



IDYLWOOD NEWSLETTER

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

March 2004

Of Puddles and Potholes

Driving down South Wayside isn't for the faint of heart. Dodge a piece of heaved pavement to the left only to drive through a foot of water on the right. Is this a street or the Rubicon Trail?

Well, relief is on the way. The Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) has almost completed their design and bid process for the rehabilitation of South Wayside. Slated to begin in the third quarter of 2004, this project will run from I-45 to I-10. The road will be taken down to its original concrete base, repaired & reinforced, and then two layers of asphalt will be applied--creating that glassy smooth surface we all love. The road height will drop 4-6", exposing the curbs that are today covered up by asphalt. In places where the curbs have deteriorated, they will be replaced. New sidewalks and wheelchair ramps will be installed or replaced as needed. We were fortunate that the evening we met with the TXDOT representative, there was quite a bit of standing water from recent rains, so she was able to see additional drainage problems that need to be addressed.

The contractors will work to keep inconvenience to a minimum, and should only temporarily limit access to any street or driveway. Since there was no right of way purchased, lanes will pretty much stay as you see them today. Signal lights and landscaping are not part of this project. With that said, I have already been in touch with the TXDOT Landscape Architect for our area and will be meeting with him to explore what aesthetic improvements they might be able to incorporate into our stretch of South Wayside.

As this project progresses, the Board will stay in close contact with TXDOT as well as the East End District leadership. We will keep residents apprised of any issues through David Bensey's email alerts as well as on these pages.

From Motel to Eyesore to No More?

In perhaps one of the more exciting developments this year, the former Gulf Freeway Inn at the corner of I-45 and South Wayside is slated for demolition. Long an eyesore to Idylwood residents, the hotel was closed and number of years ago and has since fallen into a state of disrepair. Recently, the owner decided that the land was more valuable without the building on it, so he came to an agreement with the City to have it razed. The land will most likely serve commercial interest to developers. This demolition, coupled with the 2003 sale of land across South Wayside (currently occupied by the Champion used car lot and Stellaris Ballroom), has created the potential for a major change in the entrance to our part of the East End. Good things ARE happening and we will keep you informed of any changes we know about!

Tree Planting Update

Brian Klemm

Merry Lane

Thanks to everyone in the neighborhood who helped with my Eagle Project to put trees in Idylwood. The weekend of February 28, 2004, Troop 211 planted over 70 trees in the easement in front of homes and in the park. I appreciate the many generous donations to cover the cost of supplies and the willingness of individuals who agreed to care for these trees.

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 the April Newsletter is March 29, 2004.

Civic Club Meeting Mar. 8, 7:00pm

Please come get involved and meet your neighbors! Meeting starts at 7PM. **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.

Need a recycling bin?

Recently, Civic Club Director Jeff Klemm (Merry Lane) picked up 10 extra City of Houston recycling bins for distribution to area residents. If you are in need of one, please contact Jeff at 713-621-9944. City of Houston ordinances state only one recycling bin is allowed per household.

Idylwood Security Report

Welcome to the first edition of the Idylwood monthly security report. Since not all residents have email access, these stats are provided as a compliment to the more timely email alerts that David Bensey sends out. Each month, we will provide the most recent information for Idylwood as well as the East End in general—in this case December 2004. This comparison is vital to put criminal activity that happens within Idylwood in perspective to the area at large. The figures you will see here each month represent official complaints logged by HPD—if it isn't reported to them, we can't expect them to help solve the problem! As you can see, December was a particularly quiet month with no complaints in Idylwood logged by HPD.

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Idylwood</i>	<i>East End (Beat 11H10)</i>
Murder/Manslaughter	0	2
Rape	0	1
Robbery	0	12
Aggravated Assault	0	12
Burglary	0	36
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	0	8
Auto Theft	0	25
Driving While Intoxicated	0	11
Narcotics	0	4

The Idylwood Directory is Ready to be Distributed

Due to additional time necessary to revise the Deed Restrictions and By-Laws of our neighborhood, we had to put off work on the Directory for a bit. Now it has been finalized and will be sent to our printer shortly. Residents should be receiving the finished product in March.

Owners of Junked and Inoperable Vehicles Beware

Recently, the City signed a new towing contract. We have been told that the City, working through the Neighborhood Protection department, will become much more aggressive in the towing of inoperable vehicles. An inoperable vehicle is defined as:

- Being wrecked and/or dismantled (partially or fully)
- Being inoperable for a continuous period of more than 30 days
- Having an expired or missing license plate or inspection sticker

Vehicles fitting these descriptions must be FULLY screened by completely enclosing the vehicle in a garage (tarps, covers, etc., are not acceptable). If you need to report an inoperable vehicle, please contact anyone on the Civic Club Board and we will work with Neighborhood Protection to have the situation resolved in a timely manner.

Important Dates:

Heavy Trash (2nd Monday of month) March 8

Recycling (every other Monday) March 1, 15, & 29

Civic Club (2nd Monday of month-HPD Eastside Substation) March 8, 7:00pm

Positive Interaction Program (3rd Monday of month-HPD Eastside Substation). Call Officer Rick Trejo 713-928-4631 for more information March 15, 6:30pm

The Garden Club, see signs for more information April 3, 10:00am