



# THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2003

## BOCA's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY CAROLING EVENT

December 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

*by Sue Lawson*

On Monday evening, December 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Boulevard Oaks residents and their families are invited for an evening of caroling in the 1600 - 1900 blocks of North Boulevard. (Please note that this is a Boulevard Oaks event for residents and their families only.) Song sheets will be provided and refreshments will be offered on each block. Guests are asked to bring small flashlights (no candles, please) to see the song sheets (just in case you don't already know the words.) Dress for the weather, and wear sensible shoes. Santa Claus will be taking last-minute Christmas requests, so bring your cameras and camcorders.

Hostesses for each block are Janie Mason at 1619 North Boulevard, Sue Lawson at 1720 North Boulevard, and Mary Flood Nugent at 1908 North Boulevard. We are at this time looking for song leaders to head each group of strolling carolers, and more hostesses to help with the refreshment tables. If you wish to donate refreshments (cookies, sandwiches, finger foods, drinks), you may bring them to the home of one of the hostesses either during the day or that evening. Call Sue at 713-526-6400, or Janie or Mary if you wish to help. If you must bring a car, please park off of North Boulevard on a side street. You may begin on any block, grab a song sheet, join a group and start strolling and singing.

### *Poe PTO Invites You to Coffee*

Poe Elementary's PTO invites Boulevard Oaks residents to join friends and neighbors at a Poe Elementary School PTO Coffee on Tuesday, December 16, 2003 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the home of Kathy and Ron Kahanek at 1825 South Boulevard. Don't miss this fun get-together and wonderful opportunity to meet current Poe parents, chat with your neighbors and learn more about our neighborhood school. Please RSVP by calling 713-529-9336 by December 12, 2003.

### 1716 Bissonnet Liquor License Denied

La Villette Catering, a new business at 1716 Bissonnet, applied for a liquor license in order to sell and serve alcoholic beverages at catered off-premise events. Unfortunately, the license required by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) for this purpose is the same license that allows for sale and consumption *on-premise*. While La Villette has no intention of selling or serving alcoholic beverages at their Bissonnet site, if the liquor license had been approved for that address, the license would be grandfathered for that address, with little to no chance of successfully protesting a future bar or otherwise alcohol-related establishment there. BOCA and several Boulevard Oaks residents wrote letters of protest, and after a lengthy and convoluted process, the liquor license was denied.

**THANK YOU NEW AND RENEWING BOCA MEMBERS 2003-2004!**

Many thanks to those of you who have already joined BOCA this year—we can't operate without your support. The following list represents all contributions received since August 20, 2003. (Memberships received before then were published in the August 2003 *BOCA Newsletter*.) If you have contributed and your name is not listed, please call the BOCA office at 713-528-BOCA. Memberships received after November 30, 2003 will be listed in the next *BOCA Newsletter*. If you haven't already joined BOCA, please take a moment to do so today. You can always visit our web site at [www.boulevardoaks.com](http://www.boulevardoaks.com) and download a membership form. Remember—a good neighborhood is not an accident."

**PATRON**

Nancy & Roy Aruffo  
Lynn Haufract & Harry Binder  
Lisa & Scott Bowers  
Newie & Mark Brinker  
Brenda & Joseph Cialone  
Donna & Ross Crawford  
Leslie & Henry Glass  
Ann & James Harithas  
Laurie Lee & Dico Hassid  
Mary Lou & Vernon Henry  
Dr. Jimmy F. Howell  
Terri & Kurt Hull  
Sue & Harry Lawson  
Andrea & Gregory Mathis  
Kay Peterson & Neil McCabe  
Anne & John Mendelsohn  
Porcha & Mark Muller  
Mary & Paul Nugent  
Jenny & Hal Perkins  
Julia & Nick Rasmussen  
Dr. & Mrs. Irving Schweppe, Jr.  
Brenda Simmons  
Ellen & Matthew Simmons  
Anna Marie & Michael Simon  
Kevin Ney & Brian Wallach

Carlotta Ramirez & David Mackie  
Dr. Richard Jimenez & Adam Medrano  
Alice McPherson & Anthony Mierzwa  
Kelly & John Mooz  
Irene & Jack Pendergrast  
Judy & Morris Penner  
Howard Pieper  
Geoffrey Pike  
Saym Levy & John Pinkerton  
William Redmond  
Laurie & Pat Rigby  
Toni Edwards & John Rollo  
Dr. Shannon Schrader &  
Charles W. Leigh, III  
Tricia & Tommy Thompson  
Hazel Turner  
Dr. & Mrs. Brad Urquhart  
Leslie & Phil Wahl  
Eve & Sheldon Weisfeld  
Lily & Chip Wells  
Ruth Werlein  
Kara & Michael Williams  
Tom E. Young  
Christina Zunker & James Donnell

Mr. & Mrs. J. Calvin Cooper  
Rita Lucido & Phillip Costa  
Christy & Mark Craig  
Janet Kohlhase & Steven Craig  
Carlos Guerguin & John Crossman  
Heather & Randall Davis  
Mary Saunders Dilg &  
John Dawson  
Kathy & Walter Delange  
Winifred Diemer  
Sanford Dow  
Barbara Eaves  
Jean Edwards  
Julia & Larry Elliot  
Mary Evans  
Jay Fields  
Barbara & Kevin Finkel  
Mrs. Robert Gilliland  
Richard Gordon  
Linda Broocks & Jim Hall  
Henry Hamilton  
Lillian Harwick  
Mimi Hu & Colin Hendricks  
Jeff Lawton Henry & Scott Evans  
Trudy Herolz  
Jennifer & Garland Hill  
Gayle & Scott Hoffer  
Thomas Hill Hooks  
Stephanie & James Howell  
Marianne & Rob Jones  
Julie Muntz & Peter Johnson  
Lynn & Tynan Kelly  
Lynn Langston & Jan Koenig  
Lisa & Carl Kramer  
Elizabeth & Don Lagrone  
Yung Yung Lok & Eugene C. Lai  
Latimer Dental Arts  
Rosemary & Carlos Leach  
Colby Lemon  
Richard Lievens  
Jennifer & Todd Litton  
Jacqueline & John Lomax  
Larry Larrinaga & Bill Luft  
Janet Luther  
Patrick MacDaniel

Patricia Mack  
Joan & Chris Malavansos  
Theresa Marr  
Ellen Matthews  
Stephanie Pedigo & Kent Maulsby  
Laura Mayfield  
Linnie & James McNerny  
Addah & Don McLarty  
Johanna & Robert Norvell  
Michael O'Donell  
Robert Ohnesorge  
Katie & Bob Orr  
Susana & Antonio Pinho  
Carol & Louis Pun  
Lynn Randolph  
Jack Rochelle  
Robert Ross  
Lynne Rutzky  
Anita & Newton Schwartz  
Naomi Scott  
Tracy & John Sheppard  
The Silver Shop  
Ray Simpson  
James Smith  
Susan Sosnowy &  
Mary Ann McBee  
Penny & Barry Switzer  
Angela & Mark Synek  
Amy Tabor  
Thomas Taylor  
Tana & Van Teeter  
Martha Tompkins  
Sandy & William Turner  
Gloria Turpen  
Ennedy & Nick Vamvakias  
Werner Voigt  
Margaret Weaver  
Paul Wilen  
Sara & Robert Willard  
Mary & Joe Willis  
Rick Wilson  
Esther & Daniel Wolfe  
Christy Milner & Stephen Wolfe

**SUSTAINING**

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Beekman  
Susan & Stephen Bishop  
Meg & David Bissinger  
Teresa Blackburn  
Mary & James Boyles  
Ed Branstetter  
Ann MacNaughton & Geoffrey Brune  
Mary Burke  
Sallie Morian & Mike Clark  
Margaret & Jason Cooper  
Paula & John Cutler  
Bridgid & Tom Earthman  
Watkins Culver Gardner LLC  
Stuart Haynsworth  
Barbara & Donald Howard  
Harriet & Whitney Leavell  
Debra Smith & David Long

**REGULAR**

Myssie & Barry Acomb  
Aida & Leopoldo Alard  
Nancy & Chris Allen  
Shannon & Christopher Allen  
Karen Amerman  
Julie Baker  
Tonya Jacobs & James Balchan  
Suzanne Kemmer & Michael Barlow  
Joy & Mark Barnes  
Sue Barnum  
Jennifer Beegle  
Brent Bell  
Bissonnet Auto Service  
Amaryllis Blaiklock  
Betty Boatman  
Amy & John Casey  
Catholic Student Center  
Donna & George Collins

**Dangerous Dog Alert**

On Friday morning, December 5, 2003, two dogs, a pit bull and a large black dog attacked and killed a cat in the 1600 block of Vassar. The dogs appeared to be strays. Please call Animal Control immediately at 713-238-2170 if you see these dogs. (The Animal Control offices are closed at night, so if you see these dogs outside of normal business hours, please call HPD's non-emergency line at 713-222-3131.) Do not attempt to capture these animals yourself. Please keep a special watch on your pets, your children and yourselves in the meantime. We will alert you if we hear that these dogs have been captured.

# Kirby Construction Update

by Kathie Easterly

As the designated liaison for the Braes Bayou to US59 portion of the upcoming \$40 million Kirby Flood Relief project, University Place Association (UPA) formed a Kirby Task Force for the purpose of coming up with a plan for street design amenities such as pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, trees, attractive street lamps and signage, the relocation of unsightly power lines, etc., monitoring traffic routes and congestion during construction, and making sure the concerns of the residential neighborhoods and businesses in the University Place community are heard and addressed by the City. The Task Force and UPA have facilitated some 15+ meetings, including a public Town Hall Meeting this past August. As we reported in the August *BOCA Newsletter*, the Preliminary Engineering Report for this project originally included: (1) the removal of the esplanades from Holcombe to Brays Bayou to accommodate two additional traffic lanes, (2) the addition of two more lanes in the residential section from University Blvd. to Holcombe, and (3) the installation of esplanades from US59 to University Blvd. where the continuous left-turn lane exists now. UPA and the civic clubs within University Place supported Old Braeswood's protest of the removal of the esplanades south of Holcombe. The City decided to replace the esplanades after construction and not add the additional lanes. They also decided not to add the two lanes from University to Holcombe.

The Rice Village and Kirby Drive businesses protested and continue to protest the installation of medians south of US59. Based on this protest, the City removed the medians from their plans south of Bissonnet, opting to leave it up to the businesses that would be directly impacted by the loss of the continuous left turn lane. Esplanades are still planned, however, between US59 and Bissonnet. Neither UPA or the Kirby Task Force has taken a position in regard to esplanades south of US59. The role of both organizations has been to provide a forum for discussion among the diverse interests in University Place, and come up with a street amenities design for Kirby that will make it more inviting, attractive and pedestrian-friendly. There are members of the Kirby Task Force and some community residents who very much want esplanades on Kirby Drive and believe it would not hurt the businesses and would provide a more attractive corridor and better pedestrian safety. They feel strongly that after this project, the City won't do major construction on Kirby again for another 40-50 years and that this opportunity to redesign Kirby into a showcase corridor shouldn't be lost. Others feel just as strongly that removing the continuous left turn lane would congest intersections, further congest the Rice Village, make businesses hard to get to, and push excessive cut-through traffic into surrounding residential neighborhoods seeking faster, easier routes to Kirby businesses and the Rice Village. The businesses believe they will lose customers if cars are pushed past their businesses with no way to turn in, and that forcing cars to the next intersection will back up traffic trying to turn and make their way back around to the business they're trying to get to. Because of the small 70' right-of-way from Bissonnet to University, U-Turns would not be possible if esplanades were installed. Further, the City of West U does not allow side entry from their streets into businesses on Kirby. These businesses have to be entered from Kirby Drive. West U passed a resolution allowing entry from their streets during construction, but not after construction is completed.

From US59 to Bissonnet where esplanades are still planned, there is a 100' right-of-way, making U-Turns possible there. The businesses along that stretch, however, are also opposed to the loss of the continuous left-turn lane, and maintain that North Blvd., South Blvd. and Bartlett will take on excessive cut-through traffic. All of these concerns are real and important, and the City has been listening to and studying them for the past six months, as has the UPA Kirby Task Force. The fact is, there has not been sufficient empirical data to conclusively gauge what the impact of esplanades would be on residential neighborhoods or the Kirby businesses. Recently, the City's traffic engineer, Rice Village's traffic engineer and West U's traffic engineer met to study a design by Ed Kagi that includes "lozenge" esplanades from Dunstan to Shakespeare to determine whether this or some other median design could work for both residents and businesses. Ed is an architect, urban planner, Kirby Task Force member, UPA Board member and Southampton resident who would like to see esplanades on Kirby.

The three traffic engineers are working together, performing additional traffic counts/studies to collect sufficient empirical data to effectively determine what the impact of these medians south of Bissonnet would actually be. There has also been discussion of doing a "trial run" by putting up barrels or otherwise closing the continuous left-turn lane for long enough to see what happens to traffic. We await the empirical data and expert opinions of the traffic engineers. Hopefully, their findings will resolve the esplanade issue once and for all. In the meantime, the UPA Kirby Task Force continues to explore every idea, option and suggestion raised by residents, businesses and all interested parties. Construction begins in March 2004 at the south end of Kirby. We'll keep you posted and bring you more details as they develop in the months to come.

## Annual Tree Planting and Gift Opportunities

by Evalyn Krudy

It's almost time again to make your annual contribution to Trees for BOCA, the neighborhood tree planting and maintenance program that works throughout the year to ensure BOCA's beautiful arbor of street trees is maintained and replenished. A solicitation will be mailed to you this month. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation, or honor the person-who-has-everything on your list with a tribute contribution that will be used to plant more trees in and around our neighborhood. All contributions are fully tax-deductible. Trees for Houston will notify your designated recipient with a holiday card.

## Tree Pruning to Begin in December

by Evalyn Krudy

Trees for Boulevard Oaks is a project of the Boulevard Oaks Civic Association, working in conjunction with Trees for Houston, whose goal is to replenish, maintain, and extend the original street tree pattern in our neighborhood. Each year our volunteers prune young street trees planted by our program to help them achieve a strong central trunk, which is imperative to the survival of our street trees.

Tree Committee volunteers will be pruning young trees planted by this program, between the sidewalk and curb, beginning in December through February. If you do not want the young trees in front of your home pruned by our trained volunteers, please call the office at 713-528-2622 by Friday, December 15, 2003. Clearly state your name and address, and why you are calling. Unless we hear from you by Friday, December 15, your trees that appear to be in need of a good trim, may be pruned. If you have previously notified BOCA that you do not wish to have your trees pruned, you do not need to call again. For questions about pruning or to volunteer to help with tree pruning call Wallace Hooker at 713-523-8719.

### City Trash Schedule

Automated curbside collection Tuesdays  
 Yard Waste (bagged) Tuesdays  
 Heavy Trash 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.

Recycling is collected every other Tuesday.  
 Dec. 9 & 23 Jan. 6 & 20 Feb. 3, 17 & 31

Questions? Call 311

### Private Trash Schedule (Edgemont, Broadacres, Cherokee)

Curbside & alley collection Tues. & Fri.  
 Recycling Every Friday  
 Yard waste Tues. & Fri.

Call to arrange Heavy trash pickup  
 Royal Disposal & Recycling 713-526-1536

*Southampton/BOCA Patrol Service 713-825-5555*