



# THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2004

## *La Villette Catering Re-Applies for Liquor Permit*

*[As reported in the December 2003 issue of the BOCA Newsletter, La Villette Catering, a new business at 1716 Bissonnet, applied last summer for a liquor license for the purpose of selling and serving alcoholic beverages at catered 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. The TABC informed us that any liquor permit issued to that address will "grandfather" into the future allowing bars, restaurants, cantinas and other alcohol-related establishments at that address with little chance of successfully protesting it. BOCA and several Boulevard Oaks residents wrote letters of protest and after a very convoluted process, La Villette's liquor license was denied because The Hillel Foundation next door holds regular prayer services and is classified as a church. (Under state law, there must be a distance of at least 300 feet between the applicant's front door and the church's front door.)]*

After being denied a liquor permit just months ago, the owner of La Villette has moved her exterior door and re-applied for a Mixed Beverage Permit, a Catering Permit and a *Late Hours Permit*. BOCA and many Boulevard Oaks residents are protesting the application *again*. The 1700 block of Bissonnet is surrounded by quiet, upscale deed-restricted residential-only neighborhoods and La Villette immediately abuts a church on one side. It also backs up to homes on South Boulevard that are historically designated on the National Register of Historic Places in Texas. (All of North and South Boulevards from Hazard to Graustark/Parkway are included in this historic designation.)

The Houston office of the TABC says they cannot join our protest because the new measurements from door to door comply with the law. Further, they have not yet decided whether or not we will be granted a hearing. However, the Austin office of the TABC is investigating the situation and hopefully will grant us a hearing and/or deny the application. State Rep. Martha Wong and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels are working with us to get a hearing, and Council Member Mark Goldberg will be working to that end, as well. We are told that additional protest letters and/or petitions are not necessary or helpful at this time. If that changes, we will let you know and will provide a petition and sample letter for residents who wish to support this protest.

La Villette's first application for liquor permits was denied just months ago because a church sits immediately adjacent to it within 300 feet. The practice of moving doors to comply with the law defeats the whole intent of the law and leaves residential neighborhoods vulnerable to undesirable businesses which lower quality of life, neighborhood character and ultimately, residential property values. The measurement from churches is applied from *front door to front door*. The measurement from schools is from *property line to property line*. We have asked Rep. Wong to introduce a revision to the state law that would require the distance from churches to be measured from property line to property line like it is for schools.

The owner of La Villette does not own the property at 1716 Bissonnet, and the TABC says La Villette does not have to have a liquor license in their name to operate their catering business. They can sell alcoholic beverages at catered events under a friend or associate's permit. We'll keep you posted as things development in regard to this issue.

*Special Note: BOCA wants to take this opportunity to thank Janet Spencer for her tireless work on this issue. Thank you, Janet for you help on this, and for the many other wonderful things you do for our neighborhood.*

## Thank you new and renewing BOCA members 2003-2004!

Many thanks to those of you who have already joined BOCA this year. Your support is invaluable—we couldn't operate without it. This list represents all contributions received through August 20, 2003. If you contributed and your name is not listed, please call the BOCA office at 713-528-BOCA (2622). Memberships received after August 20 will be listed in the next *BOCA Newsletter*. If you haven't already joined BOCA, please take a moment to do so. Like the saying goes - "A great neighborhood is not an accident." BOCA's always working to keep Boulevard Oaks the best neighborhood in Houston.

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

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

Call to arrange Heavy trash pickup

Royal Disposal & Recycling    713-526-1536

### City Trash Schedule

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

Recycling is collected every other Tuesday.  
 June 10 & 24    July 8 & 22    August 5 & 19

*Questions? Call 311*

**The BOCA NEWSLETTER is published 6 times per year. Please call Kathie Easterly at 713-528-2622 with sponsorship inquiries or submissions. WANTED: Kids ages 10-16 to deliver the newsletters—a great way for kids to earn money and help BOCA.**

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*Thank You!*

## Rice University Police Issuing Cut-Through Traffic Tickets

Rice University recently posted "no through traffic" signs at each of its entrances and, beginning this month, Rice U Police will be ticketing those using the university as a cut-through. Traffic using the Stockton entrance off University Blvd. and the Kent and Shepherd entrances off Rice Blvd. are being heavily targeted. To learn more about this new policy check out [http://rupd.rice.edu/thru\\_traffic.html](http://rupd.rice.edu/thru_traffic.html). (If you want to know more about the new *paid parking* program at Rice, visit [http://www.staff.rice.edu/staff/Neighborhood\\_Alert.asp?SnID=456754223](http://www.staff.rice.edu/staff/Neighborhood_Alert.asp?SnID=456754223).)

## Important Web Sites to Help You During US59/Spur 527 Construction

The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) has put their US59/Spur 527 web site on line at <http://traffic.houstontranstar.org/us59-spur527>. You'll find a lot of helpful and interesting information, including their often-asked-for schedule, alternate routes, FAQs, and even a history page with a photo of the original construction site in 1961.

For the answer to most, if not *all*, of your travel questions regarding the US59 construction and closure of Spur 527, go to [www.southwestcorridor.com](http://www.southwestcorridor.com). This excellent (and much-appreciated) web site offers information, maps, routes, alternates and options to help you get where you're going in the shortest possible time during this major project and Spur closure. The Spur closure will primarily affect the morning rush hours, but it will also affect those who use the Spur during other hours. They should look on the page called Off-Peak Access.

### City Trash Schedule

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

Recycling is collected every other Tuesday.  
Feb. 3 & 17    Mar. 2, 16 & 30    April 13 & 27

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  
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