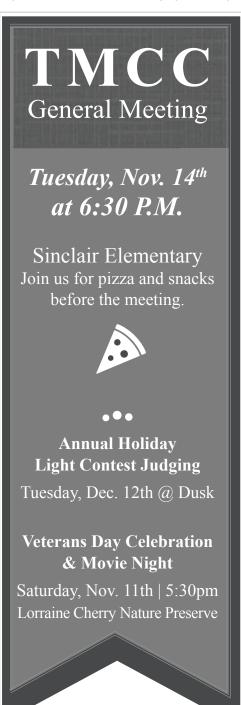


The Timbergram

NOVEMBER 2023

TIMBERGROVE MANOR CIVIC CLUB | P.O. BOX 70977 | HOUSTON, TX 77270-0977

WWW.TIMBERGROVE.ORG



TMCC Recommended Nomination Slate for 2024

Our annual TMCC Board elections will take place at the November General Meeting, Tuesday Nov 14 at 6:30pm. Below is the slate of your member neighbors recommended by the nominating committee. In addition to the slate, members are eligible to be nominated from the floor as a write in candidate at the meeting. The representatives of the Nominating Committee, as required and executed according to Article II Section 3 of the Timbergrove Manor Civic Club By-Laws, have created a slate of candidates we recommend to the dues paying and voting members of the Timbergrove Manor Civic Club.

As a committee, we are recommending the election of the following people based on the efficiency, effectiveness, and proven record of each individual. Each nominee has proven a desire to improve the neighborhood, from increased neighborhood activities, representation within local government, and broader awareness and contribution of the Timbergrove Manor Civic Club.

Sarah McConn - Droxford - Board Director

Sarah was born and raised in Houston, Texas and spent her formative years here in Timbergrove in two different houses on Grovewood Lane (first on 1023 and then on 6230). She had such fond memories of living in the neighborhood that when she and her husband moved back from Fort Worth in March 2020, they bought a house on Droxford from the original owner and renovated it during COVID. Sarah and her husband enjoy their time being with their toddler Boone and their 2 dogs, Bailey and Winnie.

AJ Beard - Queenswood - Board Director

AJ Beard has lived in Timbergrove Manor for 2 years. She is a Houston native, along with her husband Sean, but lived in Washington for 11 years prior to moving to Timbergrove. She has 2 children, a son at Sinclair and a daughter at Lutheran North Academy. AJ volunteers with Timbergrove Manor Section 5 as often as she can and with Timbergrove Sports Association, Houston Ultimate Community, Rice University and the Target Hunger. She is currently developing a farming program at Lone Oak Farm and Tech and loves spending time outside.

Alberto Castanon – Droxford - Secretary

Alberto grew up in southeast Georgia but has resided in Houston for the past 19 years. His wife, Jessica and he have two kids: Brandon, a junior at St. Pius high school and a daughter, Addison, a 5th grader at St. Mark Lutheran. Alberto and his wife purchased their home on Droxford Dr. in July, 2022 and are nearing completion of a major renovation. They are excited about rejoining the neighborhood. Alberto's professional background is in high-rise homeowners' association management. This encompasses all sectors such as: overview of financials, conducting capital projects, managing meetings and drafting meeting minutes, oversight on operations, etc. He values the importance of neighbors volunteering their time and efforts with the goal of the Timbergrove community sustaining its wonderful charm while embracing change that improves the community as well. (continued on page 2)

ISSUE

Reminder: Join the Civic Club!

A kind reminder that membership is open year-round. \$30 for single and \$60 for family. Visit www.timbergrove.org to join.

Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve

What does the drought mean for our trees? Read about this and get an update on our Bird Drip inside this issue... (... continued from front page)

Pete Davies - Hurst - Board Director

Pete has been a Timbergrove resident since 1988 and has served as a member of several civic organizations over the past 15 years. He has most recently served as the TMCC Secretary and assists with the Design Review and other committees. He and his wife raised two daughters who both attended Sinclair Elementary School and still live in the area. By day, Pete is a Professional Engineer and enjoys designing and overseeing roadway, bridge, drainage, park trails and other civil projects. He is looking forward to giving back to his neighbors and community.

Jennifer Vickers – Pineshade - Treasurer

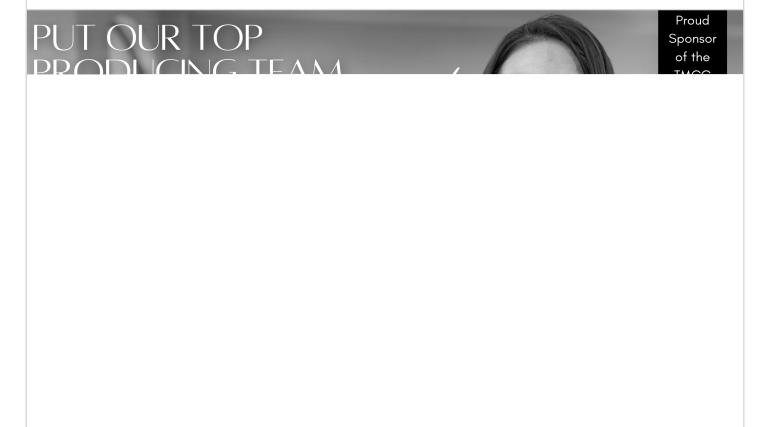
Since 2011, Jennifer Vickers has resided in Timbergrove Manor, where she began her volunteering journey with TMCC by joining as the editor of The Timbergram newsletter in November 2012. Subsequently serving two terms as a Director for the organization, she was appointed as Treasurer in mid-2023. She shares her life with her spouse, Kirk Guy, in a house on Pineshade Ln. As a top-producing Realtor with the Selling Houston Team at KSP, Jennifer understands the critical relationship that exists between the strength of neighborhood organizations and their influence on property values. Houston's diverse cultural arts, vibrant dining scene, and plethora of local organizations fuel her love for the city. In addition to TMCC, Jennifer's commitment to service is reflected through her positions on the Board of Directors for The Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve and Texas Realtors. She further extends her philanthropic scope by actively volunteering and fundraising for the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce, BEAR, Houston Food Bank, Furniture Bank, and several other notable local organizations.

Courtnie Hays - Linton Rd. - Vice-President

Both Native Texans, Courtnie and her husband grew up in the Houston area and moved to Timbergrove in 2008. After flooding during Hurricane Harvey and witnessing firsthand the community effort that it took to rebuild their house, they knew they were never leaving! They currently live on Linton Rd. with their three children and lazy American Bulldog, Cooper. Courtnie attended college at the University of North Texas where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Spanish. Years later, she went back to school to pursue a degree in nursing. She is currently a registered nurse and after some time working in the ER and having young children, she found her happy place as an elementary school nurse. Her family spends most of their time outside in the driveway with neighbors or more recently, at the TSA ball fields watching the kids play. Her passion is investing in people, helping others and creating a sense of community that will result in lifelong memories.

Traci Riley - Kury Ln. - President

Traci is a Louisiana transplant who has lived in Houston since 2004. She lives in Section 11 on Kury Ln with her spouse and four children. They have been having a lot of fun on Kury for the past nine years and prior to that, she spent eight years neighboring Timbergrove in Holly Park on Haverhill Dr. Traci loves our community and looks forward to continuing to support our amazing neighborhood.



Who will be this year's Clark Griswold?

Judging for this year's Annual Holiday Light Contest will be on

Tuesday, December 12, 2023.

We will begin looking at decorated houses as soon as it gets dark outside. You have a little more than one month so no putting it off this year. This is your invitation to show off and have a great time in the process. Let's see if you can summon your inner Clark Griswold! The winners in eight categories will be announced in the neighborhood newsletter and the coveted best prize yard signs.

2023 CATEGORIES

Best Inflatable Display Best Original Theme Best Overall Use of Lights Best Religious Theme **Best Traditional Theme Exceptional Achievement Favorite Childrens Theme** Overall Best Block Decorations



Sinclair PTO Updates



The Sinclair PTO has some great community events coming up, including our Book Fair from December 1-8, our Winter Wonderland and Movie Night happening December 1, and our Southwestern Soirée Auction happening March 2. Details for all events can be found on our website and social media pages. We are currently seeking sponsors and donations for our auction. Please reach out to silentauction@sinclairpto.org if you are interested.

We appreciate the continued support of the neighborhood and community!

Website: sinclairpto.org

Instagram: @sinclairelementarypto



BROUGHT TO YOU BY HEIGHTS PEDO ORTHO

Are there any fun dental gadgets for holiday gifts?

But of course! Dentistry has come a long way making fantastic products at all price ranges for both kids and adults. Here is our guide to the best dental gifts and stocking stuffers:

- 1. Sonicare or OralB electric toothbrushes are great! They come with timers, various speeds and modes, and have smart apps that help kids stay on task.
- 2. Battery operated toothbrushes are less expensive and do not have the ultrasonic mode, but they are fun, pretty, come with timers, sing songs, and often have apps that can help kids focus.
- 3. A variety of teeth whitening kits are sold over the counter, but you can ask us about prescription strength ones as well. What a thoughtful gift for that teenager straight out of braces!
- 4. Floss makes great stocking stuffers. Check out super fun flavors like cotton candy, grape, or even bacon!
- 5. Dental timers are especially useful for keeping time if you are using a regular toothbrush.
- 6. Sugar free gum or mints, especially ones sweetened with xylitol can make wonderful stocking stuffers as well.

You can always stop by our office to ask for other ideas and samples. We have a variety of ultrasonic toothbrushes, whitening kits we tried out ourselves, super cool dental timers, and plethora of knowledge about dental products!



104 W. 12TH ST.

KASIA LINDHORST, DDS, MSD ADRIEN THERIOT. DDS. MSD

DREW DARSEY, DDS, MSD : MARY KATE GAVRI. DDS. MSD

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Timbergrove, Lazybrook August Market Report YTD			
1/1/22-8/31/23 Number of Sale	1/1/22-8/31/22	% Change	
199	185	+8%	
Average Sales I	Price \$638k	-2%	
φυΖυκ	φυσοκ	-270	
Average Days	32	-12%	

GREENWOOD KING PROPERTIES

Block Captains Building Community

Block Captains hosted National Night Out, in some way or form, in early October. October 3 was the official National Night Out, but it was a soggy day. That meant that the Block Captains went into action themselves. Some of them decided to "bring it inside to the garage" instead of the driveway, and some of them decided to postpone until the weather was better. No matter what the circumstance was for NNO, it remains more than just National Night Out in Timbergrove Manor, it is Neighbors Night Out for us and the Block Captains make sure to get their blocks together no matter what. Together we are definitely a better community!

A Block Captain is needed for the 6502 - 6555 block of Lindyann. If you live there and have interest in building community on your block, please email blockcaptains@timbergrove.org.



Proud sponsor of TMCC Easter Egg Hunt Proud supporter of Lorraine Cherry Preserve 2012-2021 Texas Monthly Five Star Agent Master Certified Negotiation Expert



Elizabeth McCormick **REALTOR®** 832.661.7300 elizabethmccormickrealtor.com elizabethmccormick@compass.com

Timbergrove Manor Sales Statistics 2021 - 2023

2021	#HOMES SOLD	AVG PRICE	AVG DAYS ON MARKET
QTR 1	14	\$501,453	101
QTR 2	27	\$607,554	40
QTR 3	37	\$663,769	35
QTR 4	24	\$631,550	37
2022			
QTR 1	22	\$705,276	54
QTR 2	14	\$678,036	22
QTR 3	21	\$722,143	34
QTR 4	17	\$620,927	62
2023			
QTR 1	14	\$576,221	97
QTR 2	17	\$782,367	12
QTR 3	15	\$751,587	13
QTR 4			:-fiii

What's Happening at the Lot off Ella Between Grovewood and 12th Street?

Editor's Note

This article was submitted by a TMCC member resident about the notable efforts taken to address area development concerns. We applied the advocacy of our neighbors and members who choose to engage on community issues, including real estate development, that impact quality of life in Timbergrove. Submissions with your viewpoint and perspective from our residents about our neighborhood are always welcome at timbergram@timbergrove.org.

Article by: Travis Brown

Our story starts back in 2021. Through many months of confusing twists and frustrating turns, our community's perseverance kept the City of Houston from letting a well-connected developer run irresponsibly wild.

In November of 2021, members of our community engaged in a Planning Commission (PC) meeting to express concerns about build line setback variances proposed by the lot's developer, Lovett/InTown Homes, which is owned by influential political donor Frank Liu. We were asked if we had attempted to engage the developer, but all attempts to call the number on the variance sign were unsuccessful. Seemingly surprised by our level of community engagement, the vote was deferred by the PC. At the very next meeting, the PC presented a modified pedestrian realm plan they had privately negotiated with the developer. Commissioner Bill Baldwin, who stated he knows Mr. Liu well, stressed "time is money" and urged variance approval else Mr. Liu will do whatever he wants. It was disappointing the Planning Commission was ready to so boldly shirk its charter to uphold Chapter 42 regulations. Granting a variance is only allowed if it addresses a reasonable hardship – not if doing so simply improves the developer's profit margin. We balked at having been blindsided by the closed-door planning session and now had questions about the integrity of those involved.

Plans were confusing in that a new set featured retaining walls (indicating lot rise) while previous plans did not (and the city's project file clearly stated "NO RETAINING WALLS PROPOSED"). Another delay was granted for our community to digest what was just proposed. SNC-14 hosted an online forum with District C, Planning & Development and Public Works to gain clarity around what was being proposed – but the developer only sent his subcontracted engineer who offered no real answers. The developer's engineer argued with the City of Houston Managing Engineer who was simply highlighting ordinances and attempting to help us gain clarity.

At this point, greater concerns about flooding and pedestrian safety came into focus. Mr. Liu's community along 12th Street, Timbergrove Heights, had caused sheet flow flooding of properties along Grovewood Lane before proper drainage was installed – and only after many 311 complaints. Trust in the developer was low. Raising the lot could mean flooding neighbors, and many had concerns about the already-strained stormwater infrastructure along Ella Boulevard. More vehicles and limited parking ratcheted up concerns about the safety of our children as they walk to and from Sinclair Elementary School.

SNC-14 sent a formal request to Planning Department Director Margaret Wallace Brown and Mayor Sylvester Turner requesting exceptional deferral to clarify unanswered questions about the project. Ignoring our request, the setback variance was conditionally approved at the next PC meeting – though SNC-14 formally opposed the variance unless all our conditions were met. One such condition was a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) that was very clearly specified as a criterion for approval through permitting. Questions over regulatory requirements also brought to light the project being treated as one versus two – and it seemed it was treated as two separate projects when doing so reduced requirements.

Frustrations with the Planning Department were high. Then, the developer revealed ill intentions as multiple trucks delivered unpermitted fill dirt to the site during off hours in January – before any permits were issued. Community members jumped into action yet again, recording, taking photos and filing many 311 complaints. A whopping eight stop-work notices were posted. The developer failed to appear before his hearing and an arrest warrant was issued. Ultimately, Mr. Liu paid a small fine and his transgressions were otherwise ignored. The dirt he illegally introduced remained in the lot, and much of it washed into the surrounding storm drains.

The projects still required a final consent vote by the Planning Commission before they would move into the permitting phase with Public Works. Engaging both city teams, we focused on a few key items: (a) the traffic study, (b) whether the projects will be grandfathered into pre-Harvey Chapter 19 floodplain regulations and (c) if will there be a lot rise. Between January and October of 2022, we sent countless emails, made many calls and even coordinated an in-person meeting with high-level leaders at both Planning and Public Works. The Traffic Impact Analysis was almost dropped by the city as a requirement, but we insisted it be done. It was finally completed and suggested no further safety measures are needed since parents might be present to walk their children and the school has a crossing guard – even though more robust measures would certainly help mitigate safety hazards. The lot rise and grandfather status questions were never answered. As replies from Public Works stopped, we engaged District C Council Member Abbie Kamin and At-Large 1 Council Member Mike Knox to push for responses. Results were mixed. We filed ethics complaints for dereliction of duty as public officials continued to blatantly ignore us and for a conflict of interest between a Planning Commissioner and the developer. Nothing ever came of the ethics complaints (Mayor Turner overseas the Office of Inspector General). Grasping for help, we engaged KHOU 11 Investigative Report-

What's Happening at the Lot Ella Between Grovewood and 12th Street?

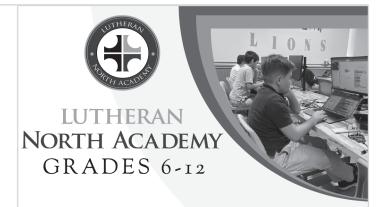
(... continued from page 5)

er Jeremy Rogalski who ran a story about the projects in May of 2022. Through that exposure, the same Managing Engineer who attempted to help us gain clarity during the SNC-14 meeting was made a scapegoat – denounced on TV by Permitting Center Director Christon Butler and reassigned. By October 2022, both projects were rubber-stamped by the Planning Commission. Public engagement requirements were no more as the Planning phase ended, so we had to hound only Public Works for answers.

Public Information Act requests were submitted to obtain the project submissions that allegedly enabled regulatory grandfather status – status that we heavily questioned but nobody at the City of Houston had justified. Project packets were submitted just days before the grandfather cutoff, so timing was very interesting. Frustratingly, the City of Houston prematurely closed some of our information requests and deferred twice to the State of Texas Attorney General. Using the Houston Map Viewer, we discovered that only one of the two projects (Ella-Timbergrove) was submitted for the correct plat level before the grandfather cutoff. We received the complete packet for Ella-Timbergrove, but the city cited an obscure condition from the state AG to redact most everything from the Ella-Grovewood packet. They provided pages that were completely blacked out and left the redaction log blank. When asked to furnish the completed redaction log, the city clerk simply cited the state AG condition allowing redaction if documents "identify the technical details of particular vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to an act of terrorism." Wow – what a stretch! What was being hidden? We know the plat level was wrong, but was the packet also not complete?

Fast-forward to today. Our grandfather status and lot rise questions are still unanswered, but we did receive an update that one new project is being submitted to replace the two we have been questioning. While details are to be revealed, Houston Permitting Center Executive Director Rudy Moreno said it would not qualify for regulatory grandfather status. As of this article's submission, Houston Map Viewer shows Application ID #78285 (Class 2 plat) as awaiting assignment to a planner. Shortly before status changed from pending completion, Planning and Development Department Deputy Director Jennifer Ostlind stated the application indicates multi-family construction and features no variance requests thus far.

Where there's smoke, there's usually fire. Given the runaround we endured, I suspect we prevented a well-connected developer from doing whatever he wanted while City Hall turned a blind eye. While there are other debatable topics involved and opinions among community members regarding exactly what type of development goes into the property, it seems our goal to ensure responsible development at this one location has been achieved for now. Thank you, George Frey and Marie Carlisle, for your energy and leadership. Thank you, Timbergrove, for your patience and support through this ordeal. Sadly, not all communities get involved to help hold developers and the City of Houston accountable. And in our strong-mayor form of city government, the mayor wields a lot of power through appointees and by setting city council's agenda. Our fight is not over. This November, please consider a vote for the diversly supported charter amendment to give city council more control over their own agenda. Please help us to monitor variance notifications, remain vocal and continue to be involved!



A Different Approach to MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hands on Projects

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STEM Lab Courses

Laptop Included in Tuition

Student Support Advisor for



The Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve News

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, is quoted as saying "Change is the only constant in life." Because we just lived through the Summer of 2023 in Houston, we all know we not only had exceptional drought, we also had extremely high temperatures. And, now a frequently asked question is: "What does that mean for the trees?"

As you drive by the Nature Preserve, you can see trees with various stages of browning on all sides of the forest. Some have brown leaves still in place where they are standing. And, an oak tree that was loaded with green leaves and acorns and looked completely healthy blew down in the middle of a strong wind in early September. Does that mean all is not well with the trees? Not necessarily, said Barry Ward of Trees for Houston. When being interviewed during the news hour on radio station KHOU on October 5, he said that we might not know what effect this summer has had on our trees for many, many months, maybe even as long as three to five years. And, what comes next is just as crucial to the trees as what we just experienced. So, we just don't really know

Amazingly, there is hope in the forest. We have been watching small trees grow which have grown as tall as they could in the dappled sunlight below the large trees. When one large tree falls, several will attempt to take its place because each can get the extra sunlight it needs to grow taller. We are sad when a big tree dies or falls, but it draws our attention to the hope and life growing within that we don't readily notice. That is, until we are faced with a lost tree. So, while we take a wait-and-see approach to what is happening with the big trees, we will surely still see growth in our favorite urban forest.

Another big change is the Bird Drip Quiet Zone, which is a collaboration between the Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce, Friends of The Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve, and City of Houston Parks and Recreation. The Bird Drip Quiet Zone is on the east side of the Nature Preserve along



the main trail and is a work in progress as plants that were planted on October 21 in collaboration with the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department take root and begin to grow and grace it. If you'd like to access our website which can explain the Bird Drip fully, check out this link: https://west11thstreetpark.org/wirelesswilderness/tour-stop-20-bird-drip.

With the City of Houston's permission and blessing, we placed a trail camera across from the Bird Drip to be able to view the Bird Life online at this same link, but unfortunately, someone disabled it within 24 hours. We had also placed rope and some signs to explain the Bird Drip, which were stolen within 24 hours. Please call the Park Rangers at 832-395-7000 or 911 if you see anyone stealing signs or tampering with the Bird Drip area. Do not approach anyone yourself. (For those of you who might have thought that the Bird Drip Quiet Zone was a dog bowl, please be reminded that actual dog bowls are out by the water fountain as well as at your home.)

We've had a lot of fun on our first two Birding Field Trips! The first was on August 26, when we joined Houston Audubon for their Purple Martin Watch Party at Woodlands Mall. There we saw 150,000 Purple Martins gather, fly together, and ultimately nest in the trees by Macy's. It was simply an amazing sight! The second was on October 7, when

we caravanned down to the Smith Point Hawk Watch Celebration. This awesome event was put on by Gulf Coast Bird Observatory to enhance everyone's enjoyment of fall hawk migration.

Please try to join us for some of our Upcoming Activities:

Every Tuesday morning at 8:00 am, until December 12 when we take a break to join the area Christmas Bird Counts, meet at the kiosk across from the corner of Pineshade and Shelterwood for a 2 or 2 1/2 hour Bird Walk in the Forest.

The First Thursday of the Month Evening Bird Walks start at 5:30 pm at the same location, with the following dates for the rest of the 2023-2024 year: November 2, February 1, March 7, April 4, & May 2

Morning Mindfulness meets at the kiosk at 9:30 am for an hour Mindfulness Practice on November 4 & December 2

Movie Night is November 11. Beginning at 4:00 pm, 20 minute Guided Tree Walks will take place until the movie festivities begin at 5:30 at the Ballfields! Meet at the bench by the picnic table on Shirkmere at the Ballfields for the Guided Tree Walks.



Timbergrove Manor Civic Club Leadership

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Traci Riley	225-252-5634	president@timbergrove.org
VP	Courtnie Hays		vp@timbergrove.org
Secretary	Peter Davis	713-861-1550	secretary@timbergrove.org
Treasurer	Jennifer Vickers	713-240-9671	treasurer@timbergrove.org
Director	Mallory Dean		director2@timbergrove.org
Director	Ralph DeAyala		director1@timbergrove.org
Director	Andrew Halphen		director4@timbergrove.org
Director	Michelle Richburg		director5@timbergrove.org
Director	Jennifer Vickers	713-240-9671	director3@timbergrove.org
Past President	Alison Reynolds	832-305-6814	pastpresident@timbergrove.org

CHAIRPERSONS - TMCC COMMITTEES

Activities	Volunteer Needed		activities@timbergrove.org
Beautification	Parker Langley	713-858-6475	beautification@timbergrove.org
Block Captains	Laura Bradham	832-969-7945	blockcaptains@timbergrove.org
Deed Restrictions Enforcement	Miles Sasser	361-877-6265	deedrestrictions@timbergrove.org
Design Review	Dana Whitney		drc@timbergrove.org
Environmental Affairs	Pedro Palomino		environmental affairs@timbergrove.org
Membership	Tanya Chaney		membership@timbergrove.org
Security	Volunteer Needed		security@timbergrove.org
Timbergram	Natalie Vera	832-970-3423	timbergram@timbergrove.org
Timbergreeters	Volunteer Needed		timbergreeters@timbergrove.org
Web Site	Jennifer Vickers	713-240-9671	webmaster@timbergrove.org
Yard of the Month	Carson Johnston	832-477-1251	yardofmonth@timbergrove.org
Timbergram Advertising	Chrissy Fleming		timbergram_assistant@timbergrove.org

Solid Waste Schedule

Tree Waste:

"Tree Waste" is defined as "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps. Lumber, furniture, and treated wood are not accepted, nor are items that fall into the "junk waste" category. Tree waste should be not confused with lawn clippings, which are collected weekly when bagged properly. The next tree waste collection will be on:

- Wednesday, November 15

Junk Waste/Heavy Trash:

"Junk Waste" is defined as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material. Tree waste is also accepted during junk waste months. The collection will be on:

- Wednesday, December 20

Tires:

Residents may place up to four tires at the curb for collection during junk waste months. Collection crews will separate the tires from the junk waste. It may take up to a week before crews return and retrieve the tires.

Recycling - Every other week:

- Thursday, November 23
- Thursday, December 7
- Thursday, December 21
- Thursday, January 4
- Thursday, January 18

Trash & lawn clippings are scheduled to be collected each Thursday.



Hallie Ray Moore, DVM Beverly Crocker, DVM Ashlee Nelson, DVM Breanna Green, DVM Krystin Schaack, DVM Sarah Lane, DVM

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