

THE TIMBERGRAM

July 2011

Come join your neighbors and celebrate our nation's independence with Amy's Ice Cream and family fun!

Timbergrove Manor's 4th of July Ice Cream Social



Sponsored by Timbergrove Manor
Neighborhood specialist Sharon Ettinger*

4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Monday July 4, Jaycee Park

At 4:45 p.m., there's a contest for the best decorated bike, trike, scooter or wagon, stroller or pet, so put your creative hats on and ride on over!

Local firefighters will be on hand to give kids a tour of their truck. A balloonist will be creating and handing out balloons. Also, you can check out the new splash pad!

*Sharon can be reached at 713-299-5149

TMCC Board of Directors

The following is a compilation of Committee reports made at the March 30, 2011 meeting of the TMCC Board of Directors:

Committee Reports

Activities

Easter Egg hunt at Sinclair is scheduled April 16th and event is on budget.

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Approved renovations for homes in 6300 block of Waltway, 6300 block of Pineshade, 6100 block of Abington.

Beautification

Spring planting to occur after Winter freeze damage.

Block Captains

Block captains have been recruited. Five more are needed.

Citizens on Patrol

Crime reports are available via www.spotcrime.com

11th Street Park

- April 15th to be volunteer clean up day for flower beds and planting.
- Irrigation system is being installed.
- Additional stops are being added for the cell phone tour.

Jaycee Park

- Concrete for spray park and sidewalks have been done.
- Staining of benches is underway.
- Six (6) newly planted trees have died and will be replanted.

Membership

39% paid to-date

Deed restrictions

- Update was given concerning enforcement of a fence encroachment.
- Report given about field trip to County Clerk's Office, confirming that some title companies have been providing new owners with wrong deed restriction information.
- It was suggested that motion at next general meeting should be made, authorizing re-filing of corrected deed restriction information with the County Clerk's Office.
- An officer of the Board volunteered to place all the deed restrictions in a simple spreadsheet format for presentation and comparison purposes.

Timbergram

- There were questions/concerns that newsletter continued to be operated at a loss.
- It was suggested that Board Members solicit ads from local businesses, or a sales agent could be used to boost ad revenue.
- A request was made for menus for local restaurants.

Timbergreeter

Seven (7) new sales within the boundaries of the TMCC.

Continued on next page...



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TMCC Board of Directors (cont'd.)

Old Business

Foul odors continue to be emanating from chemical feed station on 11th Street at Bryce Lane (Near White Oak Bayou). COH indicated that they were working on the design of activated carbon filters to remove/abate the odors, but no money has been allocated for the project. They have done smoke testing and has concluded that a few residences have deficient plumbing systems are responsible for the foul odor. It was suggested that the conditions are reported to the TCEQ as they have jurisdictional authority over air pollution matters.

Timbergrove Manor Logo: three drafts were reviewed with no clear consensus on which was the preferred logo. Resubmission of new designs, including more options, was agreed to by the board members.

Board Vacancy - A vacancy will be created by the relocation of Martin McHale; consideration will need to be given for his replacement. Appointment would be effective January 2012, or the place could remain unfilled.

Pocket Parks - FEMA Lots. The idea of opening a dialogue with Harris County Precinct Four and Flood Control District was discussed concerning the FEMA lots maintained by HCFCD in TMCC. Peter Davies will draft letter for review at April meeting.

Other items discussed related to

Current meeting of the Texas Legislature and COH activities around redistricting

Consideration of changing West T.C. Jester to a "No Thru Truck Zone."

A bill concerning making utility easements (i.e. HL&P/CenterPoint Energy) as recreational easements, including walking trails.

Question came up whether TMCC wanted to participate as a "Super Neighborhood" to increase its visibility with the COH.

Update on the West 11th Street Park

With this amazing weather that has been hot, hot, hot and dry, dry, dry, we are so glad to have our new irrigation system up and running for the park gardens. Our garden guru, Wally Ward, has coaxed a real English country garden out of the edge of the forest. It is providing a haven for butterflies and for dozens of other species of nectar-feeding insects.

For most of the garden, Wally uses native plants that he grows personally from locally collected seed. Some of the seed is from last year's garden, and other seed is collected from wild plants that grow in this area. Why not just buy plants? Why go to so much trouble?

Well, part of the answer is that he just doesn't like to see waste, and throwing away the seed from last year's plants is a waste. It's easy to collect, and since the plants are proven successes in the garden, the seed is more likely to do well than seed bought in a packet at a local nursery.

More importantly, if seed is collected from native plants that grow here, the plants will have co-adapted with the birds, animals and insects in this area. There will be species of insects that prefer to feed on the nectar or on the leaves and stems of these particular plants. This is important because insects are vital to the chain of life in the forest. If they feed on a plant, they in turn will provide food for other creatures, including birds and small mammals. If the number of insects starts to decline because the native foods that they like to eat are being replaced by non-natives, the number of animals higher in the food chain will also start to decline.

We hope that you will come out to the park to enjoy the beauty of the garden and the diversity of species it attracts.



Yards of the Month

May 2011:

6527 Lindyann Angela Madesko
 6207 Abington Way Lynn & Johnny Krailo

June 2011

2331 Droxford Ray Dittmer
 6426 Wister Bonnie & Tom Horton
 6551 Cindy Clinton Heine, Jr.
 6219 Queenswood Hacer Karamanoglu

Correction for April 2011:

6239 Hurst Donna & Jacques Christoffel

To win Yard of the Month you must be a dues-paying TMCC member and cannot have won a YOTM award within the past two years. Congratulations to the following neighbors for their attractive, well-groomed yards!

HEAT STROKE

With the weather we have seen lately, we thought it timely to remind you about one of the summertime dangers: **heat stroke**.

HEAT STROKE occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature. Body temperature may rise to 106oF or higher within 10 – 15 minutes

Warning signs of heat stroke include:

- Extremely high body temperature (above 103oF, orally)
- Red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating)
- Rapid strong pulse
- Throbbing headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Unconsciousness

What to Do? Cooling measures that may be effective include:

- Rest
- Cool, non-alcoholic beverages
- Cool shower, bath, or sponge bath
- An air-conditioned environment, or cool shady area
- Lightweight clothing
- Get medical assistance as soon as possible.

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Crime Statistics

	February 2011		April 2011	
	District 2	Timbergrove	District 2	Timbergrove
Aggravated Assault	5	0	0	0
Theft ^(a)	21	1	15	0
Burglary of Motor Vehicle ^(b)	18	3	21	6
Burglary ^(c)	9	1	23	2
Auto Theft	4	0	8	1
Robbery	0	0	0	0
Totals	57	5	67	9

Feb: (a) 6700 Lindyann

Feb: (b) 2300 Tannehill, 6400 Lindyann, 6700 Kury

Apr: (b) 6100 Abington, 6600 Lindyann, 6400 Grovewood, 6200 Grovewood, 2400 Haverhill, 6200 Grovewood

Feb: (c) 1500 Foxwood

Apr: (c) 6300 Wynnwood, 6300 Pineshade

Apr: (d) 6400 Woodbrook

With the summer months upon us and vacations on our minds, please make sure that criminals aren't tipped off that you are gone. Put a couple of lights on varying timers, and ask your neighbors to retrieve mail and newspapers. Criminal activity can occur at any time. All residents are urged to be alert at all times. Do not hesitate to contact HPD with your concerns. 911 for emergency only and 713-884-3131 for non-emergency matters.

Our Most Generous Neighbors

Many thanks to these generous neighbors, all close-by merchants, who supplied door prizes for our May General Meeting.

Tony's Mexican Restaurant 2222 Ella
 Demeris Bar B.Q. Hempstead @ N.W. Mall
 Kojak's Café 1912 W. 18th
 Height's Mobil Station W. 18th @ Ella
 Pizza Inn W. 18th @ Mangum

And thanks to Queen Donut 1806 W. 18th for supplying pastries as snacks for meeting attendees.

Please patronize these merchants and express thanks for supporting our civic club.

Lemonade - Mint Iced Tea



- 3 lbs crushed fresh mint leaves
- 1 quart boiling water
- 1/2 cup instant iced tea powder
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 quarts cold water
- 1 - 6 oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed

Directions:

1. In a 1 gallon pitcher, combine mint leaves, 1 qt. boiling water, instant tea powder & sugar. Stir to dissolve sugar. Let stand for 15 minutes.
2. Stir in the cold water and lemonade concentrate. Serve in tall glasses over ice. Strain out mint leaves, if desired.

A refreshing and easy way to prepare iced tea.
 You can vary the amounts of mint and sugar,
 depending on your taste.



Buying or selling, please remember me!

Timbergrove Manor Resident & Marketing Specialist!



Veronica Valentz
 REALTOR

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veronica.valentz@garygreene.com
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THE METROPOLITAN

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BBBBBzzzzzzzzzzzz...

Even though we are some 15 inches behind in annual rainfall as this issue goes to press, there are still plenty of mosquitoes roaming around Timbergrove. Even if you don't water your yard, mosquitoes can breed in very small amounts of water, so be on the lookout for water standing in pet bowls, planter pots and other places. If you do water, please make sure that there is no standing water once you are finished. It doesn't take much for the mosquitoes to breed and potentially spread diseases, not to mention the annoyance factor!

Jaycee Park Update

H-E-B Water Playground Grand Opening was a huge success. Thanks to all of you that took the time to stop by to celebrate this big day for the park. HEB was very impressed and said that we took it to another level with the Waltrip Jazz Ensemble, the Friends of Jaycee Park information table (thanks Darlene Wayt for putting that together), the firefighters with the fire engine, AND the great turn out. Friends of Jaycee Park was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from our city council member, Brenda Stardig, as well as a State Legislature Resolution passed in recognition of the grand opening of the HEB Water Playground (thanks to Rep. Jessica Farrar).

Since it opened in late April, the water playground has been extremely popular and has brought together so many families from the surrounding neighborhoods. Families are bringing their fold out chairs or blankets, sitting under the big trees while watching the kids play and meeting their neighbors! Very exciting! Eventually the 4 new trees that were planted around the splash pad will offer a little more shade to the visitors. Also, a list of splash pad rules will soon be posted not only by the Jaycee Park splash pad, but all the city of Houston splash pads.

Other updates:

*2 doggy waste bag stations that can be refilled with your plastic grocery bags were just added. If you have extras, bring them and stuff them in! A new trashcan by the splash pad was also installed.

*The Donor Seating Plaza with Pavers is complete! Stop by and check out your paver when you get a chance and let us know if there are any errors.

*Memorial Day was not too hard on the park. We had some litter, but not as much as there could have been based on the size of the afternoon crowd. There was 1 report of a car driving in the park, but it apparently did not stay. A couple of volunteers posted 5 signs around the park just for the day to remind visitors that parking in the park is not allowed and to pick up trash. Hopefully, this might have helped keep the park stay a little safer and cleaner over the holiday.

*A solid white line was painted on the street along the Seamist side of the park to delineate the street parking zone. This has helped keep cars towards the left side of the lane and makes parking there easier. 2 'yield to pedestrian' signs were also installed in this area.

*The playground construction is moving along although VERY, VERY slowly, but we are told that the completion time frame is still the end of June or beginning of July. We will update you if this changes.

Please feel free to send any ideas you have to help make and keep the park a great place to be (and if you might be willing to help make them happen). Also, if you know of any groups that would like to earn volunteer service hours by picking up litter at the park, we would LOVE to help accommodate them! Parks and Recreation picks up the big stuff but the little bits like bottle tops and wrappers sometimes get overlooked.

If you are even *thinking* of discharging fireworks over the 4th of July, please re-consider, thinking about our desperately dry conditions. There will be area fireworks displays you can go enjoy after the Ice Cream Social!

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Past President	Bill Morfey	832-651-0112	tmccpres@timbergrovemanor.org

Chairpersons - TMCC Committees

Activities	Idalia Valdez	713-256-8079	activities@timbergrovemanor.org
Beautification	Leslie Hillendahl	713-862-6832	beautification@timbergrovemanor.org
Block Captains	Carolyn Bryant	281-723-9810	blockcaptains@timbergrovemanor.org
Citizens Patrol	Lillian Jolliffe	713-869-1079	citizenspatrol@timbergrovemanor.org
Deed Restrictions Enforcement	Joe Parks	713-868-4576	deedrestrictions@timbergrovemanor.org
Design Review	Dana Whitney		drc@timbergrovemanor.org
Environmental Affairs	Lorraine Cherry	713-869-4445	enviromentalaffairs@timbergrovemanor.org

Easter Egg Hunt 2011

This year's Easter Egg Hunt was a great success! We had special appearance from the Timbergrove Easter bunny, MacKenzie Hengst and the moment was captured by a professional photographer. Many thanks to Jessica Nute, chair of the event, and the many volunteers that helped to make this event so special with over 500 stuffed eggs and a generous amount of prizes! We also want to thank Elizabeth McCormick, Heritage Texas Properties neighborhood realtor, who made this event possible by underwriting the event. She went above and beyond by also providing a professional photographer to capture all the great memories made that day. Feel free to thank Elizabeth next time you see her, you can also call or email her at 832-661-7300 // emccormick@heritagetexas.com.



Upcoming Dates

The below dates have been published by the City of Houston's Solid Waste Department. Mark these dates on your calendar:

Heavy Trash—Tree Waste collection:

South of 11th Street (1st Monday)
July 5, Sep 6 (note Labor Day holiday!)
North of 11th Street (4th Monday)
July 25, Sep 26

Heavy Trash—Junk Waste collection:

South of 11th Street (1st Monday)
Aug 1, Oct 3
North of 11th Street (4th Monday)
Aug 22, Oct 24

Recycling— all sections (Thursday B schedule)

July 7, 21
August 4, 18
September 1, 15, 29

Remember, *anyone* can call 311 to report items placed at the curb before 6:00 pm before pickup day (or Friday before for tree and junk waste) and the violation could result in a fine ranging from \$50 to \$2,000. For more info on Solid Waste Management guidelines call 311 or go to:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/index.html>

The TMCC Board is happy to announce that Michael Thompson has been elected to fill the Director position of Martin McHale, who is moving out of the neighborhood. Congratulations to Michael and good luck to Martin!

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For Sale: White Jennair cooktop, \$250. 713-861-6727.

Showing: "Eating" DVD, July 19. Similar to "Forks Over Knives" - why we should eat greens over meat. Pls call 713-861-6727 to rsvp/

Trading Post ads are free of charge to all Timbergrove residents. You may send your ads via email to: timbergram@timbergrovesmanor.org.



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Where do you want to live?

E²= Excellent Eats

By Lorraine Cherry

I'm originally a California girl, so when I came to Texas (and I got here as soon as I could!), real southern home cooking was a revelation to me. After many years of overly trendy California food, slow cooked greens and home-made chicken and dumplings were a whole different universe of food. And one of the best places to experience southern home cooking is the family owned and operated Triple A restaurant at 2526 Airline Drive, just south of the 610 loop and north of Canino's, the original Houston farmer's market.

Triple A has been run by the Schmidt family for three generations. A lot of you probably remember Janet Hartman Schmidt, who was born and raised in Timbergrove and lived here until Tropical Storm Allison flooded her out. She used to supply fresh-baked peach cobbler at the bimonthly TMCC meetings, and that same peach cobbler is available at the restaurant. When you go to Triple A, you will see Janet, her husband Cecil, or one of her kids minding the cash register.

If you go for lunch or early dinner (they close around 8:30), you can order off the grill menu (hand-made burgers and onion rings are the best bet), but the real deal is the plate lunch—an entrée and 3 sides for less than \$10 (slightly more if you go with the shrimp). All meals come with a basket of rolls that have been hand-made by the same woman for over 40 years. A lot of folks come for the chicken and dumplings on Thursday, but my personal favorite is the fried shrimp, which I think are the best in Houston: big and super crispy and lots of them. The vegetable sides are all prepared from fresh produce that comes from the farmer's market next door. I really like the old fashioned stewed tomatoes with brown sugar and spices, and my husband says that the pea salad is the best he's had.

Folks also come to Triple A for breakfasts, which are large and reasonably priced. Be sure and try the home-made pan sausage.

The restaurant can provide some good people watching, too. Especially if you go on chicken and dumplings day, you're as likely to see Nolan Ryan or some of the downtown politicians as you are to see your neighbors. And since you're in the area, check out the farmer's market next door for great prices on very fresh produce.