

# IDYLWOOD NEWS

## February 2015



### Happy Valentine's Day, Idylwood Residents!

February is here, and with it comes the celebration of Valentine's Day. Here is just a small history of the tradition and how it evolved into the occasion that is observed today:

**Saint Valentine's Day** is a holiday observed on February 14 each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world, although it is not a holiday in most of them.

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. Several martyrdom stories were invented for the various Valentines that belonged to February 14. A popular account of Saint Valentine of Rome states that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry. According to legend, during his imprisonment, he healed the daughter of his jailer, Asterius. An embellishment to this story states that before his execution, he wrote her a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell. The day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "*valentines*"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. Today it is a celebration of romantic love and an occasion to let your true love know dear he or she is to you!

**Presidents' Day** is Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Also known as Washington's Birthday, it is a United States federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February in honor of George Washington, the first President of the United States. It is also a state holiday in most states where it is known by a variety of names including **Presidents Day** and **Washington's and Lincoln's Birthday** and officially celebrates, depending upon the state, Washington alone, Washington and Lincoln, or some other combination of U.S. presidents. Colloquially, the holiday is widely known as "Presidents Day." Banks and federal offices will be closed on that day (but not that it is not a City of Houston holiday, so there **will** be trash pickup.

**Ash Wednesday** is on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. It is a day of fasting, and is the first day of Lent in Western Christianity. It occurs 46 days before Easter. According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants with the words "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



## Garden Club News

Kristina Arscott and Stephen Palmer hosted our first meeting of 2015. Their home was beautifully decorated with lots of cheer to bring in the new year. The assortment of food ranged from sweet to savory, and the turkey chili was the greatest!

### Go Green!

On Jan. 3, our guest speaker was Steve Stelzer, AIA, LEED AP, Program Director of the City of Houston Green Building Resource Center. The Center is located at 1002 Washington Avenue, Houston 77002 (832-394-9050). Steve presented a wide overview of the Resource Center and tips on local gardening.

The Center is a public building that has over 25 major pieces of art on display. Idylwood resident Mary Margaret Hansen has artwork showcased and has played a major role in the development of displaying art in the building. The Center has a gold LEED rating, the second highest of the green ratings. It is open for free tours; call to check for times. Local area teachers and students are encouraged to plan a field trip to tour the building. Individuals can learn about strategies for creating a green building, and the information is free! Learn tips on mulching and composting. A 40-hour course on becoming a master composter is being offered. The Center provides a variety of information on rain barrels, harvesting and reusing water, and recycling. Steve handed out brochures on DIY Home Energy Audit, Energy Saving Tips, and Mulching and Composting. Check the following websites for a complete listing of the opportunities offered that promote creating and sustaining a green environment: [www.codegreen.org](http://www.codegreen.org) and [steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov](mailto:steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov).

### Come and Join Us!

Meetings are usually on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to noon; refreshments are served. Dues for the remainder of this calendar year will be reduced. Look for the yard signs, the members' Yahoo group email, or in the Idylwood newsletter.

Feb. 7 – Meeting at Sally Lehr's home – 1704 Idylwood: Bart Brechter, Curator, Bayou Bend Gardens.

March 7 – Meeting at Amy Dinn's home – 6724 Sylvan Road: Patrick Kirwin, Landscape Designer.

## East End News:

**Retail kiosk operations** are being added to the Navigation Esplanade! GEEMD is committed to the community vision of a fully revitalized attractive and vibrant area. It is a shopping, food and entertainment destination for residents and visitors. These retail outlet kiosks will enhance the growing Esplanade and will be complimented with restaurants, active pop-up tent vendors and a once-a-week farmers market.

## Upcoming Events:

City Wide Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, February 7, 10am to noon

Texas Southern University, Granville M. Sawyer Auditorium  
3100 Cleburne St, Houston, TX 77004

The Houston Police Department is inviting citizens to its City Wide Town Hall Meeting. Meet Houston Police Chief Charles A. McClelland, Jr. and other top HPD commanders, try the "Shoot/Don't Shoot Simulator," and see an HPD helicopter and SWAT tactical vehicle on display. More details are available at <http://www.houstontx.gov/citizensnet/PoliceChiefInvite010915.html>.

## **Next Bayou Cleanup – March 14, 2015**

The next bayou cleanup will be Saturday, March 14 at 8 a.m. Please gather at Spurlock Park. Groups will disperse to clean up trash on both sides of the bayou. Work will last approximately one hour. Keep Houston Beautiful will provide trash-cleanup supplies, such as litter pickers, trash bags, and gloves for our volunteers. You are welcome to bring any of your own supplies as well. Closed-toe shoes, bug spray, sunscreen and long pants are highly recommended. A first aid kit will be on hand in the event of any accidents. This event is open to all. There is no age limit or minimum for willing volunteers! An adult should supervise those under 10 during the event.

**Pay your dues!** Civic Club dues are currently due for 2014-2015. Please remit \$40 to Idylwood Civic Club, P.O. Box 9225, Houston, Texas 77261-9225; to our Civic Club Treasurer, Fred Towersey, at the next Civic Club meeting; or via PayPal through [www.idylwood.org](http://www.idylwood.org). Thanks to those residents who have already paid their dues for this year!

**Idylwood News is going green!** Please join our electronic mailing list for the Idylwood News to reduce our carbon footprint and printing expenses in 2015. We will continue to deliver the newsletter to those who do not have internet access; however, we are encouraging all residents to provide their email address for the limited purpose of distributing the newsletter. You can sign up for the newsletter and update your directory information

here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MUMXT3OyDNyrfCoAw3RyVRwjVCrw\\_F2oZrX3OP15eaE/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MUMXT3OyDNyrfCoAw3RyVRwjVCrw_F2oZrX3OP15eaE/viewform)

**Idylwood is updating its resident directory.** For 2015, we will publishing an updated directory. If you would like to update your information or recently moved to the neighborhood, please use this form to provide your contact information for the Idylwood directory. Thanks for helping us make our directory a useful tool to connect with and communicate within the neighborhood.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MUMXT3OyDNyrfCoAw3RyVRwjVCrw\\_F2oZrX3OP15eaE/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MUMXT3OyDNyrfCoAw3RyVRwjVCrw_F2oZrX3OP15eaE/viewform)

**Brays Bayou Paddling Trail.** If you are interested in participating in an active committee to establish a Texas Parks and Wildlife Certified Paddling Trail on Brays Bayou, please contact Amy Dinn at [acdinn@gmail.com](mailto:acdinn@gmail.com).

## **Judy and Chris Berno Give the Lowdown on Idylwood Real Estate at January Civic Club Meeting**

At the meeting of the Idylwood Civic Club on January 20<sup>th</sup>, real estate agents and Idylwood residents Judy and Chris Berno gave a presentation about home sales and home prices in Idylwood and the surrounding area. Here are a few highlights:

- Houston has the strongest real estate market in the country right now, largely because of the number of jobs available and a high quality of life.
- Between December 2012 and December 2014, in the 77023 zip code, the median sales price of homes nearly doubled, from about \$100,000 to just under \$200,000.
- This rise in price is partly attributable to a decrease in the number of homes for sale (supply) and a consequent increase in the number of prospective buyers for each available property (demand).
- During that same period in Idylwood, the median sales price rose from about \$175,000 to almost \$285,000.
- This increase was not attributable to any change in the availability of homes in Idylwood, which stayed more or less constant over that period, with one to three homes on the market at any one time.
- Home prices—and property taxes—in Idylwood and the surrounding area are likely to continue to rise because of the increasing number of amenities that make the area more appealing, such as the recently completed Bayou Greenway Trails, soon-to-be-available METRORail service and the addition of international flights out of Hobby Airport.

Thanks very much to Chris and Judy for an interesting and informative presentation.

Thanks to Copy.Com for  their generous discount.



**REPORT ALL CRIMES TO  
HPD. 911. TO REPORT  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL  
713-884-3131, OPTION 0.**

## Idylwood Civic Club

### 2014-2015

🏠 Civic Club  
2013-2014

**President:** Amy Dinn, Sylvan, [acdinn@gmail.com](mailto:acdinn@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Larry Brown,  
[Larryh7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Larryh7@sbcglobal.net)

**Treasurer:** Fred Towersey,  
[ftowersey@kipphouston.org](mailto:ftowersey@kipphouston.org)

**Secretary:** Joni Mueller, [joni@jonimueller.com](mailto:joni@jonimueller.com)

**Directors: Class A, 1 Year**

1. Barney Giesen, Meadowlawn, [barneygiesen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barneygiesen@sbcglobal.net)
2. Sally Harris, Lindy, [sallyzen@hotmail.com](mailto:sallyzen@hotmail.com)
3. Tim Kirwin, Lindy, [tbk38@hotmail.com](mailto:tbk38@hotmail.com)
4. J.D. Baumgartner, Meadowlawn, [johndbaumgartner@yahoo.com](mailto:johndbaumgartner@yahoo.com)
5. Laura Manion, Meadowlawn, [manion@post.harvard.edu](mailto:manion@post.harvard.edu)

**Directors: Class B, 2 Year**

6. Judy Berno, MacGregor, [judyberno@gmail.com](mailto:judyberno@gmail.com)
7. Lawrence Curry, Meadowlawn, [curry6734@sbcglobal.net](mailto:curry6734@sbcglobal.net)
8. Jeff Klemm, Merry, [jeffklem@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffklem@hotmail.com)
9. Diane Kopfensteiner, Fairfield, [diane@gandgmodelshop.com](mailto:diane@gandgmodelshop.com)
10. Paul Leggett, Merry, [paul\\_d\\_leggett@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_d_leggett@hotmail.com)
11. Stephen Palmer, Meadowlawn, [spalmer68@earthlink.net](mailto:spalmer68@earthlink.net)

Copies of minutes from general meetings can be requested from the Secretary.

**If you suspect a deed restriction violation, please detail it in writing to the address below:**

**Idylwood Civic Club Association**

P.O. Box 9225 Houston, TX 77261-9225  
[www.Idylwood.org](http://www.Idylwood.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Elizabeth Sample  
[easample@gmail.com](mailto:easample@gmail.com)

**Joni Mueller, Idylwood Webmaster:**  
[www.pixellita.com](http://www.pixellita.com)

**Crime Reporting:**

**Emergency:** 911

**Or HPD non-emergency:** (713) 884-3131

**Animal Control:** (713) 229-7300

**Neighborhood Protection:** Contact 311

<i>Idylwood Crimes Reported thru Dec. 2013 *Lawndale incl. as of 07-09</i>	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14
<b>Theft (home or auto)</b>	4	18	21	13	16	7	11
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Burglary (home or auto)</b>	16	6	7	12	13	9	4
<b>Narcotic Drug Laws</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Robbery</b>	1	3	2	0	0	0	0

**Stats do not reflect crimes reported only to the Constable's office.**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **Curbside Recycling:** - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>
- **Heavy Trash:** - February 3<sup>rd</sup> – "Junk" pickup (Even months are junk, odd months are tree)
- **Newsletter Deadline** – Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Garden Club** – Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at Sally Lehr's home on 1704 Idylwood
- **Valentine's Day** – Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Presidents' Day** – Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>
- **Ash Wednesday** – Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

**St. Austin Center:**

- **Super Neighborhood** – February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.
- **Idylwood Civic Club Meeting** – February 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

Check out [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com) as a new way to connect with East End residents. It's a great place to report or look for a missing pet, announce a garage sales, put out a crime alert, etc. This site is endorsed and its use encouraged by HPD.

**Get on Yahoo for current updates**

**YAHOO Email Group**

Please join the Idylwood Community Exchange.

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Idylwood\\_Community\\_Exchange/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Idylwood_Community_Exchange/) There should be a photo of a sunset, and a description of the group just to the left of that photograph. Above and to the right of the photo, there is a **horizontal rectangular blue button that reads "Join this Group!"** Follow the prompts, and the rest is self-explanatory.



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