



Crestwood / Glen Cove Neighborhood News



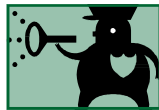
A Publication of Crestwood Civic Club

Volume 9, Issue 2

In this issue:

Neighborhood Meeting	1
Saving Trees	2
Washington Ave	3
Security Committee	3
Board Information	3
Fire Prevention	4
Blockheads	4
Buffalo Bayou	5

Our neighborhood has a new security committee that is investigating ways to enhance the security of our homes. Attendees at our Fall neighborhood meeting will hear what is being considered, and feedback to proposals will be welcome.



happen around our neighborhood. The articles on Washington Avenue and Buffalo Bayou tell the stories.

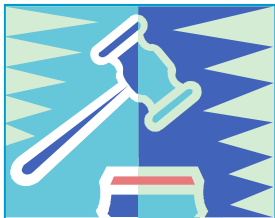
Memorial Elementary

Members of the Civic Club met with Mr. Harvin Moore, HISD trustee, who oversees Memorial Elementary School, as well as two other HISD administrators. We have been assured that the school will not close, but challenges still exist. Issues regarding the school will be discussed at the neighborhood meeting.

The drought we have been experiencing has brought devastation to the trees in Memorial Park. Please read the articles on saving trees and fire prevention.

Some undesirable things continue to

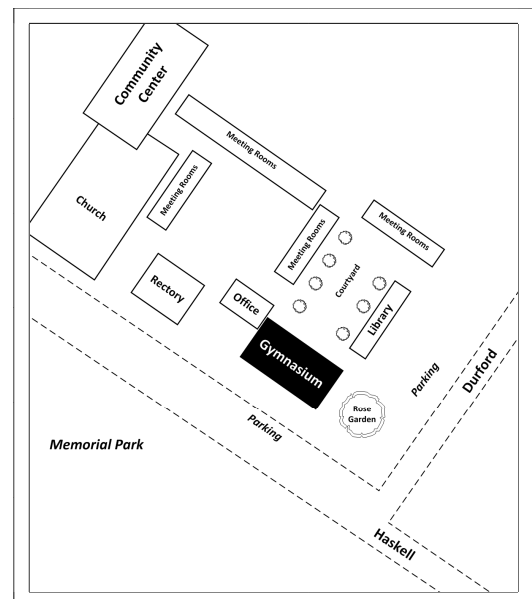
All-Neighborhood Meeting is October 18th !!



All homeowners are invited to our next All-Neighborhood Meeting to be held at St. Theresa's Catholic Church on Tuesday, October 18, at 7pm. Like the Spring meeting, it will be held in the **Gymnasium**,

NOT the Community Center.

The Gymnasium is on the corner of Haskell and Durford, and the best parking is at the lots near Memorial Park and on Durford. Signs will be posted by the cafeteria and Haskell parking lot, directing residents to the Gymnasium.



Saving Your Trees

The mature trees around our homes are an invaluable part of the character of our neighborhood. They are worth trying to protect from the current drought conditions.

The best way to insure tree survival is adequate watering. Mature trees need water about once per week, while younger ones should be watered twice weekly. This falls within the conservation requirements of the City.

The most efficient way to water is with a garden or soaker hose. Before watering, test the soil to a depth of about 8 inches with a screwdriver. If the soil is damp to this depth, further watering is not required. For homes with automatic sprinkler systems, proper watering may require adjusting the watering time for the zone serving a tree. The 8" guideline should be used, regardless of how the water is applied.

Garden hose watering begins by flooding an area close to the trunk. Reduce the flow to prohibit



runoff. Test every 30 minutes until 8 inches of soil has been penetrated. Once achieved, move the hose to another location under the tree, and repeat until the entire area under the tree is watered.

An easier approach is using a soaker hose. Encircle the tree with a soaker hose. If using more



that one hose to get the desired coverage, remove all restrictors in the hoses except for the one closest to the water source.

When using a sprinkler, let it run until about 1 inch of water is delivered. An easy way to determine this is to place an empty 5oz. tuna can in the coverage area and wait until the can is filled. If using a hose-end

sprinkler, make a note of the time required to fill the can, and run it for a similar amount after moving it.



Do's and Don'ts

Do

- Always measure the depth of ground moisture before and during watering to determine proper water delivery. Once determined, use the time to deliver as a guideline for future watering.

- For hose or soaker delivery, use a water timer to minimize overwatering.

- Establish a successful watering regime, and stick to it. The current drought

is likely to continue for some time.

Don't

- Use quick-release fertilizers under a tree during a drought.
- Dig or disturb the ground under a large tree. This adds to the stress created by a drought.
- Prune live branches from a

young tree. These branches will be needed after the drought ends.

These guidelines have been developed by the Texas Forrest Service. For detailed information, see:

<http://www.youtube.com/TexasForestService>

Washington Avenue Activity

At a recent Super Neighborhood 22 meeting, it was learned that the owners of several sexually oriented businesses in Houston have acquired several properties on Washington Avenue. The closest to our neighborhood is at 5335 Wash-



ington, across from St. Theresa Thrift Shop. The owners have filed for an alcohol beverage license in the name of "Patio Pub".

A City of Houston attorney stated that the City has filed a protest with the TACB, asking that the license application be de-

nied. The reasons stated in the protest is a high incident of crime at existing businesses with the same owners. The crimes stated in the protest include prostitution and sale of illegal drugs.

The application is under judicial review and the judge has until November to render an opinion. While this judicial opinion is non-binding, the TACB usually acts in accordance.

If the opinion favors issuing the license, there is a short comment period during which the TACB will hear opinions from other stake holders. According to the City Attorney, this will be the time for concerned citizens to voice their opinion.

The civic club board will keep residents informed since this is an important issue for neighborhoods in the Washington Avenue corridor.

Security Committee

A group of residents recently formed a committee to review security issues in our neighborhood. Several meetings have been held and many options have been discussed and reviewed.

Things that have been looked at include:

- Street closures to limit access to our neighborhood
- Security cameras to record vehicles on our streets and

provide monitoring to people patrolling our neighborhood

- Security patrol options
- Creation of a social networking group that enables residents to share suspect activities in an expedient manner

Members of the committee will be at the Fall neighborhood meeting to make some recommendations, answer questions, and provide more details.

Board Members

President	Mike VanDusen	(713)864-0221	president@crestwoodglencove.org
Treasurer	Madyson Chavez		treasurer@crestwoodglencove.org
Secretary	Scott Nelson	(713)269-2619	secretary@crestwoodglencove.org
Board Member	Lon Stern		board2@crestwoodglencove.org
Newsletter/General Info	Susi Knight	(713)494-0372	communications@crestwoodglencove.org
Security Board Member	<Open>		security@crestwoodglencove.org
Architecture Committee Liaisons	Bill Owens Susanna Nelson	(713)861-0995	architecture@crestwoodglencove.org

Fire Protection in Drought Conditions

When you mix drought and forest, the result can be *fire!*

Living next to Memorial Park is one of the major attractions of our neighborhood, but also brings the risk of a Wildland/Urban Interface. Each year, wildfires consume homes in wilderness environments, and studies show that up to 80% of these losses can be prevented if owners adopt a few simple practices.

While residents living on Crestwood may be exposed to the highest risk, we all have trees in our yard that produce leaves and needles. And Fall promotes addi-

tional leaf litter that can fuel a fire.

Protecting your home means creating a defensible zone around it. This is done by:

- Removing all dying/dead vegetation, including grass.
- Removing leaf litter from yard, roofs, and rain gutters.
- Pruning vegetation away from windows.
- Removing any combustible materials from under outdoor decking.
- Keeping grass cut to a height no higher than 4 inches.
- Creating a zone of separation

between trees and vegetation under trees by keeping the vegetation pruned low and removing low branches on trees.

Residents have probably noticed the City Parks Department removing dead and dying trees along Haskell and Crestwood. While the loss of trees in Memorial Park is tragic, removing dead trees safeguards park users and lowers the risk of fire to nearby homes.

Hopefully, the City will also clear the wood chips and litter from the park grounds close to our homes.

Blockheads

Street	Blockhead	Email Address
Arnot, Byway, Haskell	Joan Hughes	Arnot.Byway.Haskell@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Blossom	Ellen Lapointe	Blossom@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Camelia	Sharon Choens	Camellia@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Crestwood, NOM	Marilyn Ho	Crestwood.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Crestwood, SOM	Joni Landon	Crestwood.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
East Cowan, NOB	Cherrill Farnsworth	ECowan.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
East Cowan, SOB	JoAnn Owens	ECowan.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Feagan	Anne Coles	Feagan@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Floyd	Ofelia Vujasinovic	Floyd@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Glencove	Katy Emde	Glencove@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Glenwood	Minnette Carrabba	Glenwood@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Memorial	Lenny Castiglione	Memorial@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Rose	Ofelia Mayo	Rose@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Terrace, NOB	Susanna Nelson	Terrace.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Terrace, SOB	Mary Christ	Terrace.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
West Cowan	Rebecca Marvil	WCowan@CrestwoodGlenCove.org

South of Memorial

Residents living south of Memorial recently learned of a Harris County Flood Control District project to change the path of Buffalo Bayou. The goal of the project is to mitigate erosion of the bayou banks.

Work on the project at HCFCD started earlier this year, but residents did not hear of it until a public comment meeting was scheduled for August 24. At this meeting, engineers presented a plan incorporating new river management techniques that require altering the present course of the bayou. The stabilization of the

banks of the bayou are minimally invasive, and do not include use of traditional techniques employing concrete or cinder blocks.

Another “feature” of the project is the formation of oxbow lakes where the bayou once flowed. The lakes form because the old bayou bed is not backfilled after changing the path of the bayou. Figure 1 shows the proposed changes to the path of the bayou and the location of the resulting oxbows.

After listening to the presentation, residents uniformly opposed the project.

The main objection is to the oxbow lakes. Owners that live on the bayou see these lakes as a breeding ground for mosquitos and collection point for trash and debris during heavy rains when the bayou is likely to crest the newly formed banks.

Many homeowners objected to losing their view of the bayou, which is what attracted them to the homes they purchased. Several residents have already made large investments to stabilize the bayou on their property and see the project as unneeded.

The HCFCD engineers also disclosed that River Oaks Country Club was contributing over \$1M to the \$6.5M project budget. While this was lauded by the engineers as a public/private partnership, residents noted that the Club has several golf holes jeopardized by the bayou and the cost to preserve them would be considerably greater than the project contribution. Residents also noted that the project area along the bayou started and stopped at the boundaries of the Club.

While the cost of the new mitigation technology may be less than traditional methods, the creation of oxbow lakes close to homes in urban environments will likely continue to meet stiff resistance.



Figure 1

Crestwood Civic Club

P.O. Box 131594
Houston, Texas 77219-1594
Email: info@crestwoodglencove.org

www.crestwoodglencove.org

Happy, Healthy, and Wholesome

