



IDYLWOOD NEWSLETTER

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

April 2004

So, What Exactly *is* Heavy Trash?

Once per month, residents can dispose of large items through the City of Houston's Heavy Trash Program. Periodically, however, it is wise to reiterate the guidelines for what is and what is not acceptable to put out for heavy trash.

Appliances (emptied of Freon), furniture, mattresses, tree trimmings, and up to four cubic yards of building material (not including brick, plaster, or concrete) generated by residents are all acceptable for heavy trash collection—to be placed at the curb no earlier than the weekend before collection. It is important to note that any waste generated by contractors is not to be put out for collection—this includes construction waste of any type as well as tree trimmings.

Houston residents are fortunate to have a relatively liberal heavy trash policy, and so it is in our best interest to make sure that we adhere to the program's guidelines. If you see any violations of these policies, please contact the Civic Club.

Neighborhood Scenes

In an effort to capture the essence of Idylwood for viewers of our website (Idylwood-Houston.org), we will be canvassing the neighborhood in the next couple of months with digital cameras in hand. We would like to show street scenes and also specific homes that reflect our neighborhood. If we do choose to include your home, we will contact you for permission to use the picture. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

Additional Newsletter Distributor Needed

We are in need of a newsletter distributor for the 6700 block of Sylvan. If you would like to volunteer to help, please email me at IdylwoodEditor@yahoo.com

April Yard of the Month

The YOM judges are pleased to announce that Richard and Rose Smith at **6657 Sylvan** are the recipients of our first Yard of the Month award. Their use of stone borders, properly scaled plantings, and colorful perennials & annuals fit well with the style of their home and the extensive shade their property gets. Thanks to Richard and Rose for helping to make Idylwood a more attractive place to live! A photo of the winning home will be on the website.

Calling all Kids!

Wendy Cleveland

Park Lane

Because many of our kids attend school & activities outside the Idylwood area, it's not always easy for them to find friends & playmates in the neighborhood. So, we are building an **Idylwood Parents & Kids network** (mini-directory) from the ground up. The primary goal is to connect parents of similar age children for friendship/play-dates but we'd love to expand to special gatherings, social outings, and whatever else might develop. If you're interested in being included, please contact Wendy Cleveland: wccleveland@houston.rr.com; 713-926-4595

Street Gutter Maintenance Essential

Leaves, leaves everywhere! It seems every tree in the neighborhood chose to shed its leaves last month—and nowhere is the problem worse than in our street gutters (the space between the curb and the asphalt). This debris acts as a dam during heavy rains, preventing water from reaching the storm sewers. Unfortunately, the City doesn't provide a street sweeper service, so this responsibility falls on each resident to do their part. Please take time this weekend to clean your street gutters to ensure efficient drainage and a tidy appearance.

2004 Civic Club Budget

Every business must live within its means, and the Civic Club is no exception. While we dramatically increased the dues collected for 2004, the one-time expense associated with the necessary update of our deed restrictions has pushed us into a loss position. The following is our 2004 Budget:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Deed Restriction Enforcement | \$2,000 |
| Board Insurance (mandatory) | \$1,500 |
| Newsletter (\$50/mo + prior year) | \$1,162 |
| Website | \$163 |
| Directory | \$150 |
| Post Office Box | \$40 |
| Miscellaneous | \$250 |
| Total Recurring Expenses | \$5,265 |
| Deed Restriction Update | \$6,000 |
| Total All Expenses | \$11,265 |
| Dues Income (51% membership) | \$4,200 |
| Interest Income | \$250 |
| Total Income | \$4,450 |
| Net Income (Loss) | (\$6,815) |
| Cash on Hand (actual 8/03) | \$25,492 |
| Cash on Hand (forecast 8/04) | \$18,677 |
| Net Change (to cover loss) | (\$6,815) |

Email Alerts Helping Idylwood Residents

If you haven't already, please sign up for David Bensey's email alerts. If you included an email address on your Directory update form, you are automatically on the list. David's focus is primarily crime and criminal mischief, and his updates are timelier than the Newsletter in reporting on these issues. Send a note to him at Bensey@lifename.net and become a neighborhood insider!

Idylwood Security Report

For February 2004 there were 102 complaints. The figures you see here represent official incidents logged by HPD—**If you don't report it, they can't help.**

| <i>Offense</i> | <i>Idylwood</i> | <i>East End (Beat 11H10)</i> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Murder/Manslaughter | 0 | 0 |
| Rape | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 0 | 10 |
| Aggravated Assault | 0 | 14 |
| Burglary | 1 | 27 |
| Burglary - Motor Vehicle | 0 | 9 |
| Auto Theft | 0 | 28 |
| Driving While Intoxicated | 0 | 8 |
| Narcotics | 0 | 6 |

Identity Theft on the Rise

According to the U.S. Attorney General, "identity theft" is the fastest-growing white collar crime in the United States. The definition of identity theft is stealing another person's personal information for the purpose of using a victim's credit rating to commit fraud. The impostor could buy vehicles, open credit accounts, rent a dwelling in your name and then disappear. The latest scam being used by criminals is "**phishing.**" Here's how it works: You receive an email that appears to be from your financial institution. The email has the bank's logo, and the site may even be designed to look like the legitimate site. The email then directs you to enter personal information, such as account numbers and passwords. When you enter the information, it is routed to the computer criminals. To protect your good name, **never** reply to unsolicited emails from companies asking for personal and financial information. If by some chance you have replied to these types of emails, you should contact your financial institution immediately.

Recycling Bins Still Available

Please contact Jeff Klemm at 713-621-9944 if you need one!

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 May Newsletter is April 29, 2004.

How to Contact Your Civic Club:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>PRESIDENT</i> | BETH BRINDSON | FAIRFIELD | 713-514-0650 | BETH_B@SWBELL.NET |
| <i>VICE PRESIDENT</i> | CHRIS WRIGHT | MEADOWLAWN | 832-265-0530 | CHRISW@HOUSTON.RR.COM |
| <i>SEC/TREASURER</i> | KEN MORGAN | PARK LN | 713-921-7531 | KENPMORGAN@EARTHLINK.NET |
| <i>DIRECTORS:</i> | YOLANDA ALVARADO | FAIRFIELD | 713-921-1952 | YALVARADO@HOUSTON.RR.COM |
| | SIMON CLEMETT | WILDWOOD WAY | 713-928-9969 | SIMON.J.CLEMETT@JSC.NASA.GOV |
| | NANCY DOYLE | LINDY | 713-928-5737 | NDOYLEPT@HOTMAIL.COM |
| | DON FOX | WILDWOOD WAY | 713-924-5004 | DONFOX@HOUSTON.RR.COM |
| | LARRY FLOWERS | SYLVAN | 713-928-5044 | |
| | JEFF KLEMM | MERRY | 713-928-5156 | JEFFKLEMM@HOTMAIL.COM |
| | DIANE KOPFENSTEINER | FAIRFIELD | 713-923-8377 | DKOPFENSTEINER@HOUSTON.RR.COM |
| | PAM KUNKLE | WILDWOOD WAY | 713-923-7322 | P.SMITH30@GTE.NET |
| | PAUL LEGGETT | MERRY | 713-928-2603 | PAUL_D_LEGGETT@HOTMAIL.COM |
| | RUSSELL MILLAR | PARK LN | 713-928-5936 | RMILLAR@MILLARMAIL.COM |
| CHAD NEAL | IDYLWOOD | 713-923-4533 | CHADSSSWIM@AOL.COM | |
| KEVIN ROBERTS | IDYLWOOD | 713-921-6036 | KEVINROBERTS13@SBCGLOBAL.NET | |

Important Dates:

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|---|------------------|
| Heavy Trash (2 nd Monday of month) | April 12 |
| Recycling (every other Monday) | April 12 & 26 |
| Civic Club (2 nd Monday of month-HPD Eastside Substation) | April 12, 7:00pm |
| Positive Interaction Program (normally 3 rd Monday of month-HPD Eastside Substation). Call Officer Rick Trejo 713-928-4631 for more information | April 20, 7:00pm |
| The Garden Club , see signs for details | May 1, 10:00am |

Important Phone Numbers:

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 |

Civic Club Meeting Apr. 12, 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.

Floodplain maps now available online

Recently, the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project put their findings online. TSARP is a joint effort between Harris County Flood Control District and Federal Emergency Management Agency. They have stressed that these are not the official maps that will be used for flood insurance guidelines, but that they will be used in the creation/update of those guidelines. Please log on to their website at www.tsarp.org and check out the link "Flood hazard recovery data interactive mapping tool" where you can enter in specific addresses to find their location and flood potential. There are also many Q&As for those who might now find themselves inside a floodplain.