



IDYLWOOD NEWSLETTER

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

February 2004

Yard of the Month—*Let the Competition Begin!*

As a neighborhood pride project, the Civic Club is introducing the Yard of the Month program. The idea is to give recognition to homeowners who go above and beyond basic maintenance in their front landscapes. One home each month will be chosen and rewarded with a snazzy sign in the front yard, a picture on the website and/or newsletter, a certificate, and our sincere thanks for helping to improve the aesthetics of our area. The selection committee will be made up of three judges, two selected by the Board and one by the Garden Club. There's no agenda here—these judges are looking for curb appeal! Five points maximum will be awarded in each of the following categories:

1. **Continuity of maintenance through all seasons:** Beds neat and grass/weed-free as visible from street, minimum weeds in lawn, lawn healthy and trim, plantings healthy
2. **Overall design:** Landscaping does not have to be elaborate, balance appropriate to house and lot size, use of color and/or texture, creativity and uniqueness, whimsy, interest.
3. **New/recent landscape improvements:** Professional services NOT necessary
4. **Seasonal color:** Attention to detail in use of blooming plants, year-round interest
5. **Trash and storage:** Effective masking of trash and recycling bin storage. Consistent retrieval of trash and recycle bins from curb after pickup.

Disqualifications are few. Potential items include violation of deed restrictions/City codes and extensive use of non-living plant material (i.e., silk plants). In addition, no current Board member is eligible, and no home may win more than once in a 12 month period.

And finally, because there are so many homes in the neighborhood to keep track of each month, nominations are gladly accepted. So get to work and good luck!

Your Help is Needed to document the History of Idylwood

As the owners of older homes in a city of “new,” Idylwood residents have something that most in Houston don't—**history**. To help emphasize that history, webmaster Jeanie Woodruff (MacGregor) and I would like to compile a selection of photographs and advertisements detailing the historic charm of Idylwood. Ideally we would have a number of them from each decade. All photographs will be returned to the owner unharmed. We will post the photographs on the website, noting location and approximate date they were taken. Photographs of the park, bayou, neighborhood homes, and of course people, are needed. As long as it has something to do with our neighborhood, we want it! Even “then and now” photos are welcome! An added benefit will be for new and potential residents to see how well our neighborhood has fared through the decades.

If you would like to participate, please contact myself (Chris Wright, 832-265-0530 or chrisw@houston.rr.com) or Jeanie Woodruff (713-926-4467 or jeaniewoodruff@earthlink.net)

We are hoping for a terrific response, so please start going through your scrapbooks now!

Tree Planting Set for February

Brain Klemm

Merry Lane

On Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, February 29, I will be planting trees for my Eagle Scout Project. The trees will be provided by **Trees for Houston** and will be planted by Troop 211 and any neighbors who would like to volunteer. Per Trees for Houston's regulations, trees will be available for planting in the easement between the street and sidewalk. Homeowners who request tree(s) will be asked to care for them after the initial planting/mulching. I will be sending further information and request forms door to door during the month. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call me at (713) 928-5156.

Security Patrol

What would you say if you found out there was a security patrol available to Idylwood residents that had a response time of 2-4 minutes? Well there is one, thanks to the Greater East End District. They have teamed up with the Precinct 6 Constable and the Central City Industrial Park on Polk Street to provide around the clock patrols. Simply call the Constable's office when you need assistance. Their phone number is 713-923-9156. Program it along with 911 and HPD dispatch (713-222-3131) into your home and cellular phones.

Coming Next Month: Idylwood Security Report

In March, the Newsletter will start providing area crime statistics each month, as they are reported by the Houston Police Department. We will include both Idylwood and the greater beat statistics so that you can see how our neighborhood compares.

Next Civic Club Meeting February 9, 7:00pm

Directions to the Eastside Substation: Go east on Lawndale to 75th Street and turn left. Turn right at the third street past Harrisburg, (Sherman). The HPD Eastside Substation is on the left side of Sherman about half way between 75th and 76th Streets

Deed Restriction and By-Laws Update

The Board recently received the legal deed restriction and by-law language back from the attorney. We have spent much time scrutinizing the details to make sure that our intent is being met. A few changes need to be made and we are hoping to get those in quickly so that we can keep to our original March signing schedule. Once the changes have been made, the Board will review the package again, and if satisfied, will commence providing the copies to all homeowners.

Lose your Newsletter? A copy is always available at <http://www.idylwood-houston.org>

New Home Developments in the East End

On 20 acres near the corner of Telephone and Lawndale, **Perry Homes** is slated to develop approximately 300 townhomes. Final details were not available as the Newsletter went to print, but representatives noted at the most recent SuperNeighborhood meeting that the townhomes would probably be priced from \$130,000 to \$170,000, and that there would be a mix of attached and single-family dwellings also available. Within the next week, Bill England of the Eastwood Historic Society will be giving representatives from Perry Homes a tour of Eastwood in the hopes of encouraging them to incorporate as much of the style of that area into their designs. This will be one of Perry's largest inner loop projects to date.

On the former site of Markle Steel plant (bounded by the Gulf Freeway, Pease, Ennis, and Delano), **Tremont Homes** will be developing approximately 120 townhomes. Their prices will range from \$160,000 to \$210,000, and the first homes will be finished this year

The Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Idylwood Civic Club. Articles and ideas relevant to our area may be sent to the **Editor & Vice President, Chris Wright (Meadowlawn)**, at IdylwoodEditor@yahoo.com. Deadline for March Newsletter is February 29, 2004.

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Important Dates:

- Heavy Trash** (2nd Monday of month) February 9
- Recycling** (every other Monday) February 2 & 16
- Civic Club** (2nd Monday of month-HPD Eastside Substation) February 9 at 7:00pm
- SuperNeighborhood** (2nd Tuesday of month—Villa de Matel Dubios Ctr) February 10 at 6:30 pm
- The Garden Club**, See signs for location; 713-928-5044 March 6, 10:00am

Important Phone Numbers:

- Police (Emergency) 911
- Police (Non-Emergency) (713) 222-3131
- Constable (Faster than HPD at times) (713) 923-9156 ask for Dispatch
- City of Houston service helpline 311
- Fire Department (713) 227-2323
- Graffiti Abatement (713) 928-9916