

Crestwood/Glen Cove Neighborhood News



Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2008

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Next All-Neighborhood Meeting Tuesday, April 1 @ 7pm

All homeowners in the five Crestwood and Glen Cove subdivisions are invited to attend our all-neighborhood meetings. Held twice each year according to our Civic Club by-laws (a copy of which are posted on our website, www.crestwoodglencove.org), the meetings give us an opportunity to get together and discuss issues of common interest as well as to vote on board members and the budget.



At the October 2007 meeting, a record 48 homeowners attended and discussed neighborhood security. Almost everyone at the meeting supported additional patrol services, but priorities differed among random patrols, armed vs. unarmed patrols and reliance solely on HPD. Also discussed was the challenge of getting more people to participate in supporting the security fund and thereby sharing the cost. For further details on what has been decided, please see the article on page 4.

Our next all-neighborhood meeting will be held Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7pm in St. Theresa's Catholic Church's

community center at 6622 Haskell.

A flyer will be distributed with the meeting agenda and signs will be posted around the neighborhood to remind you about the meeting.

The main topics for discussion will be the status of **security**, threats to our **deed restrictions** and details on our **tree planting** project. We also plan to vote for new board members and discuss the Civic Club's budget for the next three years.

We hope you will attend so we can get your input on these items and other topics of concern or interest. See you there!

This Newsletter is brought to you commercial-free by **FedEx Kinko's @ Washington & Durham**. The Civic Club encourages you to use them for your shipping and printing needs. (See coupon on back.) Please let them know you appreciate their support!

Monument Sign at the corner of Westcott and Memorial

Thank you to Clint McMichael for allowing us to put the sign on his property and for contributing money and flowers to the final project. Also, a BIG thank you to Ellen Lapointe for getting the job done! It cost Ellen two long years and many headaches. Thanks for your determination! It looks great!



Receive newsletters & announcements by email. Let us know your preference. communications@crestwoodglencove.org

Neighbor's Musical

Do you have a special announcement to make or a neighbor to recognize?
communications@crestwoodglencove.org

Philip Yosowitz of Terrace Drive has written a musical, *The Gold*, which will premier March 28 through April 6, 2008, at the Jewish Community Center. A work of historical fiction, *The Gold* takes the audience through significant events of the 20th century, including Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, the founding



of Israel, and the 1972 Munich Olympics. Through its soaring music and dramatic storyline, this work of historic fiction reminds us of the dangers of hatred and apathy. Several native Houstonians

are lending their talents to this production, including Brad Dalton, internationally acclaimed director, and Steven Jamail, music director for the Rosie O'Donnell foundation "Rosie's Broadway Kids in New York City". For details, go to www.TheGoldTheMusical.com.

Tree Planting Planned

Exciting News! The Crestwood Civic Club is financing a tree reforestation project for all the esplanades along Westcott. This year we will be planting trees on the three esplanades between Camellia and Blossom. The esplanades will be planted similarly to those along Memorial Drive in either March or April of this year.

Why did we decide to spend Civic Club funds on this project?

1. It will beautify our neighborhood's border along Westcott and reflect well upon our neighborhood
 2. It will enhance the park-like feel of our neighborhood
 3. It will be good for the environment
- The distribution of trees will depend on the current state of the esplanade

Trees will be planted along Westcott between Camellia & Blossom in March or April - Keep a look out!

as some esplanades have more trees than others. The remainder of Westcott will be completed by 2010 or sooner if we get support from local businesses. Send your comments to president@crestwoodglencove.org.

Crestwood Civic Club Board Members As of March 2008

President	Ellen Lapointe	713/426-0098	president@crestwoodglencove.org
VP/President-Elect	Kim McVeigh	713/863-9710	communications@crestwoodglencove.org
Treasurer	Mary Christ	713/410-4888	treasurer@crestwoodglencove.org
Secretary	Sharon Choens	713/868-4974	secretary@crestwoodglencove.org
Newsletter/Website	Kim McVeigh	713/863-9710	communications@crestwoodglencove.org
BlockHead/Recycling	Rebecca Marvil	713/861-6804	blockheads@crestwoodglencove.org
Deed Restrictions	Chris Shamaly	713/880-5990	deedrestrictions@crestwoodglencove.org
Member	Carolyn C. Garcia	713/528-6555	info@crestwoodglencove.org
Member	Brent Larsen	713/301-1687	info@crestwoodglencove.org
Member	Eric Newman	713/880-9692	info@crestwoodglencove.org

Go to www.crestwoodglencove.org for updated information. Board members/positions will change in May 2008.

2007 Block Party

The Crestwood / Glen Cove annual Block Party was held on Sunday, November 7, 2007. The weather couldn't have been better, and we had a great turn out. Every year we see more children, who enjoyed the animal balloons, face painting, and the always-popular moon walk. I could be wrong, but I think some of the girls dominated the football game.

The singer was fantastic, and he kept everyone entertained for the duration

of the party. Hot dogs, soft drinks and beer were available for all. The desserts and additional side dishes were wonderful this year; thanks to all who contributed!

It does, indeed, take a block to hold a block party. Special thanks to Mary Christ of Greenwood King for sponsoring the event, including providing the moon walk, the clown for the face painting and animal balloons, and the soft drinks and

keg. Jane Page Crump of Jane Page Design Group provided the live entertainment again this year. Mike and Sharon Speck provided the grill, use of their property for the football game, and they opened their home to watch the football games that were underway. Randy and Cheryl Sorrels contributed use of their yard for the moon walk. Paul Copello and David Delemos again organized the annual football game. Hope to see you in November for our '08 Party.



More pictures available at www.crestwoodglen Cove.org

Neighborhood Security Update

Last Fall, your Civic Club solicited bids from firms to provide security patrol services. **Dave Bucci, Christine Kirchner, Bill Spangler** and **Chris Wilson** volunteered to evaluate the bids. A concurrent effort was made to get written commitments - either supporting or opposing - from all residents. *Thank you to the committee members, board members, Lisa Ortega, Ofelia Mayo, Joni Landon and Susan Knight for help with this project.*

Unfortunately for those of us who support the additional patrols, we received less than 50 commitments. While more than 45 of the respondents supported the additional patrols, we did not receive enough commitments for the Civic Club to enter into a contract for security patrol services. As a result, we no longer have a private security patrol service covering our neighborhood.



Call HPD at 713-884-3131 if you see someone acting suspiciously or dangerously. Call 911 for emergencies.

The Civic Club will not send invoices for security services this year and will return all checks received in 2008. The security fund balance, about \$1,700, will be invested in a CD for possible future use and security will be discussed at the April all-neighborhood meeting.

Adopt-a-Streetlamp

Have you ever noticed the lovely streetlamps throughout Memorial Park? Next time you are running around the park or driving through it, please take a look. Now imagine our neighborhood with those streetlamps, instead of the ugly silver ones we currently have. Replacing the streetlamps will be expensive and a logistical nightmare but the Civic Club believes it would improve the look of our neighborhood. Do you agree? Would you be willing to donate



money or your time? Any money you give would go to your street. The street that raises enough money gets the lamps first! Tell us what you think. Get involved! Help organize your street or just adopt a streetlamp. Contact Kim McVeigh at 713/863-9710 or email projects@crestwoodglencove.org to ask questions, voice your opinion or volunteer to help. Look forward to hearing from you.

Corral the Grease

Help the City Save Money by Reducing the Number of Pipe Blockages

The City of Houston began a new program that aims to prevent plumbing blockages and sanitary sewer overflows. When warm in the sink, Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) float. When cool in the sewer pipe, FOG hardens and becomes solid.

Since most plumbing and sewer lines are small, FOG can easily block the sewer. A blocked sewer can be worse than just inconvenient and unpleasant. It can cause an overflow that sends pollution to our creeks, streams and bayous.



You can help by properly disposing of grease and other items that can clog your plumbing. You may never have to use a plunger again!

Do Not Pour FOG down sinks or toilets. Pour liquids into heat resistant containers (emptied aluminum cans work great) and let the liquid solidify. When cool, place the container

Dispose of oils & fats in the trash, not down the drain...

into a plastic bag, tie it closed and put it in your regular garbage.

Scrape fats, grease and food from plates and cooking utensils into the trash—not down the drain.

Remember, garbage disposals are not effective for disposing of FOG.

For more information about the City's program, visit www.corralthegrease.org.

**Originally printed in November '07 for 002 magazine
Thank you to 002 and Memorial Park Conservancy
for sharing such a great article.**

ART | LIVING



MEMORIAL PARK : rooted in history

by William Taylor



Conservancy engages in a wide range of activities to preserve the park's native habitat, and at the same time, ensure the enjoyment of Memorial Park by the public. The Conservancy's 30-member volunteer Board of Directors works in partnership with the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Houston Parks Board and other organizations.

In 2004 the Houston City Council approved the Memorial Park Conservation Master Plan. The Plan is on a 25-year timetable, which the Conservancy, in conjunction with an internationally recognized consulting firm, developed and has begun implementing. The Conservancy is making the Master Plan a reality through fund raising, education programs and volunteer activities. The Plan's goal is to preserve Memorial Park's unique combination of green space and recreational capabilities for future generations of park users. Within this process, improvements will be made to the bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Memorial Dr. and the canoe launch, new trails will be made, and a new visitor center will be built.



MEMORIAL PARK IS NAMED AFTER MEMORIAL DRIVE, RIGHT? THE CITY JUST DECIDED NOT TO DEVELOP THAT PARTICULAR PIECE OF LAND, RIGHT? WELL, ACTUALLY THE TRUTH BEHIND THE PARK'S NAME IS MUCH MORE MEANINGFUL. THE LAND WAS LOGGED FOR THE U.S. MILITARY TO BUILD CAMP LOGAN AND TRAIN SOLDIERS DURING WORLD WAR I. THEN IN 1924 MEMORIAL PARK WAS ESTABLISHED THERE, IN MEMORIAM OF THE SOLDIERS WHO TRAINED AT THE CAMP.

Memorial Park Conservancy is dedicated to the preservation of the native habitat of Memorial Park for future generations; to the public use, enjoyment and education in accordance with conditions of the conveyance to the city by the Hogg family; and to the ongoing support of the Houston Parks Department.

Memorial Park is much larger than Central Park, over 24,900 acres in fact, and it has 4 million users annually. Within the park, 155 acres is designated to the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, which provides environmental education to the public. Approximately 10,000 use the Seymour-Lieberman trail daily, and 64,000 rounds of golf and 42,000 tennis matches are played annually. Oh, and if you're interested in purchasing the land, it will cost you a minimum of \$1 billion.

Having such a significant asset to Houston's heritage and current residents, it's more than understandable why conservation is a necessity. The Memorial Park

As Sally Tyler, Executive Director of the Conservancy, said, "There will never again be such a large amount of land inside the Loop. And because there are so many people who love Memorial Park, there are a lot of opportunities for diplomacies."

So what can Houstonians do to help Memorial Park? Right now there is a need for volunteers to work in the Conservancy's main office answering phones, filing, entering data and helping with public relations and web updates. Or you can become a member of the Conservancy and help fulfill their mission of preserving and enhancing Memorial Park for the future.

If interested in membership, contact their Membership Program Coordinator at membership@memorialparkconservancy.org or call 713.863.8403.

Memorial Park is open from 6am - 11pm, 365 days/year.

Memorial Park Conservancy, Inc. | P.O. Box 131024 | Houston, TX 77219 | 713.863.8403

28 november | the houston

Private School Option

by Bill Gebhardt

I know many parents in the neighborhood struggle with schooling options for their children. I wanted to make you aware of a wonderful private school option with excellent proximity to our neighborhood and downtown: Trinity Lutheran School. Trinity Lutheran School and Early Childhood Center (6 weeks through 8th grade), established in 1879, is a fully-accredited, private school located in downtown Houston. The school provides excellent aca-

demics complemented by a well-rounded focus on the whole child, including music and arts, language, and athletics. The school is located on the northwest side of downtown, and holds monthly open houses for interested parents. For more information, go to www.tlsdowntown.org or feel free to call me at 281/705-2511.

If you want to share information about your favorite school or any other topic, send your article to communications@crestwoodglencove.org and it will appear in the next newsletter.

Restriction Violation

As previously reported, we believe a homeowner in Glen Cove III violated the five-foot side setback requirement in the deed restrictions. Once the Civic Club learned of the apparent violation, we asked the City of Houston to enforce our deed restrictions. The City is currently prosecuting an action for that purpose. We understand the trial dates for the case have been set and will continue to provide updates to the neighborhood.

Bayou City Art Festival

Memorial Park
March 28-30
10 am - 6pm

www.bayoucityartfestival.com

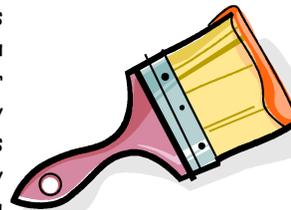
People will park along our streets during the festival. Be prepared.

Directories Delivered

The '07-'08 directories were delivered in December. If you did not receive one and believe you should have (by paying your 2007 voluntary homeowner's dues), please contact Mary Christ at treasurer@crestwoodglencove.org or call her mobile at 713/410-4888. Please email any suggestions for improvements.

Curb Painting Update

In your July 2007 dues notice, we asked if you would like to have your curb painted. The majority of homeowners wanted this service. We unexpectedly had difficulties finding a reasonably priced and reliable company to provide this service. We have now found a company that will



paint the curb numbers for all dues payers who requested it. The curbs will be painted in March, but no later than April. Thank you for supporting your Civic Club. Please contact any member of the board with questions. Thank you for your patience!

Feral Cats in the Neighborhood



by Bill Owens

One day, in my driveway, I saw a bedraggled black mother cat with 3 gray-striped kittens. They all skittered away when approached. A few days later, by the corner of the house, in the front yard, there was the momma cat with 2 kittens. They were very wary. A couple of days later, the momma cat was across the street with only one kitten.

What had happened to the other two kittens? Was the momma not able to feed them? Had they taken sick and died? Or maybe the coyotes had eaten them? The world is a dangerous place for cats on their own.

Oh, scary thought! How soon will she have another litter?

****Contact the SPCA at 713/869-SPCA****

Westcott Condo Update

Residents in the condo building at the end of Blossom/Feagan at Westcott alerted the Civic Club to a proposal to redevelop the building. The condo owners met and decided against the proposal. We do not know if other proposals are forthcoming, but will work with the condo owners to make sure any future redevelopment conforms to our deed restrictions.

Helping Preserve Our Neighborhood

By Ellen Lapointe

As President of our Civic Club since May 2007, I have become involved in issues that protect our neighborhood. Enforcing our deed restrictions continues to be an on-going effort, but we are also facing some new challenges and will probably face more as time goes on. I want to focus here on one recent challenge.

Glencove Street, south of Memorial, is a small street of mostly single family residences that are almost all within our Glen Cove I subdivision. In the early 1990s, residents on Glencove realized their deed restrictions did not automatically renew and worked on a revised set of deed restrictions that would permanently protect the neighborhood. Unfortunately for those of us who support deed restrictions, three homeowners, including the Memorial and Glencove corner lot that is now the mid-rise condo and the adjacent lot on Glencove where the patio homes are sited,

elected not to join the new deed restrictions. When the old deed restrictions expired, these lots essentially became unrestricted properties.

On the opposite corner of the street, the two single family residences at 6005 Memorial and 6003 Glencove are not part of Glen Cove I subdivision. Rumors recently have been heard by neighbors that the homeowner (1) wants to sell either or both large parcels, and (2) refuses any commitment to sell for single family residential purposes. Neighbors on Glencove are understandably worried about what might be built on either or both these parcels.

A majority of the homeowners on the south side of Glencove signed an application started by homeowner **Katy Emde** that would apply the City of Houston's Special Minimum Lot Size requirement to the two lots in question. If approved, the lots would be required to remain single family residences on lots of at least 17,000 sf.

The Planning Commission's role is to hold a public hearing, make sure all the criteria of the Special Minimum Lot Size ordinance are met and, if so, pass the application to the City Council for further deliberation. Despite the facts that all the criteria for the Special Minimum Lot Size were met by the applicants, a majority of homeowners on Glencove as well as representatives from the Civic Club attended the Planning Commission meeting to speak in support of it and both **Council Members Pam Holm and Peter Brown** tried to help, the application was denied.

The Commission process was confusing, Commissioners did not seem to listen and, to add insult to injury, a couple of the Commissioners seemed to intentionally belittle and almost heckle the supporters. It was a very disconcerting and disillusioning meeting.

What can you do? Please contact Mayor White, Council Members Holm, Brown and the rest of the Council Members to let them know you do not appreciate the Planning Commission (1) treating speakers with such blatant disrespect and (2) ignoring City ordinances. Encourage our elected officials to uphold the Special Minimum Lot Size ordinance and help us protect our neighborhood.

Mayor Bill White, 713-247-2200, or mayor@cityofhouston.net

Council Member Pam Holm, 713-247-2007, or districtg@cityofhouston.net

Council Member Peter Brown, 713-427-2014, or atlar-ge1@cityofhouston.net

If you want to find out more about this issue, contact Ellen Lapointe, Mary Christ or Bill Owens by phone or email.

Dogs Off Leash

Several residents throughout the neighborhood have complained about dogs running loose without a leash. **The City of Houston has a leash law.** With a leash, pet owners can exercise their dogs outside while other residents can be assured the dogs will not pose a threat (or leave an unwanted mess!). *Please keep your dogs on a leash when they are not secured within your property.*



3-1-1

311 is a consolidated system operated by City of Houston that provides a single, easy-to-use number to access city services from 6a.m. till midnight, 7 days a week. You may report any problem involving city services by calling 311. You also may log into the website, www.houstontx.gov/311, to report the problem via e-mail. 311 may be used to report problems ranging from pot holes to water leaks to burned out street lights. You can also order a recycling bin through this handy number. Remember ... 311 for help, 911 for emergencies.

