

IDYLWOOD NEWS

November 2007

Civic Club Meeting

Come hear about what's going on in the world and answer the questions you want answers to. This month's meeting is awarded to one of the randomly selected speakers, Richard Louv, & Bill Johnstone "In his groundbreaking book, *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv directly links the attention deficit disorder of the wired generation to some of the most serious health problems: the rise in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. This book is to bring together a body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising an alarm, Louv offers practical solutions to heal the broken bond."

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 3rd,
10 am
November 4th, 4:30 @
Spurlock Park
Monday,
November 12th, 7p.m., St. Austin Center,
corner of Wayside & Eskridge (Sylvan)
Tues,
November 20th, Cafe Flores, 7p.m.
Tues,
November 13th, 6:30pm, Villa de Matel,
6510 Lawndale
Mon, November 19th, 6:30pm,
Eastside Substation, 7525 Sherman
Mondays,
November 5th & 19th
Mon., November 12th
(2nd Monday every month)
November 17th – Newsletter Deadline

We have begun the process of creating a street reconstruction project for Idylwood. This process begins by getting the property owners along the street to be repaved. Since we are wanting to do the entire neighborhood we will be asking for signatures from every property owner. Owners living on corner lots will be asked to sign two official petitions, one for each street abutting their property.

Once all of the signatures are in, it takes approximately 6 weeks to get underway. The streets will be taken down to the base material and reconstructed, rather than just repaved again. Once the work gets started, it is an unpleasant process, closing streets and making a mess. However at the end of it we will have nice new streets. If you'd like to see the work completed, take a look at the streets in Country Club (behind the Dinner Bell Cafeteria). They were repaved in a program a few years ago. Over the next few weeks, volunteers, in most cases your newsletter delivery folks, may be going door to door asking for your signature on a couple of forms. Please sign the petitions when they come your way, we need signatures from 75% of the property owners along each of the streets to be reconstructed in order for the project to be approved. For further information see the Neighborhood Street Reconstruction website-

http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/documents/nsr_petition.htm Submitted by Russell Millar

Hopefully I have heard from you if I contacted you regarding updating or confirming your information for the Idylwood Directory. If you want to be sure, just send me an email at wendy@thehoustonsrealtor.com or drop me a note in my mailbox at 6660 Sylvan. The directory will be printed in the beginning of November and distributed with the December newsletter. Any changes or corrections after that will be posted in the newsletter where each neighbor can make updates to their copy. I hope that all the information will be accurate and I apologize in advance because I'm sure something won't be. Submitted by Wendy Thiessen

IDYLWOOD NEWS

November 2007

METRO voted today on the transit lines. Not only will the University Line extend to the Eastwood Transit Center (Wheeler to Scott, up the SE Line tracks to Elgin, under I-45 to ETC), but all five lines will be rail from the start! Reported by Steve Parker, SN President

Ms. Laura Hipps, Development Officer for the New Hope Housing Corporation, will be the speaker for the November general meeting of the Idylwood Civic Club. She will bring us up-to-date on plans for the redevelopment of the Hou-Tex Inn (6311 Gulf Freeway) into Brays Crossing, a single room occupancy housing residence. New Hope operates several facilities in the Houston area, including one which won an American Institute of Architects design award in 2006. Submitted by Maggie Mottesheard

Interested in helping to spruce up our neighborhood before the holidays? The ICC Neighborhood Clean-up Committee (Keith Hamm, Albert Tijerina, Alicia and Rudy Cabrera) has scheduled a general clean-up for Saturday, December 1, 2008, and we are looking for volunteers to assist us with this task. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in Spurlock Park and work until 12:00. We will focus on power washing the stone entrance ways on Wayside, cleaning the signage in the neighborhood, and a general clean-up of the streets and storm water drains, particularly along Wayside and Sylvan. If you are interested in participating, please contact Keith Hamm (713-921-6103 or keithhamm1@earthlink.net) at least one week in advance so that we know how many tools to request from Keep Houston Beautiful. We would be most grateful if those who have power washers either agree to participate or allow us to use their machines. Submitted by Keith Hamm

(Synopsis of October ICC Meeting by Tammy Cirigliano)

If you have ever wondered who can help you with that neighbor who has not mowed the lawn for three months, or the rising junk on a neighbor's property, the answer is Neighborhood Protection Corps. NPC was created to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by enforcing city codes related to the following:

Nuisances on private property, Weeded lots, Junk motor vehicles, Open and dangerous buildings, or Graffiti

At our October Idylwood Civic Club meeting, Gracie Estrada, the Community Service Inspector for Idylwood and other East End neighborhoods, came to tell us a bit about how she goes about her job of enforcing a better standard of living in the East End. The process begins when a resident makes a call to 3-1-1 to report a sign of blight or other substandard living condition. Within seven days of the 3-1-1 complaint, our Community Service Inspector visits the site to investigate the potential city ordinance violation. If the inspector concludes there has been a violation, she will take photos and leave a warning notice on the property. She will also mail a warning to the property owner. The warning gives the owner 10 days to remove the violation. After the 11th day, the inspector revisits the property to confirm whether the owner complied. If the owner has complied, the case is closed. If the owner has not complied, the owner can face fines in varying amounts, depending on the particular violation. More information is available at www.houstontx.gov/police/npc.htm. I encourage everyone to visit the web site because it provides specific information as well as certain forms that apply in some situations, such as open, vacant, dangerous building code violations. Thank you for the great turn out at the October ICC meeting and we hope to see you at the next one!

training is a Federal Emergency Management Agency program that educates citizens about the hazards they face in their community and trains them in lifesaving skills. If needed following a disaster, these citizen-responders use their training as part of a neighborhood team to help others when professional responders are overwhelmed or not immediately available. CERT members provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources when they arrive. Training dates are still available; please consult the website for times, dates, and locations.
submitted by Kristina Arcscott

IDYLWOOD NEWS

November 2007

The Garden Club held it's first meeting of the fall on Saturday, October 6th at the home of Sally Lehr. Master gardener, Ginia Mattern presented the program on culinary herbs. Ginia brought several herbs and discussed their planting and use. The herb that love winter are: Flat and Curly Parsley, Cilantro, Salad Burnet, Pansies, and Arugula. The next garden club meeting will be November 3rd, at Diane Kopfensteiner's home and Maggie Mottesheard will be the speaker.

In an East End Chamber Crime Awareness Committee meeting, a Chron.com article dated Sept. 26th written by Douglas Britt quotes Constable Precinct 6 Lt. Glenn Ellis as saying, "The County does not share information with the city, and the city does not share information with the county. The county keeps their crime stats, and the city keeps their crime stats. Is the City of Houston in Harris County? Yes, it is." Danny Perez, Assistant Chief Clerk, Public Information for Harris County Precinct 6 wrote, "Our stats are included, All agencies share information but I think the problem is that there is a not an efficient means of distributing the information. It is the kind of dilemma facing law enforcement agency everywhere." In a conversation with Danny he said, "We need to get a Uniform Crime Report at the . ARS Service is now in effect. Not all crime stats are sent to the same place. Stats are sent to a multitude of departments that don't go to HPD. Calls for Service is not going to pull up in the crime report and that's very important information. That type of info is what the County Attorney used to review the Brookdale Village Apartments recently. Stats don't tell the true story about what is happening in the community because we're not receiving all the information." Danny commented he would start getting stats to us here in Idylwood for our newsletter because the numbers are broken down by division. Meanwhile, Danny suggested we look at the Dept. of Justice website to get a true idea of what is happening in our area. Larry Lipton of the East End Chamber of Commerce Crime Awareness Committee responded to an inquiry and wrote, "There's no question that the statistics that HPD has provided have been flawed for a number of reasons. That is why we continue to put pressure to have them include the numbers from other local departments." Clearly, the argument that they have made for so long that they have accurately marshaled their force according to call volume has shown to be quite inaccurate. Community Co-Chair of the EECOC Crime Awareness Committee Elisa Gonzales said, "They're not showing you all the calls that are reported and all the other law enforcement agencies calls or all the calls for service." Precinct 6 has no patrol division, and all the Constable's patrols is excess from commercial contracts. Since the vast majority of the Pct 6 deputies are contract deputies hired by business, we can lose them with just 30 days notice and this could impact patrol in Idylwood and the East End. The current system is vulnerable with no Patrol Division paid for by the county. Submitted by Reni Millar

Provided by Jeff Klemm

N MacGregor	60%	1	Sylvan	40%	6
Meadowlawn	45%	2	Park	37%	7
Merry	44%	3	Wildwood	31%	8
Lindy	43%	4	Rockbridge	30%	9
Idylwood	43%	4	Fairfield	22%	10

IDYLWOOD NEWS

November 2007



If you would like specifics of the times, street, and block numbers where these incidents occurred, email idylwoodeditor@yahoo.com

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

5. Darkness
4. I'm knowledge
3. A hole
2. A match
1. A stamp

copy.com
COPY CENTER/COMPUTERS/INTERNET BAR
1201-F Westheimer - Houston, Texas 77006
713.528.1201 • f.713.528.1201 • www.houstoncopy.com