




# Idylwood News

## April 2010

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- ❑ **Curbside Recycling:** Mondays, Apr 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 
- ❑ **Heavy Trash:** Apr 12<sup>th</sup> – “junk” & “tree” pickup
- ❑ **Civic Club Meeting:** 7:30 p.m. Apr 20<sup>th</sup> (Tue.)
- ❑ **Board of Directors Meeting:** 6:30 p.m. Apr 20<sup>th</sup> (Tue)
- ❑ **Super Neighborhood:** 6:30 p.m. Apr 13<sup>th</sup> (Tue.)
- ❑ **Positive Interaction Program (P.I.P.):** 6:00 p.m. Apr 19<sup>th</sup> **Eastside Substation, 7525 Sherman –special Shoot or Don’t Shoot Demonstration and participation**

### **History of Earth Day** *(from earthday.net)*

Earth Day -- April 22 -- each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda." "It was a gamble," he recalls, "but it worked."

At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news.

Earth Day 1970 turned that all around.

On April 22, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts.

Sen. Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom -- the highest honor given to civilians in the United States -- for his role as Earth Day founder.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues on to the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. Earth Day 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grassroots activism of Earth Day 1990. For 2000, Earth Day had the Internet to help link activists around the world. By the time April 22 rolled around, 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in a record 184 countries. Events varied: A talking drum chain traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa, for example, while hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., USA.

Earth Day 2000 sent the message loud and clear that citizens the world 'round wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy. Now, the fight for a clean environment continues. We invite you to be a part of this history and a part of Earth Day. Discover energy you didn't even know you had. Feel it rumble through the grass roots under your feet and the technology at your fingertips. Channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.

- ❑ **Garden Club:** 10 a.m. Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sat.)
- ❑ **Newsletter Deadline** – Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> - If you would like to submit an article just call (713) 775-1443 or email [wendy@thehoustontorealtor.com](mailto:wendy@thehoustontorealtor.com)
- ❑ **April Fools Day:** Apr 1<sup>st</sup> (Beware!)
- ❑ **Easter:** Apr 4<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ **Taxes Due:** Apr 15<sup>th</sup>
- ❑ **Earth Day:** Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ❑ **Keep Houston Beautiful Day:** April 10<sup>th</sup>





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**COMPOSTABLE YARD WASTE:** The City of Houston has established April 5, 2010 as the startup date for the collection of yard trimmings in compostable bags. City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department crews will only pick up bagged yard trimmings placed at the curb in City-approved compostable bags. Yard trimmings placed in the garbage cart, or in any other type of container or bag will not be collected.

*Examples of which bags can be found where below or [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)*



### Gus Wortham Golf Course Update

*submitted by Reni'*

**Presentation will be made at April Civic Club Meeting**

The Gus Wortham Golf Course Master Plan Community Meeting was very informative. The new design presented by golf course architect Baxter Span of Finger Dye Spann, Inc. showed the new course designs with original historical aspects that had been removed at some point in time. Benito Guerrier, Executive Vice President of Kirksey Architecture was present to assist with the power point presentation as Baxter explained in detail what changes were designed for each fairway, tee box and green and what is currently on the course that isn't changing at all. Joe Turner, Parks Director was also available to answer questions, and Council Member James Rodriguez was also present. The new golf course board designs are currently on display at the Gus Wortham Golf Course Pro Shop for viewing. These new designs will hopefully entice people and companies to make donations so the 9 million dollar renovation can take place. The designs will be available on-line soon.

### Keep Houston Beautiful Day

*submitted by Chris Berno*

**Volunteers needed**

Keep Houston Beautiful is the city's leading organization in beautification, litter reduction and recycling education. For 30 years, Keep Houston Beautiful has been reaching out to all segments of our community to educate and empower individuals to take greater responsibility for beautifying and enhancing Houston's environment. Each year's successes have created a cleaner and healthier city for all Houstonians. *(editor note)*

***In conjunction with Keep Houston Beautiful Day, Idylwood residents are invited to join in a neighborhood clean up effort on Saturday, April 10, 8:00 - 11:00 AM.***

The civic club's Beautification and Maintenance Committee has identified and prioritized three areas we'll focus on:

- 1) the green space along N MacGregor between Park & Wildwood
- 2) Spurlock Park
- 3) the banks of Braes Bayou

We'll meet at the corner of N MacGregor & Park at 7:45 AM. Beverages, trash bags and gloves will be provided. Bring your favorite hand tools (rakes, clippers, shears) or power tools (mowers, weed eaters, chainsaws).

Contact: Chris Berno, 1402 N MacGregor, 713-923-6935, [cberno@kw.com](mailto:cberno@kw.com) for more info.



**Don't forget to send it in.**

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### April Garden Club News

*submitted by Nancy Doyle & Loretta Williams*

It is time for spring cleaning! The April garden club meeting will be held at the home of Jan Flowers (6661 Sylvan) on Saturday, April 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. We will focus on a group discussion of "How did our gardens survive the winter of 2009-2010?". Attendees are invited to bring notes and photos from their yards to contribute to the round-table discussion:

- What survived in your yard?, What didn't survive?, Anything happening at the roots of those bare stems?, What should we do with what is left? , How can we fill the gaps in our landscaping?
- Let's take what we learned in the last program (plant propagation) and plan to share our survivors with each other!

Following the meeting, we will adjourn to work on the neighborhood street planters. Plants and materials are ready. Bring your trowels, gardening gloves, clippers, etc. Come dressed in work clothes and ready to pitch in while enjoying the beautiful spring weather. Are there any neighbors (including non-garden club members) who would like to adopt a planter along Wayside for the season(or join our work day)? We need help! Please contact Garden Club President, Sally Lehr, at [sally1704@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sally1704@sbcglobal.net) or 713-926-4972.

The yard of the month committee chooses the yard of Jan Flowers of 6661 Sylvan for her outstanding gardening of purple jewel toned tulips. The tulips are outstanding and are quite dazzling. Tulips have to be planted in the autumn to bloom in the spring and in moist soil but not too moist or the bulb will rot. Tulips can bloom anywhere to a month or shorter period. If it has not been a freezing winter the bulbs will not grow that well, and gardeners in warmer climate usually refrigerate the tulips for 6 – 8 weeks before planting. In the 1600's in Holland, fortunes were made trading unsprouted bulbs and eventually due to oversupply, many dealers went bankrupt. This period was referred to as Tulipomania. Having tulips in one's home was a way to impress others. Even today, the tulips on Sylvan have the same effect of leaving this gardener in awe. She also has at least a twenty-foot orange tree in bloom which is reminiscent of the orange crop in the Texas Rio Grande Valley and an old fashioned shrub, Bridal Wreath Spiraea which is putting on a beautiful spring show of enormous white sprays of tiny rose like flowers. The Yard of the Month Committee congratulates Ms. Jan Flowers for yard of the month.

### 6714 Sylvan has been Demolished

As much as we hate to lose another house in Idylwood, this one had become a hazard. Thanks to Neighborhood Protection Inspector; Gracie Estrada and several civic minded residents for their efforts to have this dangerous building removed. (photo taken during demolition on March 21<sup>st</sup>.)



### Yahoo User Email Group

Recently Idylwood lost one of its treasured residents, David Bensey. David had been a great asset to Idylwood in many ways including his establishment and monitoring of the Yahoo User Email Group. Many of us use and depend on that group to keep us updated with neighborhood happenings and to post alerts. That group still exists and postings can still be made and read but it is no longer monitored. Because Yahoo does not allow groups to be transferred without the owner's permission, it may be difficult to shut this group down as well. Requests to be added to this group or to be deleted from it can not be granted. Some individuals are looking into trying to salvage the contact list of this group and start a new one. When a solution is determined, it will be posted in the newsletter. This is not a Board matter but David's widow has asked members of the board to help find another option. If you would like to volunteer to establish and monitor a neighborhood site please let me (newsletter editor) know.

There is currently another group called Idylwood Community Exchange that is managed but not monitored.



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### *Idylwood Civic Club*

■ **President:** Maggie Mottesheard, *Meadowlawn*,  
mmottesheard@earthlink.net

■ **VP:** Lawrence Curry, *Meadowlawn*,  
curry6734@sbcglobal.net

■ **Secretary:** Kristina Arscott, *Meadowlawn*,  
platypusid@earthlink.net (board appointed)

■ **Treasurer:** Jeff Klemm, *Merry*,  
jeffklemm@hotmail.com

#### Directors:

■ Chris Berno, *N. MacGregor*, cberno@kw.com

■ Barney Giesen, *Meadowlawn*,  
barneygiesen@sbcglobal.net

■ Paul Leggett, *Merry*, paul\_d\_leggett@hotmail.com

■ Frank Lovoi, *N. MacGregor* (no email)

■ John McDonald, *Fairfield*,  
johnnymacdaddy@sbcglobal.net

■ Russell Millar, *Park*, repilot@sbcglobal.net

■ Juliet Stipeche, *Sylvan*, julietstipeche@hotmail.com

■ Wendy Thiessen, *Sylvan*,  
wendy@thehoustonrealtor.com

Idylwood Civic Club Association  
P.O. Box 9225  
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www.Idylwood.org

**Newsletter Editor: Wendy Thiessen**  
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**Joni Mueller, Idylwood Webmaster**  
www.pixelita.com  
Crime Reporting:

Constable Victor Trevino  
(713) 923-9156 Ask for Lt. Ellis  
Or HPD non-emergency (713) 884-3131  
Officer Trejo (713) 928-4631  
Animal Control:  
(713) 229-7300

#### *Idylwood Crimes Reported*

	06'	07'	08'	09'	10'
Theft (home or auto)	3	2	4	18	2
Aggravated Assault	0	0	1	0	0
Burglary (home or auto)	23	12	16	6	3
Narcotic Drug Laws	NA	NA	1	1	0
Robbery	2	0	1	3	0

**EASTER EGG HUNT:** Please join us for the annual Idylwood Spring Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt this Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 4:00 pm at Spurlock Park. We'll have field games, a pinata, egg hunts and a picnic! Hope to see you there! Amber Mollhagen 713/410-3945



**ART EXHIBIT:** It's that time of year for the "Contained & Arranged" collaboration between local potters and floral artists at Foelber Gallery. Idylwood resident, Rita Bradberry's ceramic art will be on display. Opening Night Reception is Friday, March 26, 6-9 pm

**CITIZENS ON PATROL:** Tired of crime? Do something about it. Join the Citizens on Patrol group of Idylwood residents. Once again, Idylwood is at the forefront. We are the only neighborhood out of our police substation with a Citizens on Patrol group. The next training session for Idylwood Citizens on Patrol is Thursday, March 25, at 6.30 at the police substation, located at 7525 Sherman [Avenue D] off Wayside. It will take less than 1 hour. You must submit an application for prescreening before the training. Barney Giesen, barneygiesen@sbcglobal.net or 713-459-8959 can get you one. Please join us. We are able to patrol while walking, jogging, or exercising our pets. RSVP to Barney Giesen by email or phone if you have already submitted an application but missed the first training and will come to this one.

### LAST MINUTE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to Copy.Com for their generous discount.

