

IDYLWOOD NEWS

March 2015



Idylwood Directory Information!

Make Yourself Known - Put Your Information in the Idylwood Directory!

It's good to be able to get in touch with your neighbors - and for them to be able to get in touch with you! We are currently updating Idylwood's resident directory. Please provide your contact information by visiting the site listed below and complete the form there. If you have any questions about the directory, contact Idylwood Civic Club director Steve Palmer at spalmer68@earthlink.net.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MUMXT3OyDNyrfCoAw3RyVRwjVCrw_F2oZrX3OP15eaE/viewform

Idylwood Civic Club News:

At the Idylwood Civic Club meeting held on Tuesday, February 17, Luis Garcia, Stakeholder Affairs Representative for Houston Metro's East End Line, spoke about the status of Metro's rail projects in our area. Here are some of the highlights:

- The East End (Green) line and Southeast (Purple) line are scheduled to begin operating in April 2015. The East End line is currently in its testing phase.
- METRO will be increasing police patrols in the area, and train safety is being taught in schools near the new rail lines.
- The Harrisburg overpass on the East End line will be half a mile long, extending from Linwood to just east of 66th Street. At least part of Harrisburg will be closed at some point during the construction.
- A contract for \$26.8 million has been signed to construct the overpass, which is expected to take 1 year.
- The overpass will include one light rail track and one lane of traffic in each direction (east and west). There will also be a street-level frontage road for access to businesses on Harrisburg that are adjacent to the overpass.
- The overpass will have artwork with the themes of East End history (starting in 1826) and a garden wall. There will also be LED lighting and magnolia motifs on the columns.
- There will be opportunities for public use under the overpass.

March To The Next Garden Club Meeting!

Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 7 from 10:00 am-noon at Amy Dinn's home at 6724 Sylvan Road. Our presenter will be Patrick Kirwin, brother of Tim Kirwin, a landscape designer from Austin, Texas. Bring a neighbor and a friend for this enlightening program! All Idylwood residents are welcome to attend the meetings, including non-members!



Garden Club News:

Yard of the Month!

The Garden Club would like to award and honor one of theirs this month - March YOM 2015 goes to Michael and Scott residing at 6622 Rockbridge Lane. Michael and Scott have both been very active in the ICC for almost 9 years now. 'We're so glad we've had this time together... just to have a laugh or sing a song... seems we just get started and before you know it... comes the time we have to....ear pull...(y'all know the rest)! THANKS.....The Garden Club!

Bayou Bend- Miss Ima Hogg's Gift:

The February 7th Garden Club meeting was at the home of member Sally Lehr. Our presenter was Bart Brechter, curator at Bayou Bend Gardens. Bayou Bend is the former home and immense garden of Miss Ima Hogg. The entire estate was willed by Miss Hogg to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, with the River Oaks Garden Club named as an integral part of the garden's maintenance and historical preservation.

Mr. Brechter spoke about a curator's job and the inner workings of the museum and garden club. His presentation was accompanied by beautiful photographs from the garden's archives. Sweet anecdotes of Miss Ima and her pursuit of plants were told.

He also brought azaleas in pots from the garden, as well as two tickets to the Azalea Trail, and informative hand-outs of Bayou Bend. Those went by lottery to members present. This presentation was very inspiring as Houston prepares for this spring's incredible azalea season!

March Gardening Tips:

- * Now is the time to prune Crape myrtles. Light, interior small branch/twig trimming is the recommended approach to achieve a balanced and gracefully shaped tree. The following link has very good photos and an explanation of how to achieve a beautiful tree with lots of blooms: <http://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2013/02/how-do-i-prune-crape-myrtle/>. Be sure to click on the link again inside the article located just above "Reducing Tree Size" to see the before and after photos.
- * Tricky weather this month—warm one week, with the possibility of freezing temperatures the next. Keep all plants and beds watered. Wait until mid to late March to apply a granular organic fertilizer on all plants and shrubs.
- * With the warmer weather, weeds, insects and diseases will take advantage and attack flower beds. Mulching the beds will slow weeds. Damaging snails and slugs will be hungry! You can pick them off plants in the early morning or in the evening, or set out a lid filled with beer. There is also an organic bait for snails and slugs that is safe for kids, pets and wildlife.
- * Toads and frogs will begin singing to us at night! If we get a good rain, check the standing water near the curb and you are sure to find tadpoles. Keep adding water so they can continue to grow! A healthy yard loves frogs and toads as they eat mosquitoes, snails, slugs and other bugs we fight to keep out of our gardens.
- * Spring bulbs are beginning to come up. Tulips, irises, narcissuses, hyacinths and crocus are just a few you might see coming up in beds throughout the neighborhood.
- * Roses should be fertilized when new growth begins. Watch for blackspot as our humidity rises.
- * If you want a spring vegetable garden, decisions about what to grow needs to be made now! Over the next 4–6 weeks, all of the early to midsummer crops need to be planted either by seed or young plants. It's too late to start seeds for tomatoes and bell peppers. You can find young transplants for these at our local nurseries and the big box stores. Other veggies you might want to plant in your garden are collards, radishes, snap beans, eggplant, watermelons, cucumbers, cantaloupe and corn.
- * Live oaks will begin to drop lots of leaves. Rake them up and store in bags or containers and use later to mulch your gardens.

Come and Join Us!

- Meetings are usually on the first Saturdays from 10:00 am to noon. Refreshments are served.
- Look for the yard signs, members' Yahoo group email, or in the Idylwood newsletter.
- **March 7** – Meeting at Amy Dinn's home – 6724 Sylvan Road: speaker, Patrick Kirwin, landscape designer.
- **April Event**- More info to follow via email for date, time, and location
- **May 2** – Meeting at Jan Flower's home- 6661 Sylvan Road: Sharon Graff-Accenting your home with plants.

East End Information:

Eastside HPD hosts the PIP (Positive Interaction Program) community meetings on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Each meeting features a different area of policing with a guest speaker, an overview of crime statistics and trends with the station's captain, and an opportunity to discuss problems affecting the safety and livability of our community with police and city representatives. More information at [\(713\) 928-4600](tel:7139284600).

The following includes very important information about neighborhood crime that Idylwood resident Michael Madeley has generously shared with us:

Robbery is when a person takes something from you by force or threat of force. Many times we use this word when burglary or theft would be a better choice, because no force against a person is used. Some people still hesitate to report robbery for a myriad of reasons. HPD wants all robberies to be reported and solved to prevent the dangerous people who commit these crimes from harming others. NO ONE will be reported to INS or the IRS for reporting a robbery. Simply call HPD at [713-884-3131](tel:7138843131), dial 911 if a crime is in progress or call Crime Stoppers at 713-213-TIPS.

Here are some tips from HPD for avoiding robbery:

1. Walk with alertness and confidence; look around you repeatedly. Let others around you know you are aware of them. If you feel uncomfortable about something, trust that instinct!
2. Carry the minimum amount of cash you need; avoid showing your wallet. Avoid outdoor ATMs, especially at night.
3. When parking your car or returning to it, scan the area around your car and look into other cars to observe groups of people driving or hanging around. Keep your car keys ready and get in/out of your car quickly. Lock your doors upon getting in.
4. Look to see if you are being followed, especially if leaving your bank or business or returning home. Return to a well lit public place or a police or fire station if you think you are. Have a trusted person or the police accompany you home
5. Use a bank account and ATM debit card instead of keeping cash on hand or on your person. Even non-US citizens can open a bank account.
6. Even at home, be alert going to and from your car, and watch for moving or parked cars with multiple passengers. Keep doors and windows locked even above the ground floor and be sure to use the peephole before opening your door.

Captain's Crime Stats: Year to date, 01/01 - 02/16, compared to last year same period.

No murders

1 sexual assault. Likely the victim and perpetrator knew each other.

Robberies down 12%. There have been 29 this year.

Aggravated assaults about same level. This is almost always domestic violence.

Burglaries down 38%. Most burglaries occur in the daytime when the homeowner is at work or running an errand. The house is being watched or often it is kids walking through neighborhood. Burglaries can relate to truancy and also can increase during summer when school is closed.

Business burglaries up 20% with 5 more incidents. No pattern.

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle is down 25% due to citizen education efforts. Citizens are responding by taking valuables or hiding them when parking their cars.

Thefts up a little, but all have ended in arrests.

Auto theft down 35%.

Upcoming Events:

Benefit Concert and Bike Safety Event

Chelsea Norman's death in early December 2013 on her way home from work galvanized the city's bike riding community and spurred calls for justice and answers. A concert at Bohemeo's has been put together to benefit the family of Chelsea Norman. All of the bands that volunteered to play this show are doing so with full proceeds of the show going to her family. Several bike groups throughout Houston will be in attendance to educate and discuss bicyclist issues and to show solidarity. Please come out and support Chelsea's family and the bicycle community April 4, 2015, 8:00pm at Bohemeo's, 708 Telephone Road, Houston 77023.

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

Vice President: Larry Brown,
Larryh7@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Fred Towersey,
ftowersey@kipphouston.org

Secretary: Joni Mueller, joni@jonimueller.com

Directors: Class A, 1 Year

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

Directors: Class B, 2 Year

6. Judy Berno, MacGregor, judyberno@gmail.com
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9. Diane Kopfensteiner, Fairfield, diane@gandgmodelshop.com
10. Paul Leggett, Merry, paul_d_leggett@hotmail.com
11. Stephen Palmer, Meadowlawn, 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
Newsletter Editor: Elizabeth Sample
easample@gmail.com
Joni Mueller, Idylwood Webmaster:
www.pixelita.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
Theft (home or auto)	4	18	21	13	16	7	11
Aggravated Assault	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Burglary (home or auto)	16	6	7	12	13	9	4
Narcotic Drug Laws	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	3	2	0	0	0	0

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Curbside Recycling:** - March 2nd, 16th
- **Heavy Trash:** - March 3rd – "Tree" pickup (Even months are junk, odd months are tree)
- **Garden Club** – Saturday, March 7th 10:00 a.m. at Amy Dinn's home on 6724 Sylvan Road
- **Daylight Saving Time begins** – Sunday, March 8th
- **St. Patrick's Day** – Tuesday, March 17th
- **First Day of Spring** - Friday March, 20th

St. Austin Center:

- **Super Neighborhood** – March 10th 6:30 p.m.
- **Idylwood Civic Club Meeting** - March 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Check out the new 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/ 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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