving their landscaping, and it is always enjoyable to see how residents refresh their properties after the winter months.

Each month we highlight “Yards of the Month” in The Bugler. These are homes whose yards stand out for their care, creativity, and overall appearance. It is a fun way to recognize neighbors who help make Old Spring Branch look welcoming and well maintained.

Thank you to everyone who takes pride in their yard and helps keep our neighborhood looking beautiful!

How Yards Are Selected for Yards of the Month

If you would like your yard to be considered for Yards of the Month, here are some of the things we look for when selecting homes to feature.

What We Look For

- A healthy, well-maintained lawn that is regularly mowed and edged
- Landscaping that shows care and upkeep, including trimmed shrubs and trees
- A yard that appears clean and orderly, free of clutter or debris
- Walkways, driveways, and curbs that are tidy and swept when needed
- A pleasant and balanced landscape design, using plants, shrubs, or flowers
- Good use of color and seasonal plantings to enhance curb appeal
- Overall maintenance that reflects pride in the property

Additional Considerations

When selecting Yards of the Month, we also take note of the following:

- Plants and landscaping are healthy and in season
- No outdated seasonal decorations or lights remain displayed
- Fences, porches, patios, and other exterior features are well maintained
- Outdoor spaces are arranged appropriately for outdoor use
- The yard contributes to a pleasant and attractive streetscape

As always, City of Houston codes and Old Spring Branch deed restrictions should be observed.

PROHIBITED YARD PARKING UPDATE

The City of Houston has updated enforcement of the Prohibited Yard Parking (PYP) ordinance. Violations will now be handled by Community Code Enforcement under Houston Public Works.

Residents can report yard parking violations by calling 3-1-1 to create a service request. **Old Spring Branch is enrolled in the PYP Program, which allows inspectors to investigate and enforce violations in our neighborhood.**

For more information about the ordinance or to check program details, visit:

<https://www.houstontx.gov/planning/Prohibited-Yard-Parking-Ordinance.html>

For additional questions, contact Council Member Amy Peck’s office at 832-393-3010.

CRIME REPORTS: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2026

Virginia Lehman

Listed below are the incidents reported in our area for January 1 – February 25, 2026

- Two (2) reports of Simple Assault: January 10th, 4pm, and February 2nd, 8pm, 7800 Block of Amelia.
- Two (2) reports of Aggravated Assault: January 9th, 3am, 7400 Block of Long Point and February 21st, 5am, 2100 Block of Antoine.
- One (1) report of Intimidation: January 19th, 3pm, 7600 Block of Hammerly.
- One (1) report of Animal Cruelty: February 24th, 2pm, 7600 Block of Hammerly.
- One (1) report of Theft of Motor Vehicle: February 16th, 10am, 2000 Block of Jacquelyn.
- Three (3) reports of Theft from Motor Vehicle: January 20th, 10am, 7400 Block of Long Point, February 21st, 9pm, 2100 Block of Antoine (2 incidents).
- One (1) report of Family Offense: February 19th, 10pm, 2100 Block of Antoine.
- One (1) report of Trespass of Real Property: January 25th, 3pm, 2000 Block of Antoine.
- One (1) report of Arrest (Driving Under the Influence): February 10th 7pm, 2000 Block of Harland.
- Three (3) reports of Arrest (Drug violations): February 10th, 6pm, 7700 Block of Long Point, February 11th, 10am, 2000 Block of Antoine and February 13th, 2am, 2200 Block of Counter Point.
- Two (2) reports of All Other Larceny: January 30th, 6pm, 2000 Block of Antoine and February 18th, 12pm, 1800 Block of Thonig.
- One (1) report of Perp Search/Chase: February 16th, 11am, 7400 Block of Long Point.
- Three (3) reports of All Other Offenses: February 2nd, 3pm, 7600 Block of Amelia, February 15th, 10am, 2000 Block of Jacquelyn and February 24th, 8am, 7700 Block of Long Point.

Please note the above information was gathered from SpotCrime website.

CITIZENS ON PATROL UPDATE

Virginia Lehman

Did anyone notice that there was no Citizens on Patrol (CP) article in last month's newsletter? I apologize for that. I was dealing with several family health issues during most of January and February.

Because of this, we were only able to report 20 patrol hours for the month of January. Due to the newsletter's publication deadline, February's patrol hours will be reported in the April issue.

As always, I want to thank all of our CP volunteers for their support over the past year, and I hope I can count on that same support in 2026. I truly believe our patrols make a difference in helping keep our neighborhood safe.

If you would like to join our CP Patrol group, please contact me at (832) 748-8088 (please leave a message) or by email at virginia.lehman@yahoo.com.

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



Brubaker and Associates
real estate appraisers and consultants

Mike Brubaker, SRA
President

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WWW.THEWOMENSHOME.ORG








Address: 1911 Antoine Dr
Houston, Texas 77055
Tel: (713) 683-3817
Fax: (713) 683-7077
E-mail: admissions@samtech.edu

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

MARCH 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 	7
8	9	10 OSBCA Mtg, 6:30p	11	12	13 	14
15	16	17 PIP, 7p	18	19	20 	21 <i>May put out Heavy Trash</i>
22	23	24	25	26 HEAVY TRASH: TREE	27 	28
29	30	31	1	2	3 	4
Positive Interaction Program (PIP) meetings – Third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Faith Center Chapel, 8009 Long Point.						

<u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u>
OFFICERS	
President: Jo Lightsey 713-681-0560	Advertising: Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634
Vice President: Loretta Nalley 832-868-8751	Beautification: Jo Lightsey, 713-681-0560
Secretary: Linda Whatley 713-681-0560	Citizens on Patrol (COP): Virginia Lehman, 832-748-8088
Treasurer: Virginia Lehman 832-748-8088	Communications: Sybil Sánchez, 832-722-2331
STREET REPRESENTATIVES	Deed Restrictions: <i>Committee of Five</i> Contact: 713-681-0560
Antoine: <i>---Vacant---</i>	In Touch: Gerry Thielemann, 713-682-9634
Counter Point & Turquoise: <i>Anonymous</i>	Landscaping: Nino Roman, 832-877-4701
Harland & Todd: <i>---Vacant---</i>	Membership: Loretta Nalley, 832-868-8751
Jacquelyn/ E. Hammerly: Mike McGeehon 713-922-0116	Social: <i>---Vacant---</i>
Johanna: <i>---Vacant---</i>	
Silverbonnet, Cedel & W. Hammerly: Eric Schmidt 281-840-1521	
Thonig: Sybil Sanchez 832-722-2331	
Woodvine: Rosario Machorro 713-391-6355	