

Crestwood/Glen Cove Neighborhood News



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Fall 2009

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Next All-Neighborhood Meeting Tuesday, October 20 @ 7pm

All homeowners are invited to our Civic Club's twice-yearly all-neighborhood meetings. The meetings give us an opportunity to get to know our neighbors, discuss common issues and vote on matters of neighborhood interest.



Crestwood/Glen Cove is a highly regarded neighborhood. We continue to adapt to the changing needs of our residents by doing things

such as re-introducing security services. In 2009 we signed a new contract for patrol services provided by the Harris County Constables. Hats off to Andrea Russo for spearheading this project! Please turn

to page 4 for an update on the Constable's work in our neighborhood. Our next all-neighborhood meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, at 7 pm in the cafeteria of St. Theresa's Catholic Church. The church is located next to Memorial Park at 6622 Hasckell. We hope to see you there!

You can read this newsletter in color on our website, www.crestwoodglencove.org.

Thanks to Post Oak Financial Group for advertising and paying for printing and shipping! Please see their ad on the back.

Sign up for e-mail delivery to reduce costs further.

Block Party—November 1

The annual Crestwood/Glen Cove all-neighborhood party - aka "Block Party" - will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009, from 2-5 on Terrace Drive (from addresses 311 to 323). Last year's block party was the best attended yet, as neighbors swapped stories about Ike. Randy Marshall will be back by popular demand and entertain us as we talk and eat with neighbors.

Children's activities include animal balloons, face painting, and moon walk. Beverages, brats and hot dogs will be available for everyone (and beer for adults). We are asking neighbors to bring desserts though this is definitely not a requirement (experience shows it's a great way to rid yourselves of that pesky Halloween candy). Festivities will be

capped by the annual football game on the lawn.

Be sure to mark the date on your calendar. This block party is once again sponsored by Mary Christ at Greenwood King Properties. If you have any interest in helping out, please contact Mary at 713.410.4888 or MaryC@GreenwoodKing.com.

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

Thank You to Outgoing Board Members



Ellen Lapointe served for 4 years as President, Security Chair & Deed Restriction Chair.



Chris Shamaly served on the Board for two years and was instrumental during our issues with the deed restrictions.



Sharon Choens (*not pictured*) served on the Board for over 8 years as President and Secretary.

Thank you to all 3 for their dedication and hard work!



Welcome to our New Board Members



Scott Nelson - Secretary



Lisa Cooper—Board Member



Mike Vandusen—VP/President-Elect

Crestwood Civic Club Board Members

As of April 2009

President	Brent Larsen	713/301-1687	president@crestwoodglencove.org
VP/President-Elect	Mike Vandusen	713/864-0221	vp@crestwoodglencove.org
Treasurer	Mary Christ	713/410-4888	treasurer@crestwoodglencove.org
Secretary	Scott Nelson	713/269-2619	secretary@crestwoodglencove.org
Newsletter/Website	Kim McVeigh	713/863-9710	communications@crestwoodglencove.org
Recycling	Rebecca Marvil	713/861-6804	recycling@crestwoodglencove.org
Board Member	Lisa Cooper	713/864-1024	info@crestwoodglencove.org

District G Candidate Forum Wednesday, October 7, 7-9 pm

Location: St. Theresa's Church

Pam Holmes has been the District G Council person but is now term-limited. All candidates running for District G have agreed to attend a Q&A forum so we can get to know them and their positions.

The Crestwood/Glen Cove, Camp Logan, and Rice Military neighborhoods are joining together to sponsor the forum.

This date was selected to accommodate the candidates and early voters.

Residential Parking Permit Initiative in W/Ave Area



Rice Military plans to petition for a residential parking permit for the first three blocks south of Washington Avenue. Magnolia Grove is close to starting a petition for inclusion in the RPP, and Camp Logan would like the entire neighborhood to be included in the RPP. Although our neighborhood is currently unaffected by the parking challenges along Washington Ave., we want to make sure everyone is aware of this issue.



Homeowner's Voluntary Dues & 2009-2010 Neighborhood Directory

You should have received a bill for the 2009 voluntary homeowner's association dues in the mail recently. Dues are \$60 per household (\$20 for seniors). These dues continue to fund neighborhood projects. Last year we began the tree planting project in the Westcott median. The previous year we were able to complete the new Crestwood/Glen Cove monument at the corner of Westcott and Memorial Drive.

All homeowners who pay their dues will receive a copy of the neighborhood directory. Please be sure your information is correct! If you have any questions about paying your dues or neighborhood directory updates, please contact Mary Christ at MaryC@GreenwoodKing.com.

Drainage Between Terrace Dr. and E. Cowan

Living in Houston with our regular storms, we all recognize the importance of good drainage. When our neighborhood was originally developed, the drainage plan was designed to use the natural swales (defined as "a shaped and sloped depression in the soil surface used to convey water run-off to a desired location") behind many of our lots and empty the water into the bayou. Some homeowners have begun to fill in the swale behind their homes and block the drainage necessary to keep our homes safe and dry.

You might have noticed the striped pink stakes along the 400 block of Terrace and E. Cowan and along the drainage-way or swale at the rear of the lots between these two streets. Responding to the drainage concerns of residents, the City of Houston placed the stakes to help

re-establish or re-define the width and depth of the swale. An original plat identified a swale easement on the Terrace lots of approximately 12' wide by 4' deep. The City requires the swale be maintained and not filled in. They have determined that filling in the swale will disrupt the original natural storm-water flow which could cause flooding. This action will likely affect the lots in the 300 and 200 blocks of Terrace and E. Cowan, especially since the City requires draining large lots into the same drainage-way. The City will enforce encroachments of the swale easement by asking the homeowner to remove the obstruction at the homeowner's expense.

We appreciate the City's efforts to reduce the likelihood of flooding in our neighborhood.

Neighborhood Security Update

Our deputy has been patrolling the neighborhood since mid July. He is doing a great job keeping our neighborhood safe. It seems that we had a big problem with cut through traffic speeding through our neighborhood to get to and from the park.

The Deputy's statistics for the month of August are as follows: he made 3 arrests, 55 court citations, and 14 verbal warnings. For Service Calls he has had 29 citizen contacts, 1 investigation, 1 suspicious vehicle, and 50 misc. calls. A total of 6 re-



ports were made with a total of 88 calls. He had a total of 166 different activities for August and he patrolled 709 miles.

By now everyone who participated in the security program should have received their car windshield decals for your vehicle, the direct phone number to dispatch, and a vacation watch form. If you have not yet received your information packet or have decided you would like to participate, please contact me immediately.

Place the car windshield decals in an obvious place on your car so in the event you are pulled over the deputy recognizes you as a resident and member of our neighborhood.

If you see any suspicious activity in the neighborhood please contact the dispatcher so it may be investigated immediately.

Again we appreciate your participation in the program and WELCOME any new participation, questions, or comments.

Andrea Russo



Did You Know?

There is a City Ordinance that states you can NOT put your trash cans out before 6 pm on the day before collection. You also must roll them back to your property after trash pickup.

In addition to being the law, keeping trash (and recycling) bins off the street as much as possible helps keep our community neat and attractive and is courteous to your neighbors

Neighborhood Improvement Project Proposals Needed

As you may know, the Crestwood Civic Club received a cash settlement earlier this year when the City and a neighbor agreed to settle a deed restriction violation lawsuit.

We are seeking suggestions from everyone in the neighborhood about how to use this money to benefit Crestwood/Glen Cove. We will discuss proposals first at the Oct. 20 All-NH meeting and plan to

hold an official vote at the April 2010 All-NH meeting.

If you have an idea that has a tangible, long-lasting benefit to the neighborhood, please send your project proposal to: projects@crestwoodglencove.org. And please attend the All-NH meetings so we can all decide what is best for the neighborhood. We appreciate your input!

Do you have a special announcement to make or a neighbor to recognize?

communications@crestwoodglencove.org

3-1-1

You may report any problem involving city services by calling 311. You may also log into the website,

www.houstontx.gov/311, to report the problem via e-mail.

Remember ... 311 for help, 911 for emergencies.



Spec's shuts store after license dispute

By Mike Tolson, Houston Chronicle (edited)

Spec's Liquors has closed its store on Washington Avenue only a year after it was opened following a dispute with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission over the validity of its licenses.

Lawyers for Spec's agreed to voluntarily surrender the licenses at an administrative hearing Friday. Had they continued with the appeal process and been forced to deal with the matter in district court, Spec's owner John Rydman faced an unpleasant potential consequence if they lost.

"The district court judge could have prevented him from getting a license anywhere in the state for a year," said Linda Geffin, an assistant Harris County attorney. "I think he did a risk/benefit analysis and decided we are going to give our permits back here. We had a much bigger hammer."

The upscale Spec's liquor store, which also sold specialty foods, opened in 2008 at the corner of Washington and Westcott. Shortly afterward, the company received a letter from the TABC asking for surrender of the liquor and beer-and-wine permits because they had been issued in error. A city ordinance restricts alcohol sales within 1,000 feet of schools. The store sits 665 feet from Memorial Elementary School.

Spec's knew of the problem when it applied for the license, Rydman has acknowledged. The proximity is noted on the application for the permits. However, Rydman said because the school is several blocks away and across a traffic roundabout that a waiver could be obtained.

When the city of Houston approved the permits, he said he thought an exception had been granted and that he was free to go ahead with a renovation and build-out that he said cost more than \$400,000. Spec's also signed a five-year lease on the property totaling an additional \$2 million.

Rydman said before spending the money he double-checked to make sure there were no problems and was assured that neither the city nor the school district opposed the prospective store.

"I thought once you got the permit you were crystal," Rydman told the Chronicle in March. "I had no idea they could come back after this and change their minds. I wasn't about to spend a whole lot of money for nothing."

But the Harris County Attorney's Office said no waiver had been issued and that the approval was a clerical error. It contended that the municipal ordinance is clear and that Spec's or those doing its permit work should have been aware that they had not obtained an exception. Geffin said the permit issued by the city was temporary and was designed for restaurants where alcohol accounts for less than 50 percent of total sales.

Spec's filed a lawsuit in July against the city and county while it was attempting to keep the store open. The lawsuit alleges violation of equal protection and due process clauses of the U.S. Constitution because of the revocation of the permits. The suit is still pending.



NEW Automated Recycling Program



In August, the city replaced each household's green recycling bins with one large green container on wheels. Crestwood/Glen Cove is now part of the city's automated curbside recycling pilot program. All recyclable materials go in the 96-gallon green bin and are taken to an automated sorting center.

We can now easily recycle glass as well as plastics, aluminum, cardboard, magazines and newspaper.

Please do not use your new recycling bin as a trash can for food, garbage or yard waste.

The following items can and should be placed in the green cart:

- Newspaper
- Plastic Containers 1 through 7 (rinsed & drained)

- Magazines
- Aluminum and Tin Cans (rinsed & drained)
- Catalogs
- Cardboard (flattened)
- Phone Books
- Glass Bottles and Jars (rinsed & drained)

As a courtesy to your neighbors, please don't forget to store your trash and recycling bins out of sight from the street except for collection day.

If you have any questions about the new program or any other recycling queries, please contact Rebecca Marvil at recycling@crestwoodglen Cove.org, call 3-1-1, the City Customer Service Hotline or log on to www.houstonsolidwaste.org.

**Crestwood
Civic Club**

P.O. Box 131594
Houston, TX 77219-1594

E-mail:
info@crestwoodglencove.org

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**Frank
Richardson**



As seen in

TexasMonthly

www.HoustonAdvisor.com September 2009

***Call or email
for his article
“Five Ways to
Make Money
In These
Uncertain Times!”***

Frank@FrankRichardson.com

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Frank has been a licensed Financial Advisor for 29 years. He is a Certified Wealth Strategist and a Member of the Trusted Source Network for the American Medical Association Insurance Agency.