



IDYLWOOD NEWSLETTER

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

June 2004

Project Brays Update

Close to Home

As part of Project Brays, the Brays Bayou Freshwater Intertidal Marsh Project at Mason Park is designed to reduce flood damage for area residents and businesses, as well as create a habitat for native plants, wildlife and fish. It will also demonstrate how wetlands can help improve water quality and, simultaneously, serve as an educational resource for the greater Houston community. This Freshwater Intertidal Marsh is a pilot project for additional wetland areas that may be constructed in Harris County. The Freshwater Intertidal Marsh Project is about two miles north of the IH-610 and IH-45 interchange. The project is bounded by Mason Park to the north and west, Brays Bayou to the west and south and to the east by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

Brays along Idylwood

Many Idylwood Residents attended the public information fair for the project on June 8th. The following information was verbally communicated by a couple of the engineers at the fair. It appears that the land cannot be taken from the cemetery to widen the bayou through Idylwood. Therefore, it will all come from the MacGregor street side. Most likely, a retaining wall will need to be constructed with a vertical drop to get the widening along MacGregor needed. This should leave about 15 feet of green space from the street curb to the wall. A rail will be necessary to prevent people from falling and must be strong enough to resist a car crash.

They are going to be working on the Idylwood section plans over the next few months. We would like to invite a Project Brays representative to a Civic Club Meeting once they have more concrete plans.

Click on www.projectbrays.org for more information and continuous updates.

East End Beautification Update

In the most recent SuperNeighborhood meeting, Mary Margaret Hansen, President of the Greater East End District and Idylwood resident, was in attendance to review the District's plans for enhanced streetscapes in the East End. Included was our S. Wayside/I-45 intersection, where the District is challenged to provide a compromise between our wants and the State's regulations. The work will begin in mid-2005. Thankfully, Mary Margaret has agreed to present the details again at the June Civic Club meeting, so please come out, see what changes are in store, and provide your input on the S. Wayside plans!

June Yard of the Month

The YOM judges are pleased to announce that the Schenke's home at **6715 Fairfield** is the recipient of our June Yard of the Month award. Their creative use of color (and lack of high-maintenance turf grass) show that a less structured garden can still be ordered. A photo of the winning home will be on the Idylwood website.

Another Request For Signal Light Adjustment

For the fifth time in as many months, a request has been sent to 311 to extend the green cycle for the Sylvan Rd signal light. Recently, there has been an increased amount of speeding on upper Sylvan as cars try to "make the light." If the problem isn't corrected in the next two weeks, I will bring the issue to the attention of Carol Alvarado's staff.

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 July Newsletter is June 29, 2004.

Civic Club Meeting June 14, 7:00pm

Please come get involved and meet your neighbors! **Presentation on the Wayside improvements by the Greater East End Management District this month.** 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.

Motel Demolition Update

As much as I wanted to buy some commercial-grade motel furniture for pennies on the dollar from our friends at the Gulf Freeway Inn last weekend, I managed to resist. I did, however, find out that the owner has finally pulled the asbestos abatement permit and should begin the tedious process of cleaning up the property to prepare it for demolition. The City has issued more than 26 tickets for the property in the past two months, which appears to be the motivation that was needed. We will update as we know more.

Idylwood Security Report

For April 2004 there were 150 complaints in the East End overall, and two for Idylwood. 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	2
Rape	0	1
Robbery	0	11
Aggravated Assault	0	21
Burglary	2	37
Burglary - Motor Vehicle	0	14
Auto Theft	0	25
Driving While Intoxicated	0	28

National Night Out

As in years past, National Night Out will be the first Tuesday, August 3, 2004. Mark your calendars and look for more information about an event in Spurlock Park in the July edition of the Newsletter.

Idylwood Real Estate Summary

During the first quarter of 2004, three homes sold in Idylwood at prices ranging from \$139,900 to \$177,000. The average sales price was \$156,966 at approximately \$123.00/sf. Currently, there are eleven homes on the market in our neighborhood priced from \$145,000 to \$269,000. Recent increases in mortgage interest rates have been slight and haven't had any noticeable negative impact on home sales. For more information contact Judy and Chris Berno at 281/670-1900 (Office) or 713/923-6935 (Home).

Civic Club Board Elections/Nominations

Board nominations will be made at the July Civic Club Meeting and elections will be held at the August meeting. The nominations will be listed in the August newsletter. Please plan to attend each meeting and show your support for your neighborhood volunteers. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee, Susan Morgan, at 713-921-7531, or susan.b.morgan@earthlink.net.

Security Committee

The response to this effort has been impressive as many Idylwood Residents have volunteered their time to patrol the neighborhood. We have the minimum hours required for HPD to train and equip the volunteers, so we can proceed forward with implementing a citizen patrol. If you would like to volunteer and have not already, please send an email to beth_b@swbell.net. If you have already volunteered, you will be contacted about a July organizational meeting.

Important Dates:

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| Heavy Trash (2 nd Monday) | June 14 |
| Recycling (every other Monday) | June 7 & 21 |
| Civic Club (2 nd Monday--HPD Eastside Substation) | June 14, 7:00pm |
| Positive Interaction Program (3 rd Monday of month--HPD Eastside Substation). Call Officer Rick Trejo | June 21, 6:30pm; <i>come meet the new Eastside Captain!</i> |
| 713-928-4631 for more information | |