



# IDYLWOOD NEWSLETTER

<http://www.idylwood-houston.org>

February 2005

## Project Brays Update

At the last SuperNeighborhood meeting (January 11), we were presented with the tentative plans for our section of Brays Bayou. During the next twelve months, crews will be working from the mouth to Lawndale. Around March 2006, we should see construction begin from Lawndale to the Gulf Freeway. Idylwood construction should last approximately six months.

### Retaining Walls

There will be three retaining walls: Two on the Idylwood side of the bayou (Wildwood Way to Park, around 200 feet long, and Spurlock Park to Merry, around 350 feet long), and one on the cemetery side which will be around 700 feet long. From our neighborhood, we should only see the lip of the walls on our side (one foot or so) which can easily be hidden by landscaping; Around 4 vertical feet of the opposite wall will be visible. Each wall will have some sort of discreet railing for safety. To soften the look of the walls, climbing fig will be planted at the base of each wall. There will be a "maintenance ramp" near Sylvan Rd that we think will be perfect for Idylwood residents to launch canoes and kayaks from. Lighting along the bayou will be discussed in the future.

### Lawndale Bridge

The Lawndale bridge will have decorative obelisk-style pillars at each end. Additionally, there are areas along the bridge that are meant to hold mosaic tile murals. We hope to work with the City to have decorative iron street lights installed in place of standard lighting.

### Idylwood's Challenge

Brays Bayou is a major part of the character that makes Idylwood unique. While the elevations we were shown contained decorative lighting and intricate tile work, paying for these things will be our challenge. We will be working with the Greater East End Management District and the City to explore funding opportunities to ensure that we get more than just relief from flood waters.

## Opening for Idylwood Newsletter Editor

Are you interested in what's going on in the neighborhood? Do you have an interest in writing or designing? **Then we want you to volunteer to be the newsletter editor for Idylwood!** The position could be one person or one person coordinating a committee. The position can be tailored to your skills and interests. Being the newsletter editor is an exciting, flexible way to contribute to the neighborhood. Please call Beth at 281-989-6356, or write to [IdylwoodEditor@yahoo.com](mailto:IdylwoodEditor@yahoo.com) if you are interested in any part of the newsletter or would like more information. The new editor would begin during late spring.

*Beth Brinsdon, President*

## Idylwood Yahoo! Group:

### The Best Way To Get The Word Out!

Sending out mass emails to residents *used* to be a simple process. But, as spam filters have become more commonplace, we are finding that our emails are being returned with greater frequency. To counter this, David Bensey has created an Idylwood email group on the Yahoo! website. There is no charge for this service, and the emails should pass cleanly through your email filter. Another benefit is that it is very easy to ask a question or make a comment to anyone else on the mailing list. Need a reference? Have a question? Just send an email to the group! The list will be moderated, so any inappropriate/off-topic remarks will be removed before distribution. Eventually, we will need to replace the old email list with this Group, so please go to the site at [http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/Idylwood\\_Neighbors](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/Idylwood_Neighbors) for instructions on how to sign up!

The newsletter is a monthly publication of the Idylwood Civic Club. Articles and ideas relevant to our area may be sent to [IdylwoodEditor@yahoo.com](mailto:IdylwoodEditor@yahoo.com).

## No February Civic Club Meeting

Since the Civic Club meeting falls on the same day as Valentine's Day, and because we are all suckers for a Hallmark holiday, we have cancelled the February Civic Club meeting. Please join us in March for our next regularly schedule meeting.

## February Yard of the Month

Our February award goes to the Monk residence at **6611 Rockbridge**. Re-landscaped in 2004, this tree-shaded property makes good use of colorful shade-tolerant plants, bordered by pavers to control erosion.

## Flood Mitigation to Occur in February

In mid-February, a large amount of soil will be removed from the new annex of Spurlock Park near the property at 1715 Idylwood Dr. This work is being performed by the builder of the new home at 6652 Lindy Ln. in order to follow through with his flood mitigation duties. After this work is finished, members of the Idylwood community, led by Chad Neal, will be working to raise funds to implement the master plan by landscape architect Sara Newberry. Next month, we will have a recap of the effort and a way for Idylwood residents to make donations.

### *From the Garden Club...*

#### **Planting and Pruning This Month!**

February is the month to trim and fertilize our roses. Planting new roses can be done towards the end of the month, once the threat of freezing has passed. This also holds true for any other plants you would like to install. No matter how tempted you are to cut those ugly branches off the bushes that have been damaged by our freezes...*Don't do it!* We are still expecting to have one or two more freezes this season and by leaving those branches on, it acts to protect the plant.

#### **Our Next Meeting**

The Garden Club's next meeting is **March 5 at 10AM**. Please call 713-928-5044 for meeting location or watch for the Garden Club signs!

## January Civic Club Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on Monday January 10, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Board member Kevin Roberts presided.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A summary of the finances of the Club was given. It was reported that Club accounts totaled \$23,792.80.

**Police report:** November crimes in Idylwood were: 1 burglary (6700 Fairfield, A/C unit). Officer Trejo reported that officers were being encouraged to write heavy trash citations. Heavy trash should be set out no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the Friday before pickup. Heavy trash day for Idylwood is the second Monday of the month which is the same as the Civics Club meeting. There was also discussion about the street people at I-45 and Wayside. Officer Trejo promised to report our concerns to those responsible in HPD.

Kevin Roberts reported the speaker scheduled for the meeting, Archie Chapman from Burglary and Theft of the Police Department, could not attend due to a personal emergency. He would be rescheduled for the March meeting. Household hazardous waste is the tentative the topic for the April meeting.

Attendees were reminded that there would be **no February meeting** since the second Monday in February was Valentines Day.

#### **Other discussion topics were:**

- Carol Alvarado listened to concerns from the neighborhood about the City's new Safe Clear Program.
- Sidewalk Project along Wayside – Possible upcoming pledge campaign;
- Cat killing in the vicinity of Idylwood and Sylvan; and
- Investigation of the possibility of the City installing the more visible LED signal lights at Sylvan and Wayside by Chris Wright.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Ken Morgan*

*Secretary, Treasurer*

*Idylwood Civic Club*