

Crestwood / Glen Cove Neighborhood News



A Publication of Crestwood Civic Club

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Several residents have filed applications to have speed cushions installed on their streets. These are not the older-style speed bumps, but the smaller footprint cushions recently installed in Rice Military. It seems the City is currently not funding cushion installations, but private funding is an option, and can speed up the installation process. This will be a topic on the fall meeting agenda, so come prepared to discuss the issue.

Memorial Elementary has been a long-time fixture in our neighborhood. A new principal has been at the school for about 3 years, and is making changes to raise the quality of education at the school.

A group of parents from the surround-

ing neighborhoods have formed a non-profit group to help in that effort, to have a local school for their children. The founder of the group and the principal will be at our meeting to discuss the events taking place at Memorial Elementary.

The block party will also be held on November 3, so put it on your calendars.

As you can see, things are progressing in Memorial Park. The new loop road is to open this year. The Kinder Foundation gift of \$70M will make other improvements happen much quicker than originally planned. Read the Out and Around article to learn about bicycle and pedestrian access to the park.

Mike VanDusen

In this issue:

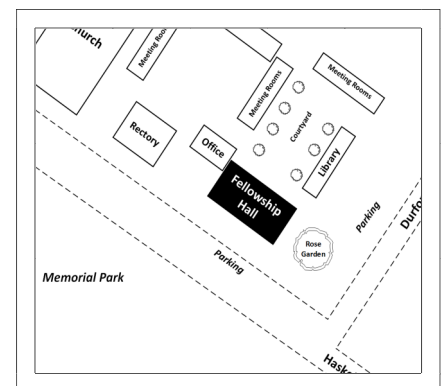
Neighborhood Meeting	1
Speed Cushions	2
Block Party	2
Memorial Elementary	3
Minimum Lot Size	3
Out and Around	4
Club Information	5

All-Neighborhood Meeting is October 16, 7pm !

OCTOBER						
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Residents are invited to our next All-Neighborhood Meeting to be held Tuesday, October 16, at the Fellowship Hall at St Theresa Catholic Church. The meeting will begin at 7pm.

Street parking is available on Haskell, next to the hall, or in the church parking lot on Durford.



Speed Cushions

Several residents have submitted applications to the city to have speed cushions installed on two streets in our neighborhood; Crestwood and Glenwood.

Glenwood gets significant cut-through traffic during rush hours from drivers wanting to avoid the Memorial/Westcott intersection. Several minor accidents have occurred where drivers have hit parked vehicles. The excessive speed of the vehicles, coupled with the lack of sidewalks on the street, have made many residents living on Glenwood feel their street is no longer safe.

Crestwood is the longest street in the neighborhood, and has but one traffic control stop sign at the intersection of Blossom.

The lack of curbing on the west side of the street and the 25+ feet of paved width, creates a condition that allows drivers to speed on the street. The excessive speed and the fact that the stop sign is not observed by some drivers has created safety issues for residents on Crestwood.



When the applications were submitted, it was learned that the city is currently not installing cushions due to a lack of funding. What was also learned is that there is a self-funding option available to neighborhoods.

This means that residents can elect to spend their money to install cushions on the public streets in their neighborhoods, and contract with companies to perform the installation.

The city requires the cushions meet municipal code because the city will continue maintaining the street after installation. And the city will perform the administration of the application, that requires contacting the affected residents to verify support.

This is a new funding option for the city, and there will probably be a lot to be learned, if the neighborhood decides to pursue the cushions. This will also be one of the topics of discussion at the neighborhood meeting. If you live on one of the streets, please plan on attending.



Block Party

The neighborhood block party will be held this year on November 3, from 12 to 4 pm. Christine Kirchner will be hosting the party at her home at 418 West Cowan.

The party is again being organized and coordinated by Sunee-ta Rangwani. Food and drinks will be provided, as well as chairs and tables.

The turnout at last year's party was good, attracting about 80 people. This is a great family event, and an opportunity to relax and meet some of your neighbors.



National Night Out?

Several residents have asked about National Night Out. The neighborhood has traditionally not participated in this event because the block party has been the social event in the neighborhood, and usually held soon after the night out event.

But if there is sufficient interest in National Night Out, the club can investigate coordinating that event next fall, and moving the block party to the spring.

Please come to the neighborhood meeting so that the night out event can be discussed.

Lifting Memorial Elementary

by Tami Hamilton

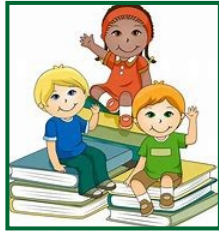
Lift Memorial is a new non-profit organization, formed to support and improve the quality of education at Memorial Elementary School. The organization was formed by a parent building a home in Rice Military, who wanted his daughter to attend a local public school.

HISD can award up to 6 commendations each year to all schools. When Principal Dr. Maria Garcia came to Memorial Elementary 3 years ago, the school had been receiving no commendations. A vice principal, specializing in science and technology, has been added this year, as well as a counselor and music teacher. This year, the school received 4 of 6 commendations, and enrollment is rising. The aim of Lift is to partner with the PTO to support Dr. Garcia, her staff and students, to build on this progress, and make Memorial competitive with any inner-loop HISD school.

Achieving this goal will take community support. HISD has a goal to partner with non-profits, and there are examples of success, including Learning Local, which supports Hogg Middle School. Lift is made up of parents of pre-school children, zoned

to Memorial Elementary, and retired individuals in the community.

Lift recently partnered with Urban Harvest to refurbish the gardens at the school, and provide weekly outdoor classes and create



a life science curriculum for the teachers. There will be community days at the gardens during the school year where community members will be encouraged to partici-

pate. Lift is seeking donations of gardening equipment and funds to maintain this program.

Plans are being finalized for improved technology for all classrooms. The school is seeking volunteers to help in several areas, including science labs and math tutoring. If you want to get involved or help support this effort to improve our local elementary school, please contact Tami Hamilton at (832) 597-1359 or email tame-la.hamilton@gmail.com.



Minimum Lot Size

by Mike VanDusen

The last minimum lot size ordinance for the neighborhood, north of Memorial, was approved by city council in July.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MINIMUM LOT SIZE BLOCK APPLICATION

The Planning and Development Department has received an application for the establishment of a Special Minimum Lot Size Block (Section 42-197 of the Code of Ordinances) for

Haskell, west side, between Byway and Arnot

For information, contact the Houston Planning and Development Department at (832) 393-6600

This leaves one street in the neighborhood eligible for the protection afforded by the designation: Crestwood, south of Memorial.

Due to the layout of this section of Crestwood and the presence of private enclaves along the street, the city will likely require more than one application be submitted. The planning department will need to provide guidance to characterize those applications.

Because of the research required by the city and applicants, the civic club board is asking to hear from the affected residents as to their desire for the designation. If you live on Crestwood, south of Memorial, and have questions, please attend the neighborhood meeting.

After the meeting, the club will send an email to the affected residents, explaining lot size designation, and asking for support before proceeding.

Out and Around the Neighborhood

by Mike VanDusen

Greystar Development

The company will finally start development of their property on the southwest corner of the traffic circle. Work should begin in the January/February time frame.

The civic club board reached out to Greystar, asking them to provide any details that might be available. The project leader responded, indicating that the detail design was still being finalized. But she did reveal that the building is to be 12 stories, with 9 residential floors over 3 parking levels. Units will be 1-3 bedrooms and penthouse apartments will be available. Amenities will include valet and concierge services.

Plans should be available in November, and the project lead indicated they would be willing to make a presentation of their project. Since the development will affect Camp Logan and Crestwood, a meeting at St. Theresa Fellowship Hall will likely be arranged for both neighborhoods.

The club board will notify residents as soon as arrangements are made.



Memorial Park Bikeways

Two bikeway proposals for cyclists accessing the park have been proposed. The first, and most ambitious, has been proposed by the Conservancy and Uptown Management District.

These groups will be partnering with the City and Harris County to seek a \$30M federal grant to fund the bikeway. The proposal for the north segment is to build a bikeway in the powerline corridor on the west side of the park. A pedestrian/bike bridge would be built across IH-10, and the bikeway extended to Old Katy Road. From there, an off-road bikeway would be built between the northwest transit center and the Washington intersection to the east.

On Washington, an off-road bikeway would be built under the train tracks at Hempstead Road, then turn east to connect with the White Oak Trail, just east of T C Jester.

Since most of this bikeway would be built off-street, it would minimally impact neighborhoods and motor vehicles.

The second proposal is to connect the White Oak trail to the north entrance to the park at IH-10 and Westcott intersection. The bikeway will use streets in the Cottage Grove neighborhood, allowing cyclists to cross to the south side of IH-10 using the Cohn Street pedestrian bridge. TxDOT is investigating widening

the bridge to better support cyclists and pedestrians.

Once on the south side of IH-10, a bikeway would be built in the highway right-of-way, west to the Washington/Westcott/IH-10 intersection. TxDOT and Houston Public Works are aware that this can be a troublesome intersection, and are investigating ways to change the intersection to make it safe for cyclists, and safer for motorists. A federal grant is also being sought to fund this bikeway.

Quality of Life

It should come as no surprise that residents living east of T C Jester find living close to Washington Avenue challenging. The City encouraged high-density residential development to rejuvenate many of the neighborhood, and then declared Washington Avenue as an entertainment corridor because of its proximity to the sports venues downtown.

The super neighborhood containing Washington has dealt with some of the unruly bars in the past. At the request of residents in Rice Military and Westwood Grove neighborhoods, a Quality of Life committee has been formed to help deal more effectively with the conduct of a few of the bar owners and their patrons.

This effort will likely take a while to become effective. The goal is to make Washington Avenue corridor a better place to live.

Board Members

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Blockheads

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