

THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

Membership Edition

A PUBLICATION OF THE **BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

LATE SUMMER 2017

From the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

"A good neighborhood is not an accident". Boulevard Oaks is a premier historic neighborhood and great place to live as a result of the dedication of our residents, the commitment of time by our neighborhood volunteers and your continued financial support.

As a desirable, close-in neighborhood in one of the fastest growing, most dynamic cities in the country, Boulevard Oaks offers access to great schools, fantastic cultural amenities, restaurants, entertainment and green space. However, we also face the accompanying challenges of re-development, traffic, parking, infrastructure maintenance and criminal activity. These challenges are addressed with the help of committed residents and the outstanding manager, Evalyn Krudy, and the Board of Directors of the Boulevard Oaks Civic Association.

Over the next year, BOCA will continue to be your voice in addressing ongoing issues related to development (historic and subdivision restrictions and residential/commercial balance); protection of trees and green space; infrastructure improvements (streets, sewer and drainage, street lights); mobility (bike and pedestrian); and quality of life (blight, homelessness and graffiti).

BOCA will also continue to promote neighborhood engagement and involvement through social events such as Night Out (Oct.3), the Holiday Caroling Party (12/10), the Egg Hunt (4/1), Spring Mixer (date tba) and the fabulous 4th of July party.

I encourage you to stay involved in keeping our neighborhood great. You can do this by volunteering for one or more of committees or events, by offering your expertise, and by your financial support. Please renew your BOCA membership for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) at the highest level your budget allows. Regular level dues are only \$50.00. A membership form and reply envelope are enclosed in this mailing. We will also have an online payment option in the near future, so please check our website if you prefer to pay with a credit card or PayPal Account.

I look forward to working with you and am honored to serve as BOCA's president.

Sue Payne

President 2017-2018

Veretan Patrol Officers Roy Eveline and Bob Klosterman Retire



*Patrol officers past and present celebrate Roy's retirement:
(Left to Right): Richard Kent, Roy Eveline, Johnnie Vollert, Mark Vollert,
Bob Klosterman*

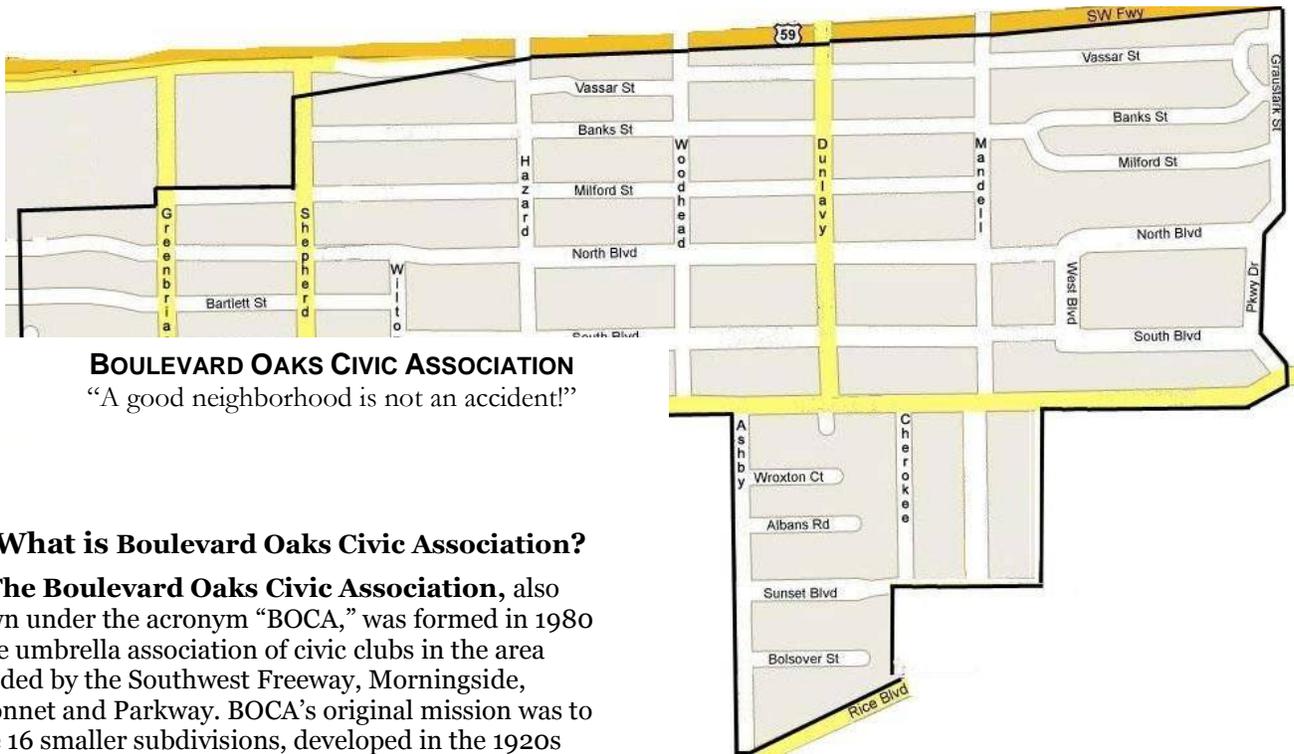
Two of our most seasoned and beloved Patrol officers, Roy Eveline and Bob Klosterman, have retired from HPD and from the Southampton/Boulevard Oaks Patrol Service.

Roy spent 33 years with HPD on nightshift and worked three to four days a week on dayshift for our Patrol for 29 of those years. Perhaps the best known Patrolman, Roy cared a great deal about residents of Boulevard Oaks during his many years on patrol. For those who knew him, the feeling was mutual. Bob Klosterman served 33 years with HPD and worked two to three days a week for the Patrol during 23 of those years. His dedication, professionalism and friendly community spirit have been greatly admired and appreciated. Bob arrested more suspects than any other patrolman, many of whom he chased down and tackled.

Roy and Bob were hard-working police officers who left no stone unturned when helping citizens. They always volunteered for extra assignments at HPD, and when our Patrol needed extra officers to patrol, they were quick to volunteer. Both Roy and Bob made many arrests for the Patrol over the years, and were highly respected and well-liked by their fellow officers at HPD and the Patrol Service. They took good care of our community and our city. Thank you very much for your service, Roy and Bob – we will miss you!

Boulevard Oaks Civic Association (BOCA)

FAQs about BOCA, other Civic Groups, and the Patrol Service



BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
 “A good neighborhood is not an accident!”

Q: What is Boulevard Oaks Civic Association?

A: The Boulevard Oaks Civic Association, also known under the acronym “BOCA,” was formed in 1980 as the umbrella association of civic clubs in the area bounded by the Southwest Freeway, Morningside, Bissonnet and Parkway. BOCA’s original mission was to unite 16 smaller subdivisions, developed in the 1920s and 30s, in order to prevent a rail line from being constructed in place of homes on the north side of Vassar Street. Thankfully, BOCA’s initial efforts were successful. Over the years, BOCA has championed numerous initiatives aimed at preserving quality of life and the special character of the neighborhood and surrounding area. These accomplishments include:

- Convincing TXDOT to rebuild the Southwest Freeway with a thoughtful, architecturally designed streetscape, bridges and landscaping.
- Keeping Rick’s Cabaret from opening a new location at Greenbriar and the Southwest Freeway (US59).
- Creating the Gateway US59 Scenic District, which has prevented new billboards from being located on the Southwest Freeway (US59).
- Planting more than 2500 street trees through the past 20 years and establishing one of the most notable urban forests in the nation.

Realizing the benefits of strength in numbers, blocks south of Bissonnet joined BOCA’s umbrella in the late 1980s and early 90s. These blocks included the 5300 blocks of Cherokee and Mandell, the 1700 blocks of Albans, Wroxton, Bolsover and Rice Blvd., and Southampton Estates.

Now more than 20 subdivisions strong, Boulevard Oaks is comprised of approximately 1400 residences ranging from mansions to modest bungalows to duplexes and apartments. A handful of commercial establishments

Now occupy some of the original homes and duplexes on Bissonnet and Sunset. BOCA is home to two historic districts protected by City ordinances -- the Broadacres and Boulevard Oaks Historic Districts -- which are also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. BOCA’s Historic Districts Committee and its Advisory Council monitor construction projects in the districts and formally communicate BOCA’s assessments to City authorities. If you are interested in historic preservation and would like to join the Advisory Council please contact Geoffrey Walker, gwalker@andrewskurth.com.

Thanks to the strength of these neighborhoods and the efforts of our organization and countless volunteer hours spent during the past 30 years, our neighborhood’s original residential character and charm remain intact.

Q: I receive bills from several neighborhood organizations. Which must I pay?

A: Neighbors are often confused by the variety of financial requests from area neighborhood organizations. Determining which to support, and with what frequency, can be a challenge. Depending on your subdivision, you may receive solicitations throughout the year from the seven groups listed below. While this may seem excessive, all of these organizations are separate entities, and there is no simple way at this time to combine the various fees into one bill.

1) Your subdivision's HOA assessments

(Several of BOCA's subdivisions have mandatory Homeowner Association (HOA) dues. Amounts vary by subdivision.)

BOCA is comprised of 20 subdivisions, each with its own deed restrictions. Some subdivisions have mandatory associations and are subject to mandatory annual dues and assessments such as Broadacres, Cherokee, Cresmere Place, Edgemont, Ormond Place, W. Ormond Place, Southampton Estates, Southampton Place Townhomes and Vassar Place. HOA assessments are used for deed restriction enforcement and may also include fees for private trash service. In the case of Edgemont, Broadacres and Southampton Estates, Patrol dues are included in HOA dues.

2) BOCA Dues *(voluntary but important)*

Boulevard Oaks Civic Association, an umbrella organization that deals with the broad issues affecting the 1,270 households and 20 subdivisions that comprise BOCA. Dues reminders are sent several times each year. Levels are \$50, \$100, \$200, and \$30 for tenants. You can read about our activities in this newsletter and on the web at www.BoulevardOaks.org. *(Note: Regular level (\$50) BOCA dues are included in assessments for Edgemont & Southampton Estates HOAs. Residents of these subdivisions may elect to increase their membership level in BOCA in their discretion.)*

3) BOCA Tree Fund *(voluntary / tax-deductible)*

The Trees for Boulevard Oaks project seeks to maintain the street tree canopy in all areas of Boulevard Oaks. This program is in conjunction with Trees for Houston and donations are fully tax deductible. Annual requests for contributions are mailed to all households in November. All funds raised go toward street-tree planting and maintenance of our beautiful green canopy. Checks should be made payable to *Trees for Houston*. Include "BOCA" in the memo.

4) Special Initiatives *(voluntary)*

Stop Ashby High Rise is a joint effort between residents of Boulevard Oaks and Southampton. For more information about the effort to stop the planned 23 story high-rise from being built at Ashby and Bissonnet, visit www.StopAshbyHighRise.org.

5) Sponsorship opportunities for BOCA's special events and newsletter *(voluntary)*

Special events include the 4th of July Party, Easter Egg Hunt, the Spring Mixer and Holiday Caroling Party. Newsletter sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting the BOCA office.

6) Southampton/Boulevard Oaks Patrol

(\$110 per quarter / voluntary / very important!!!)

The Patrol Service sends quarterly invoices to each household in the neighborhood.

Please be aware that the Patrol Service is a separate corporation from the Boulevard Oaks Civic Association. The Patrol service was, however, originally co-founded by BOCA and Southampton Civic Club.

Its name was selected to reflect the area it serves. BOCA appoints two representatives to the Patrol's 5-member governing board and stays in close communication with the Patrol Service Coordinator when crime patterns arise. BOCA also maintains the mailing list used for the Patrol's quarterly contribution requests. BOCA sends email crime alerts when there is a pattern of burglaries or other serious crimes. Please see page 6 for instructions about signing up for crime alerts. *[Note: Homeowners in Broadacres, Edgemont and Southampton Estates do not receive a quarterly solicitation because their patrol fees are included in their annual HOA assessment.]*

7) Friends of Fleming Park *(voluntary/tax-deductible)*

This organization oversees maintenance of Fleming Park located at Sunset & Kent. This city park is in easy walking distance. Donations may be mailed to FFP, c/o Jim Reardon, 2021 Wroxton Rd., Houston TX 77005

Q: Does my BOCA membership extend for one year from the date I last joined?

A: BOCA was established in mid 1980 and follows a fiscal year of July 1 - June 30, in accordance with its bylaws. Dues are applied to the fiscal year in which they are received unless otherwise instructed. However, you are welcome to pay at the same time each year.

Q: Why join BOCA if I already pay annual dues to my subdivision?

A: Working on big-picture items that affect the larger area ensures that all 20+ subdivisions comprising Boulevard Oaks Civic Association remain strong. Detailed information about BOCA's activities and benefits of membership are included in this newsletter. *[Note: BOCA regular dues are already included in the annual HOA dues assessments for Edgemont and Southampton Estates.]*

Q: May I pay for everything all at once?

A: At present, there is no way to combine your local civic club dues, BOCA dues, and Patrol fees unless you are part of a mandatory association which assesses for all of these entities. Your suggestions for simplifying neighborhood fundraising activities are welcome.

Volunteers Needed

Get to know your neighbors and become more familiar with what is going on in the neighborhood! Volunteer as a Block Captain or serve on a BOCA committee. Block Captains assist in a variety of important functions, from serving as liaison for their blocks, to welcoming new neighbors, to organizing block parties and "Night Out" events. They may also help notify neighbors about urgent news.

Additional volunteer opportunities are listed on the enclosed membership form and on our website.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact the Boulevard Oaks office at 713-528-BOCA or info@BoulevardOaks.org.



Officer Mike Thacker has been with the Patrol since 2004

Support the Southamton/ Boulevard Oaks Patrol

The Southamton / Boulevard Oaks Patrol Service, established 34 years ago, provides patrol coverage to the Boulevard Oaks and Southamton neighborhoods. The service is an invaluable asset to the neighborhood. The Patrol is able to respond quickly to a variety of calls ranging from suspicious persons to scam artists and graffiti vandals to calls about serious crimes. Although our tax dollars pay for police, the city's budget does not have the resources to provide regular beat patrols, nor are there enough HPD officers to meet the demand in America's fourth largest city. Our Patrol fills this void.

The Patrol is on-duty 24 hours a day. Our Patrol is staffed by off duty HPD officers. They wear badges, carry guns and make arrests. Many of the officers are assigned to our area during their regular HPD shifts and know the area well. They are available to follow up investigations and track area crime patterns. The Patrol operates two late model police vehicles that are equipped with factory police equipment packages, police type identification markings and lights. Vacation watch and alarm service response are available to subscribers by calling 713-825-5555.

We strongly encourage you to support the *Southamton / Boulevard Oaks Patrol* and to call **713-825-5555** whenever you see suspicious activity. The Patrol sends quarterly contribution requests to all households in Boulevard Oaks. Patrol subscriptions are \$110 per qtr. For more information, visit the Patrol page at www.BoulevardOaks.org under the "Information" tab.

Crime Prevention Tips from the Southampton/Blvd Oaks Patrol

HPD has an excellent Crime Prevention Manual on their website at www.houstonpolice.org. Here are a few of the helpful tips that the Patrol Service recommends every resident follow:

Turn on your porch lights to help stop crime.

Our Patrol officers request that all neighbors light their homes at night to help deter crime and to help our officers in their work. It's easy for criminals to hide in the shadows and avoid being caught. They also recommend that neighbors keep bushes and foundation plantings trimmed to eliminate hiding places.

Remove newspapers and flyers every day. Thieves know that accumulating media is a sign that no one is home. Patrol Subscribers may request vacation watch service by sending a message to SouthamptonBocaPatrol@yahoo.com or calling 713-825-5555.

Always activate your alarm system when you leave your home and overnight.

Answer the door when someone knocks or rings the bell through your locked door.

Let them know you are home. If someone is trying to break into your home while you are there, move around, shout and make a lot of noise to let them know someone is inside and call 911 immediately. That will usually scare them away.

If you arrive home to find that your house has been burglarized, do not enter your home until a Patrol officer or the police have checked it to ensure that burglars are not inside.

AT&T Utility Boxes Can Be Painted



The AT&T utility boxes at Dunlavy and Banks are frequently tagged with graffiti. Painted and muraled boxes are a deterrent.

At intersections where there are traffic signals, the City allows painting/muraling of the signal boxes for a \$2500 fee. No doubt you've seen the one at Bissonnet and Hazard. AT&T however, has not heretofore allowed painting of their growing number of steel boxes throughout the city, and on Shepherd, Greenbriar, Dunlavy and Ashby.

We now have the option to consider improving the appearance of the boxes. Thanks to negotiations by Southamton, AT&T will allow boxes to be painted under two conditions: (1) the design must be approved by AT&T in advance, and (2) neighbors must bear the cost of the painting.

BOCA has established a committee to research and consider options for the boxes. The owners of properties adjacent to the boxes will be included in this process. We will keep you posted as this project moves forward.

Fourth of July Party Fun

The Boulevard Oaks 4th of July Party grows more special each year. This was the 33rd year that the neighborhood 4th of July party that began on Milford Street has served as the primary fundraiser for Boulevard Oaks Civic Association, apart from annual dues.

This evening of fun and some poignant moments was kicked off by *Ted Hirtz* who led the annual parade. Rumor has it that Ted hasn't missed a neighborhood FOJ yet. The reading of the Declaration of Independence was coordinated by John Reveille. Readers included: *Calista Schneidau, Charlotte Murry, Caton Murry, Alejo Pieroni, Louie Eatherton, Ben Johnson, Paul Nugent, Ted Hirtz, Albert Ramos, and John Reveille*. The reading was dedicated to neighbors *Bill and Patricia Cunningham* who recently sold their Boulevard Oaks home. Bill led the reading of the Declaration for years and worked hard to pass the torch to a new generation of patriots.

Food brought by neighbors was so outstanding that new categories of award had to be created. Songs were sung and we danced in the street. Special thanks to everyone who worked so hard under the direction of event chairman *Donna Yanowski* and husband *Ken* along with their talented daughter *Dena*. Kudos to *Sue & Harry Lawson*, who serve as command central, and unofficial King and Queen of the 4th of July for the 33rd consecutive year.

Thanks also to our hard working volunteers who took on big roles -- especially Helen Toombs, Richard Holt and Sue Payne. Thanks to set-up/take-down volunteer (hostess chair), Mary Nugent (tables & large chests), Ted Hirtz (parade marshal), Sue Payne (emcee), Ben Johnson (flag bearer), *Tricia Grossman* (asst. hostess), and to the Lueders Family & the Burns Family for providing electricity. Thank you to our setup/takedown crew members: *the DeLange-Szulc Family, Louie Eatherton, Ted Hirtz, Ben Johnson, Betty & Jim Key, George Krudy, the Lawsons, Bob and Sharon Livitz, the Murry Family, the Mut Family, Mary & Paul Nugent, Sue Payne, Alejo Pieroni, Albert Ramos, John Reveille, Dave Shine, Janice & Richard Stuff, Helen Toombs, and the Yanowskis*.

Our appreciation to 8th WONDER BREWING for the donation of several cases of locally crafted beer for the party. This year the *Halal Guys* on Shepherd just across US59 served up a delicious Mediterranean dinner for volunteers after the set up party. *PICNIC* and owners *Sara & Rob Cromie* provided tasty trays for hungry Take-down party volunteers. Very special thanks to Boulevard Oaks neighbor and photographer *Elaine Matte Mut* for photographing the event. Photos can be downloaded from our website.

Super Star (\$250 & up)

Marsha & Lew Eatherton
Richard Holt & Mark McMasters
Michelle Ludwig & John Goodrich

Continental Congress (\$100 & up)

Bissonnet Southampton Vet Clinic &
Taffi Tippitt, DVM
Susan Allen-Bryan & David P. Bryan
Brenda & Joseph Cialone, II
The DeLange / Szulc Family
Sarah & Earl Dyke
Dr. Tam Huynh & Dr. Jeremy Erasmus
Cece & Mack Fowler
Mary & Robert Frappier
The Halal Guys (Shepherd @ 59)
Mary Lou Henry
Susan & Ted Hirtz
Marianne & Rob Jones
April & Doug Konopka
Sue & Harry Lawson
Sharon & Bob Livitz
Elaine & Alan Mut
The Nugent Family
Brian O'Donnell
Sue E. Payne



Richard & Bette Pesikoff
Picnic (Sara & Rob Cromie)
Julia & Nick R. Rasmussen
Joanna & Don Reid
John Reveille
Calista R. Schneidau
H. Irving Scheweppe, Jr. MD
Camille & Freeman Self
Harlene Anderson & H. David Shine
John J. Toomey
Roksan Okan-Vick & James Vick
Geoffrey Walker & Ann Kennedy
Sallie & Bob Wright

Sons & Daughters of Liberty (\$50 & up)

Patti & Jim Bell
Marie & R. Hayden Burns
Kathleen & C. Glenn Cambor
Nancy & Trey Christensen
Bonnie McMillian & Bruce Coffman
The Cornelius Family
Bonnie & Dan Cromack
Steven & Patricia Grossman
Alexis & David Kelly
Betty & Jim Key
Betty & Jim Krause
Barbara & Larry Lipshultz
Pat Gilmore Maass & Michael Maass
Tonja Martin & Claire Harvey
Carl Moore Antiques Inc.
Alma & Edward John Novotny
Amanda Hughes & Daniel Pickering
Lauren & Pat Rigby
Sue & Norm Rund
Annita & Newton Schwartz
Janice & Richard Stuff
Lily & Chip Wells
Donna & Ken Yanowski

Minutemen & Women (\$25)

Susan & Richard Keeton
Marci & Mark Arnold
Julie & David Baskin
Terri & Darden Bourne
Allison & Scott Brooks
Paula H. & John E. Cutler
Martha & Blake Eskew
Alyson Haas
Alicia & Stephen Howe
Katherine & George Howe
Robert B. & Dr. Jimmy F. Howell
Marjorie & J. Palmer Hutchison
Linda & John Knudsen

Evalyn & George Krudy
Mary Julia & Don Macune
Jack Meier Gallery
Sheila & Keith Owen
Judith & Robert Phillips
Allison & Chris Porter
The Savas Family
Claudia & Richard Toomey
Catherine & John Zamito
Sallie & Bob Wright



On the Shepherd Curve

**3821 Farnham St.
Houston, TX 77098
(713) 681-5465**

Subscribe to eNews & Crime Alerts

All neighbors are invited to subscribe to our electronic news and crime alerts list. To subscribe, send a message with your name and physical address to info@BoulevardOaks.org.

Neighborly Reminders

Please don't block the sidewalk. Keep sidewalks safe for everyone by ensuring cars do not block sidewalks. It is dangerous and difficult for small children, strollers and the elderly to navigate around cars parked across the sidewalk, or worse, to be forced to walk in the street due to illegally parked vehicles. Please be aware that HPD has initiated a citywide crackdown for this violation.

Parking Etiquette. Parking is one of the most common neighborhood irritants and while it's not illegal to park in front of another neighbor's home, it is polite to park in front of your own home when possible and to have your contractors and visitors park there too. Your neighbors will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Private Trash Schedule

(Edgemont Broadacres & Cherokee)

WCA Waste: 713-526-1536

Curbside & alley collection... Tues. & Fri.
 Recycling Fridays
 Yard waste..... Tues. & Fri.
 Heavy Trash pick-up.....By appointment

Cherokee Trash Changes

Effective September 1, trash and recycling collection in the Cherokee subdivision will be provided by Texas Pride Disposal. Texas Pride will collect glass along with regular recycling. More information about collection days is being sent to the affected homeowners. The customer service # is 713-705-3534. This service is only available to residents of the 5300 block of Cherokees and Mandell Blvd.

City Trash Reminders

- 1) Instruct crews to bag leaves and grass clippings in city approved bags, or haul away debris. Crews should not dump yard waste into recycling and trash containers.
- 2) Place city trash container and recycling bins at the curb and at least 3 feet apart. This helps solid waste crews empty and efficiently.
- 3) If possible, avoid parking on the street on trash collection day. If you must park on the street, please leave sufficient space between your vehicle and trash container to ensure city solid waste crews have adequate room to safely collect trash. Cars blocking bins will result in missed trash collection.
- 4) If your trash or recycling collection is missed, call 311 as soon as possible to report it.



City Trash Schedule

Questions? Call 311

Automated curbside collection	Tuesdays
Yard Waste (bagged)	Tuesdays
Recycling (Tues. B schedule):... every <i>other</i> Tuesday	
Aug. 8 & 22	Oct. 3, 17 & 31
Sept. 5 & 19	Nov. 14 & 28

Bins and yard waste bags may be placed at the curb after 6 pm the evening before collection. Please remove them by 10 pm the day of collection.

City Heavy Trash

Place items on the curb after 6 p.m. the Sunday before pick up. Tree debris is collected every month. Junk waste is collected in even months only.

Junk Waste/Tree Debris Collection:

Blocks East of Greenbriar:1st Friday
 Blocks West of Greenbriar:3rd Monday



Help Keep Leaves Out of Storm Drains

Please remind yard crews to pick up and bag leaves lying in the gutters and not to blow them into the storm drains. Clean gutters allow streets to drain properly and help prevent flooding. This illegal practice clogs the drainage system and creates the perfect breeding ground for mosquito borne illnesses.

If you see yard crews blowing leaves into storm inlets, please ask them to stop. If they persist, get their license plate and vehicle make/model and report them to the Police Dept. at 713-884-3131 or call the Patrol at 713-825-5555. Report clogged storm drains to city's **311** operator.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Aug. 28 | Poe Elem. 1st Day of School |
| Oct. 3 | Night Out in Boulevard Oaks
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Take to the streets and meet your neighbors. Check the BOCA website for block party locations |
| Oct. 31 | Halloween Party @ Fleming Park
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. @ Fleming Park. Come in costume for fun and refreshments. |
| Nov. 7 | Election Day Polls open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Most of BOCA votes at Poe, 5100 Hazard St. |
| Dec. 10 | Caroling Party Save the date. The party will take place in the late afternoon.
Watch your inbox for details. |



AN IB WORLD SCHOOL, WHERE EVERYONE'S AN ARTIST

(Submitted by Leah White, PublicRelations@PoePTO.org)

Important School Dates & Events in August:

Kinder Play Date: Saturday, Aug. 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the playground for incoming kindergarten or new-to-Poe parents and children. Spend time learning what to expect on the first day of school and making new friends.

School Registration Events: Tues. & Wed., August 22 & 23 from 4:00 pm. to 6:00 pm.
You can also register your child 8/21 thru 8/24 from 8:00- 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social: Thurs., August 24, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Come meet the teachers, fellow classmates and families. Children will be able to visit their assigned classrooms

First Day of School: On Monday, August 28 drop-off traffic is expected to be heavy from 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. Afternoon pick up traffic will begin around 2:45 p.m. and should diminish by 3:30 p.m. As parents become accustomed to the new routine, this period of heavy traffic will be shorter.

New Sign at Poe provides rapid communication with parents, neighbors

This month a new digital sign will be installed in front of Poe Elementary, replacing the original sign. Nearby schools such as Roberts, Lanier, and West U have installed similar signs to communicate important information to parents and area residents. The new sign is the result of several years of research and consideration. Poe PTO President Leslie Wubbenhorst said "This was a challenging task because we wanted to choose a sign that used the most current technology, and that also fit the historic character of the school and neighborhood."

The new sign will be sited in the same location as the original, but will be pivoted 90 degrees for greater visibility to traffic on Hazard. Selected messages will be displayed throughout the day, but after school the sign will be dimmed and will eventually be turned off at night to respect the surrounding neighbors. The design was inspired by the stone arch over the school's main entrance. The original sign will be preserved for another use on the Poe campus. The brickwork at the base of the original sign was installed through a Neighborhood Matching Grant awarded to BOCA in 2002, and will

remain in place, and will be enhanced by new plantings. The sign will provide timely communication with parents and the community. Please direct questions to Poe PTO President, Leslie Wubbenhorst at President@PoePTO.org. (Submitted by Leah White, PublicRelations@PoePTO.org.)

Beautification Projects underway

Beautification of the Poe school grounds is a top priority of the PTO this year. Improvements are underway throughout the campus. Flower beds have been mulched and new landscape edging installed. A beautiful new gravel seating area has been completed beside the rear playground. The grass that was planted in June looks great, and the jogging path has been weeded, compacted and leveled. Additional landscaping projects on the campus are planned for the fall.

Plan for Poe School Traffic on August 28

It's no secret that if you live anywhere in the vicinity of Poe Elementary when school starts, that it can be frustrating to get around or even back out of your driveway. Poe PTO hopes to alleviate neighborhood frustration and to share plans for managing traffic as school resumes.



Traffic Management by the HPD Officers and the Poe Parent Patrol

The PTO has hired two off-duty HPD officers to direct traffic at the intersections of Hazard/ South and Hazard/ North for morning drop-off to help manage traffic flow and reduce congestion. Please be aware that these are licensed peace officers and they can issue tickets, so please be respectful and follow their directions. The Parent Patrol will also be helping to improve safety and traffic flow during school drop-off and pick-up times by assisting children in and out of cars and by keeping an eye out for drivers parking illegally or attempting to block neighbor's driveways.

Neighbors Invited to Join Parent Patrol

Neighborhood volunteers needed. Join the Parent Patrol (see above) for a shift. Sign up on the POE Parent Portal or contact Trey Christensen (poeparentpatrol@poepto.org).



Construction & Development Buzz



Demolition Experts clearing the lot 1931 South Blvd.

1931 South Blvd. - Neighbors cheered when the crew arrived to demolish the burned out house at the corner of Hazard on July 18. Built in 1928, the vacant house burned in the early hours of December 8, 2015 and has been an eyesore and source of concern for neighbors and Poe parents for 19 months.

The City approved the demolition permit in June 2016 after the Fire Dept. concluded its arson investigation; however, the permit was extended multiple times to allow the homeowner to salvage building materials, according to city officials. Although the charred and collapsing structure is finally down, clean up activity appears to be ongoing behind the temporary construction fence panels.

1932 South Blvd. - The historic home at 1932 South Blvd. is being renovated and restored by new owners Katherine and Brett Mach. The city's Archaeological and Historic Commission (HAHC) granted permission remove an outdated covered walkway and garage and replace it with an attached garage/addition that will match the style and character of the original home.

Greenbriar Construction Meeting: 6 p.m. August 22 at Roberts Elementary

The City of Houston's Public Works and Engineering department is inviting area stakeholders to attend a community meeting regarding the Capital Improvement Plan project planned for Greenbriar St. from Rice Blvd. to W. Holcombe. The meeting will be held at Roberts Elementary School (6000 Greenbriar @ Swift) at 6:00 p.m. on August 22, and is open to the public. The project is expected to begin in September and will be built in five phases beginning at the Holcombe end.

Questions and comments may be sent via email to pweplanning@houstontx.gov. Project documents may be viewed online at www.rebuildhouston.org/community-engagement.

Variance Hearing for 5501 Ashby

A variance application has been submitted to the Houston Planning Dept. for 5501 Ashby to reduce the lot width requirement from 60 ft. down to 45 ft. The variance would allow the property owner to build a proposed multi-unit student housing facility. A hearing is scheduled for August 10 at the Planning Commission meeting at 2 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Chambers. This location near Bolsover and Southampton is the current site of a duplex built in the 1930s, and a 2200 sf residential unit, built in 1998, at the rear. The proposed development would include 28 efficiency units in clusters of 7, and is planned to have 14 parking spaces. The rear residence would remain.

Neighbors are concerned about the parking and trash collection problems that such a density will inevitably generate. Anyone interested in protesting the variance should contact Peter Johnson at pjohnson@pjlaw.com / 713.522.1015, or mark@davis-commercial.com / 832.832.9693. Information about this variance will be posted at www.BoulevardOaks.org as it becomes available.

4949 Convenience Store to be Demolished in September

The owner of 4949 Shepherd expects the existing building to be demolished and construction to begin in September. A three story mixed-use building is planned for the site. The ground floor will include space for a coffee shop.

A NATIVE HOUSTONIAN
WHO KNOWS AND SELLS
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

ANDREW MCCAIN
TOP PRODUCER

713.526.4847
andrewm@johnaugherty.com