



THE BOCA NEWSLETTER

BOULEVARD OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2004

Boulevard Oaks Civic Association's 14th Annual **EASTER EGG HUNT**



Saturday, April 10, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

BROADACRES PARK

(North Blvd. at Parkway, by the tennis courts at the end of North Blvd.)

B.Y.O.Basket, and come join the fun! Everyone's invited for the fun and refreshments, and to have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny. Children through the age of eight are invited to hunt for thousands of candy-filled (and prize-winning) plastic eggs. Children nine and older will get to take their turns at a candy-filled piñata. Older children and adults are also invited to help hide eggs at 9:15 a.m. The Easter Bunny is being played again this year by Laurie Rigby, the best sport and best Easter Bunny of all time!

Volunteers are needed to stuff and hide eggs, provide refreshments, and help decorate. To volunteer, call the BOCA office at 713-528-BOCA (2622). Donations and sponsorships to help cover the expense of notices, eggs, decorations, refreshments and candy are also much appreciated. In addition to being a fun and very popular event, the Easter Egg Hunt also serves as a BOCA fundraiser. Please send your check to P.O. Box 540331, Houston, Texas 77254, or bring it to the Easter Egg Hunt. See you there!

BOCA sends a big Easter thank you to Gary Easterly of Easterly & Company, for his generous Sponsorship of this year's hunt.

Poe Co's New (Additional) Afternoon Class and Not-to-Be missed Garage Sale

(By Angie Synek)

Due to overwhelming demand for admission to Poe Cooperative Nursery School (Poe-Co), an additional afternoon class is being offered for 4 to 5 year olds in the fall of 2004. Call Jill Gilbert at **713 356-8019** or visit **poeco.org** for more information.

Poe-Co's Annual Garage Sale fundraiser will be held on **April 17** at Poe Elementary. Boulevard Oaks neighbors are always very generous in contributing big ticket items for the garage sale. Last year, a family on South Boulevard donated an entire bedroom suite. That one donation brought in \$500 for Poe-Co. The money from this annual fundraiser enables Poe-Co to offer need-

based scholarships, maintain affordable tuition rates, and employ the finest staff of preschool educators in Houston. For more information on the garage sale or to make a donation, please contact Lisa Cramer at **lisac@ymcahouston.org**.

Poe-Co, a highly acclaimed parent cooperative preschool, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The school offers parents the unique opportunity to be involved in their child's classroom and education. Each student's mother or father serves as a parent-helper one morning a month. Poe-Co is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Security Alert

As you probably know by now, H.P.D. homicide investigators have determined that the fatal shooting of Helen Orman, a beloved Boulevard Oaks resident, on Saturday, March 20, 2004, at the corner of Kirby and Bissonnet, is linked to the shooting and attempted abduction of a woman in the Rice Village on March 3, 2004. The suspect description in each incident indicates that the same suspect shot both women. A composite photo of the suspect can be found on BOCA's website: www.boulevardoaks.org. No known motive has been established for the shootings. Helen was shot in the head. Julie Graves, who survived the March 3 shooting in the Rice Village, was shot in the hand.

H.P.D. is taking these shootings extremely seriously. You have no doubt noticed the large number of police in the area. H.P.D. has assigned up to 16 officers from the Park Unit, Gang Task Force, Tactical Area Crime Unit, Division Gang Unit, and Bicycle Unit to our community to supplement the regular H.P.D. patrols. These officers are not on assignment as "scare crows" or public relations "drive and wave" units. They have specific instructions and assignments in an attempt to identify this suspect should he return.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic or white male with an olive complexion, 30 to 40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall and 180 pounds with a slight belly. He had a shaved head with possibly some light fuzz. In the Bissonnet/Kirby incident, the suspect was not wearing a shirt, had no chest or facial hair and was wearing tan pants and tennis shoes. The suspect was driving a dark tan or dark brown, late 1990s or 2000 Dodge Durango with Texas tags.

In case you don't know about these shootings: Around 12:40 p.m. on Saturday, March 20, Helen Orman had pulled her 2002 Toyota four-door into the gas station on the southeast corner of Bissonnet and Kirby and had parked next to a vacuum cleaner station at the car wash. As she was tending to her vehicle, the suspect parked his vehicle near hers. He then got out of his vehicle, walked up to Ms. Orman and shot her one time in the head. The suspect returned to his vehicle and fled northbound on Kirby. In Ms. Orman's front passenger seat were her purse and wallet, a birthday gift and a camera. None of the items were disturbed.

On March 3 at about 2:10 p.m., Ms. Graves was getting out of her vehicle in a parking garage in the Rice Village when the suspect tried to force his way into her car. Ms. Graves was shot as she tried to escape. The suspect fled on foot. Anyone with information on this suspect is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at **713-308-3600** or **Crime Stoppers at 713-222-TIPS**. Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$52,500 to anyone who provides information leading to this suspect's arrest and conviction.

Senator Rodney Ellis and several other public officials are co-hosting with University Place Association, a Security Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, March 30, 2004 at Christ the King Lutheran Church from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Leaders from the Houston Police Department, Harris County Constable Jack Abercia, Rice University Police Department, West U Police Department and others will be at this meeting. A copy of Senator Ellis's invitation letter can be found on the BOCA website: www.boulevardoaks.org.

Please be alert and aware, and make yourself familiar with the description of the suspect and the vehicle, a late 1990s or 2000 dark brown or dark tan Dodge Durango. Again, the suspect's composite photo can be found on the BOCA website: www.boulevardoaks.org.

Helen Orman was a longtime Boulevard Oaks resident, a brilliant artist and teacher, a loving mother and a treasured friend to all who knew her. She will be dearly missed.

Canine Courtesy

Boulevard Oaks residents, along with most Houston residents citywide, are fed up with dogs running around off their leashes and with owners who allow their dogs to leave "deposits" that aren't cleaned up and disposed of. Many residents, civic clubs, parks, organizations and businesses are demanding enforcement of the City's "leash ordinance" and the recently passed (Dec. 2003) city ordinance requiring that dog owners pick up and dispose of their animal's feces. HPD has been responding to calls for enforcement of this ordinance, so please remember to keep your dog on a leash and pick up after your dog. Both ordinances are cited below for your information (or someone else's):

Sec. 6-24. Defecation by Dogs or Cats.

(a) It is the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, feces left by such dog or cat. (b) It shall be the duty of each person in control of a dog or cat to be in possession of materials to remove feces left by such dog or cat. (c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the person in control of the dog or cat is the owner of the premises, or the owner's agent of the premises, where the dog or cat deposits feces. (d) Violation of this section is unlawful and any violation shall be punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less than \$75.00 or more than \$500.00. Each act in contravention of this section is a separate offence.

(Ord. No. 03-1275, § 1, 12-17-03)

Sec. 6-101. Running at large prohibited.

(a) Generally. It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having in his possession any dog to allow such dog to be at large without the owner or person in charge thereof having direct physical control over such dog. An owner or person having in his possession a dog may allow the dog to be at large on property that does not provide the animal with access to a sidewalk or street.

Sec. 1-6. General penalty; continuing violations.

(a) When in this Code or in any ordinance of the city an act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense or a misdemeanor, or wherever in such Code or ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, and no specific penalty is provided therefore, the violation of any such provision of this Code or any such ordinance shall be punished by a fine or not exceeding \$500.00; provided, however, that no penalty shall be greater or less than the penalty provided for the same or a similar offense under the laws of the state. Each day any violation of this Code or of any ordinance shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

Montrose Construction-Related Traffic Issues

As you no doubt already know, Montrose is tapered down to one lane either direction for approximately 100 feet on each side of US59 (just north of Banks St. to 100 feet the other side of US59). It is expected to be reduced to two lanes for approximately 6 months during this phase. It will return to all lanes open for 6 or 8 months later on, and then close back down to two lanes again for another six months.

M.A.M.A., the civic club just east of Boulevard Oaks, has an "Adopt a Block" agreement with the City of Houston to "adopt" Montrose from Richmond to Bissonnet. M.A.M.A. is working closely with TXDOT to mitigate the problems associated with the US59 project, including the traffic situation on Montrose during construction. Issues of dirt, noise, air pollution, etc., are being monitored and addressed by M.A.M.A. with help from the University Place Association (UPA). In the meantime, Montrose businesses are all accessible, so let's help keep them thriving during this project.

Poe Auction 2004

Poe Elementary's Annual School Auction will be held on Friday, April 2, 2004 at the Hornberger Center at 2151 W. Holcombe from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. For further information, please contact poeauction2004@aol.com or call Licia Green-Ellis at 713-524-5336 or Angelique Coleman at 713-747-9312. The theme for this year's auction is "Celebrate the Arts." Everyone is invited to attend. Tickets are \$20 per person. Other Poe News FYI: *Poe's Kindergarten Registration is on April 14, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at Poe Elementary. For more information call 713-535-3780.*

For the latest neighborhood news, check BOCA's web site - www.boulevardoaks.org

BOCA DATABASE - HELP NEEDED

BOCA needs Block Captains in order to maintain an updated resident database and make sure every new resident receives a Welcome Packet when they move into Boulevard Oaks. As people move in and out, we simply cannot keep up with more than 50 blocks without Block Captains to keep us informed. If you would be willing to walk your block and update the names and addresses on that block, it would be

much appreciated and extremely helpful. BOCA will send you the list for your block, with space on it to make corrections, reflect new names, etc. Block Captains play a very important role in BOCA's successful operation. Please call the BOCA office at 713-528-BOCA (2622) or email boca@airmail.net if you would be willing to be Block Captain for your block!

Officers & Directors

Officers

<i>President</i>	Kay Peterson
<i>President Elect</i>	Kurt Hull
<i>Past President</i>	Thad Lueders
<i>Vice President</i>	Sue Lawson
<i>Secretary</i>	Kelly Mooz
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Wright

Directors

2001 - 2004	Gregg Jones Cece Fowler Marianne Jones David Shine
2002 - 2005	Palmer Hutcheson Jim Tompkins Norm Rund Marion Glober
2003 - 2006	John Cutler Helen Toombs Phil John Todd Mason
Executive Director	Kathie Easterly
Traffic/Trans Public Works	John Cutler & Kurt Hull
Trees	Wallace Hooker Evalyn Krudy
Beautification	Kingslea Thomas
Deed Restrictions	Palmer Hutcheson
July 4th Picnic	Jennifer Simmons Nash
Easter Egg Hunt	Kathie Easterly

Dog Park to be Installed at Ervan Chew Park

The board of directors of Friends of Ervan Chew Park recently voted to approve a much sought after dog park for Ervan Chew Park (aka Dunlavy Park). The City Parks & Recreation Department has also approved the proposed dog park and it is the *first* City of Houston sanctioned dog park inside Loop 610. Funds are now being raised (\$7,000 so far) and the dog park will soon be installed at Ervan Chew Park on the far northern edge of the park along the fence line of the H.I.S.D. parking lot. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check to: Neartown Association, P.O. Box 540106, Houston, Texas 77254. Note: *On the memo section of your check, be sure to write FOECP Dog Park.*

City Trash Schedule

Automated curbside collection	Tuesdays
Yard Waste (bagged)	Tuesdays
Heavy Trash	2 nd Thurs.

Recycling is collected every other Tuesday.
April 13 & 27 May 11 & 25 June 8 & 22

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