

# THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH/APRIL 2008

## Neighborhood Tax Protest

The Board of Directors encourages you to protest your Harris County property taxes this year! We are told that if at least 30% of a neighborhood protests, the District must reduce the tax rate. BOCA asked several services to offer a discounted contingency fee or group rate for the 1200 homes in BOCA in order to encourage greater participation and achieve a lower property tax rate. Two firms offered a 40% fee, but Novotny & Company offered an amazing 27% contingency fee!

To take advantage of this offer, contact **Novotny & Company** at **713-932-7672** and tell them you want to sign up for the **Boulevard Oaks Special rate of 27%**. Please let us know if you have any difficulty signing up. This is a great opportunity to help reduce property taxes across the entire neighborhood and only takes a few minutes of your time.

If you prefer to use another service, or DIY, be sure to file your protest by the **new deadline of April 30, 2008**. While protesting taxes yourself can involve quite a bit of preparation with no guaranteed result, a professional protest service can save you time and money. Most services operate on a contingency basis and charge 50% of the realized tax savings. There are many reputable firms in Houston to choose from. The important thing is to file your protest by the deadline and help reduce the neighborhood's valuation. Don't miss this important opportunity. Protesting your property taxes may save you hundreds or thousands of dollars. Do nothing and your property taxes will continue to rise.

## Are you Paying Too Much



## PROPERTY TAX?

**DON'T BE A LOSER!**

**FILE YOUR PROTEST BY APRIL 30, 2008!**



**BOCA**

## EASTER EGG HUNT

**Saturday, March 22, 2008**

**10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**Broadacres Park**

(By the tennis courts at the end of  
North and South Blvds.)

**See p. 4 for more info.**

## TURN ON YOUR PORCH LIGHT TO FIGHT CRIME

The Southampton BOCA Patrol Service has asked us to remind residents to turn on porch lights at night. Our neighborhood has been especially dark recently. Although our Patrol cars have spotlights, they are insufficient to light up the dark streets. Let's help our officers by turning on our lights and replacing any burned out bulbs.

Although a suspect has been charged in four of the recent area armed robberies, we must remain continue to be vigilant. Let's light up the neighborhood to fight crime. The Patrol officer on duty can be reached at 713-825-5555.



**P.O. BOX 540331 • HOUSTON • TEXAS • 77254 • 713 528-BOCA (2622)**

**boca@airmail.net • www.BoulevardOaks.org**

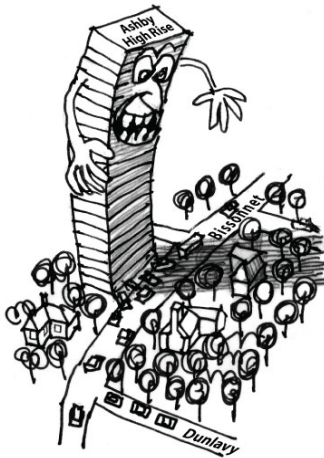


Illustration courtesy of  
Marshall Wilson & Associates

## St Stop Ashby High Rise with Y Yard Signs & Bumper Magnets

A new shipment of the coveted Stop Ashby High-Rise car magnets has just arrived at PICNIC. Please stop by and pick up one for your car to show Houston that we will not give up the fight against the ill-conceived Tower of Traffic. A donation of \$5.00 is requested to help cover production costs. If you need a new yard sign, please contact [boca@airmail.net](mailto:boca@airmail.net) or 713-528-BOCA (2622).



## Stop Ashby High Rise Update

On Feb. 27 City Council approved a motion to refer the proposed high density ordinance back to the administration. The effect of this action is to indefinitely delay the further development of this ordinance. However, the Mayor also announced a new policy whereby the City of Houston will use an existing ordinance, sometimes referred to as the "curb cut" ordinance, to address objectionable traffic impacts from certain kinds of new high density developments.

While we regret that the Mayor has decided to refer the high density ordinance back to the administration, we are gratified that the City intends to rely on its existing authority to address the objectionable traffic impacts from the proposed Ashby High Rise project. We are also pleased with the Mayor's assertion that plans for the originally proposed 23 story project would be rejected by the city under this ordinance. We commend the Mayor, Anne Clutterbuck, and many others within the administration who have worked hard to determine the best way to employ the City's authority to address misguided projects like the Ashby High Rise.

We hope the developers will propose something more consistent with the one and two story single family residential character of our historic neighborhood. However, the Buckhead developers are now contemplating alternate plans including a 22 story building and a 19 story building and we have invited them to present the plans to our community, but they have not accepted our invitation.

If at any point the City seems prepared to approve permitting for a project that is unacceptable to the neighborhood, we will not hesitate to employ the other tools that are available to us to protect our interests, including litigation if necessary. These activities will require the ongoing involvement of the community and the Task Force. We thank you for your continued support.

Please visit [www.StopAshbyHigRise.org](http://www.StopAshbyHigRise.org) for the latest information.

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### Private Trash Schedule

(Edgemont, Broadacres, Cherokee)

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

Call to arrange Heavy Trash pick-up

Royal Disposal & Recycling 713-526-1536

Cans or bags may be placed on the street after 6 p.m. the evening before collection and should be removed from sight by 10 p.m. the day of collection per city ordinance.

### City Trash Schedule

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

**Recycling is collected every  
*other* Tuesday.**

March 11 & 25 April 8, 22 May 6 & 20  
**Questions? Call 311**

Garbage bins may be placed on the street after 6 p.m. the evening before your collection day and should be removed from sight by 10 p.m. on the day of collection per city ordinance.



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not created equal!**



Thank you BullsEye Storage for your generosity to BOCA.

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18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Boulevard Oaks  
Civic Association  
**Easter Egg  
Hunt**

**Saturday, March 22, 2008**  
**10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**  
**Broadacres Park**

(By the tennis courts at the end of North and South Blvds.)

Every child is invited to hop over to Broadacres Park for the fun and festivities of this Boulevard Oaks tradition. Children through the age of eight (8) are invited to bring a basket and hunt for hundreds of candy-filled (and prize winning) plastic eggs. Children nine (9) and older will get to take a swing at a candy-filled piñata. The hunt begins promptly at 10 a.m. so please don't be late.

Volunteers are needed to hide eggs, decorate, and provide refreshments for the event. Please e-mail [angiesynek@yahoo.com](mailto:angiesynek@yahoo.com) to sign up and then show up at 9 a.m. on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> to help. Hiding eggs is a great activity for children 9 and older!

If you are able to make a contribution to help cover the expenses of this wonderful neighborhood celebration, please send your check to BOCA, P.O. Box 540331, Houston, TX 77254 or bring it to the party. All contributors will be recognized in the next BOCA Newsletter. Thanks to our early bird sponsors: Sharon Dreyer with John Daugherty Realtors, Bridgid & Tom Earthman and Sheila & Keith Owen.



If you or your business would like to be an event sponsor, please contact BOCA at [boca@airmail.net](mailto:boca@airmail.net) or call 713 528-BOCA (2622) by March 20 so that we may recognize your generosity at the Easter Egg Hunt.