

LAZYBROOK NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2010

President's Letter

Shane Davis, President (832) 659-4277 shane-davis@comcast.net

Well Hello Neighbors! Is it hot enough for everyone out there? What a summer of high temperatures. I used it as another excuse not to exercise. Shame on me ;o).

Where is my life going? Another summer has come and gone. How does it fly by so fast? My Daddy warned me about this but I just thought he was senile. My kids moved off to start their own lives and I am dreaming about grandkids. I look in the mirror and my mother's face smiles back at me. Daddy is a smart man – wish I had paid closer attention. Oh well – all the more reason to enjoy each day to the fullest.

November is coming fast and it means voting and turkey/dressing. I love them both. Please know there is a law on the books that allows you to support your fave candidate with yard signs. If the yard signs bother you, please grin and bear it. The signs must be down by Nov 12th. Please don't remove your neighbor's signs like we've done in the past. It is against the law to steal another's property and your neighbors aren't breaking in laws by putting them up (the law overrides our deed restrictions). Also – get out and VOTE.

Block Captains – I am still seeking a CHIEF Block Captain. You don't have to be your block's captain to apply. Those of you who have not paid your civic club dues, please do. I'll be happy to drop by and pick up the check.

I hope you all enjoy your fall months and we'll see you at the next 5th Friday at our place Oct 29th.



What's Inside

Neighborhood Directory	2	Real Estate Corner	7
Membership	3	Walking Safety Tips	8
Beautification	3	Yard of the Month	10
Jaycee Park Update	4	Block Captain Update	14
Security	6	Calendar	16

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for the Lazybrook Civic Club and the
Friends and Neighbors of Lazybrook.

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Visit us on the web at
<http://www.Lazybrook.org>
for up-to-the-date news,
events and more!

Membership

Janell Bryans, Membership Chair (713) 426-0148

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Lazybrook Civic Club Membership Dues

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Total: \$ _____

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Beautification

Carolyn Lehnert, Beautification Chair (713) 864-3596

Watering of trees is continuing. August was very dry. The mulch our residents and volunteers have provided is invaluable. Thank you very much.

Plans are in progress to complete the planting on T.C.Jester. Your donations make this possible. Some pruning has been done and more will be as soon as the weather is a bit cooler.

A special thanks to John and Jan Stump who donated commercial mulch for Ella Boulevard. And another special thanks to Sarah Bobo for her continuing work to keep our medians neat.



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Jaycee Park Update

Ileana Desalos, Contributor friendsofjayceepark@yahoo.com

Good News!

Thanks to an allocation from Houston Parks a Recreation Department and CM Stardig (Thanks HPARD and CM Brenda Stardig!), we will be able to build a new playground at Jaycee Park. It will be bigger and with much more variety (and no rust!). The splashpad and playground will become a reality the spring of 2011. Installation plans are being made and finalized now by the Houston Parks Board. We have come a very long way in improving this park! Thanks for donating, volunteering and coming to events. Your efforts have made a huge difference.



Paver Push, now until September 25

The personalized pavers (bricks) are now our priority as they will be placed in a seating plaza near the splashpad and playground. With as much accuracy as possible, we need to let Houston Parks Board know how many pavers and the sizes our neighborhoods and surrounding businesses want in our park so we can help fund and plan the seating plaza. So, we are having a Paver Push from now until September 25 . Plan your paver sponsorship now and order on or by September 25. See attached form.

There are 4 ways to order your personalized paver for Jaycee Park*:

1. Go to www.houstonparksboard.org. Click "Projects," "Jaycee Park," "Donate Now," and follow the instructions. In the write-in box be sure to say your donation is for a paver (see the inscription restrictions that are explained in the attached paver flyer).
2. Mail your sponsorship via the flyer/order form (**on page 13**) with a check made payable to the Houston Parks Board.
3. I can pick up your order form and check, contact me at friendsofjayceepark@yahoo.com or call (713) 922-6742.
4. Give your paver form and check to the Coin Drive volunteer or bring by Jaycee Park on September 25 from 9:30am-1pm during the Coin Drive to benefit Jaycee Park.

*All paver donations are tax deductible and eligible for employee matching grants from companies that match employee donations.

2nd Annual Coin Drive, September 25 - We need your help!

Your generosity and that of local businesses has allowed us to change the park considerably and soon we'll add a new playground, splashpad, and rennovate the basketball court. However, we still need to fund the walking trail, tennis court renovations, and a new open pavilion. So, save your coins (we will even take checks and cash!) over the next four weeks and we will have 2nd Annual Coin Drive on September 25 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon!

We need your help on September 25 between 10:00 a.m. and Noon to go door to door collecting your neighbor's coin and/or paver donations. Please let us know which circled street number (see attached maps) you are volunteering for. If you are open to collect in any area, we are grateful for that too.

Contact Ileana Desalos at 713-922-6742 or friendsofjayceepark@yahoo.com. You can also see more information at the Houston Parks Board website under 'Projects' where you can find Jaycee Park www.houstonparksboard.org .

Since the coin collection may involve dollars, checks, and paver orders with checks, we need residents and/or block captains to do the actual coin collection. Neighbors will be more comfortable giving their donations/orders to fellow neighbors. Plus, you won't want to miss the Waterslide After Party at Jaycee Park!

A flyer announcing the Coin Drive will be delivered to your door the weekend before the Coin Drive by the youth groups from **Lazybrook Baptist Church and Lamar High School National Honor Society**. This year, **Jennifer Taylor, Realtor for Keller Williams**, is sponsoring a 'Waterslide After Party' at Jaycee Park for the community and volunteers. Many thanks to the two youth groups and Jennifer Taylor. Their help goes a long way in making a big difference.

Darlene Wayt has volunteered to help coordinate all the volunteers for this Coin Drive. Thank you very much for this, Darlene!

Mulch Party

The trees that were planted in February are faring very well thanks to the care of **Ben Crabb**. We have lost very few trees which is very impressive considering the very hot and dry weather we have been having. August 14th close to 20 volunteers came to the park bright and early to help move 3 large piles of mulch into the tree beds. The mulch had been left there by the city back in May when they trimmed the trees and had not had a chance to spread it. For the sake of keeping the park looking beautiful, we decided to just take care of it ourselves since we had no idea when the city would have time to do it. It was really hot work, but we were able to finish in just over 1 hour! Thanks to all the neighbors from Timbergrove, Lazybrook and Heritage Creek that came out to help! All these little things are making a big difference in the park.



John Neuendorfer and son help at the Mulch Party

Good Corporate Neighbor

We would like to recognize **Schill Steel** for their gift of a table and a bench to Jaycee Park. That is a total donation of \$6500! They are located on 11th Street near Ella and specialize in flame cutting large hard to make parts, as well as rough machining and plate forming.

Benches

Honor your family, a loved one or even your company by sponsoring a bench with a plaque at the park. We only have 10 left to sponsor. The donation is fully tax deductible and is eligible for employee matching, so your \$1500 bench donation could turn into \$3000 with your company's match. Please contact Ileana Desalos at 713-922-6742 with any questions.



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Security

Matt Herring, Security Chair (713) 864-2823 lazybrook.security@gmail.com

Citizens on Patrol Hours Logged

- June 2010 – 58.5
- July 2010 – 64

I appreciate the continued support of our patrollers, our patrol hours are increased due to the effort of dedicated patrollers logging extra time to help keep us safe. Thank you very much for keeping a watchful eye on the neighborhood.

Crime in the Neighborhood

- 8/15 Theft from 2400 block of TC Jester
- 8/18 Kick-in burglary attempt 2000 block of Willowmoss

Please call HPD to report all crimes and get a case number, this is how we are assigned manpower from HPD. HPD Dispatch 713-884-3131

Crime Statistics

The latest crime statistics are posted on the web at:
<http://mycity.houstontx.gov/crime/>

National Night Out

National Night Out is quickly approaching. It is set for Tuesday evening, October 5th, 2010. We encourage you to talk to your neighbors and block captain to plan a gathering for your block. We should all use this opportunity to welcome new neighbors and spend time catching up with old friends. National Night Out is a nation-wide program designed to raise crime prevention awareness, generate support for anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and to send a message to criminals that we are fighting back! Our City of Houston National Night Out coordinator has asked for us to come up with something special to do for our National Night Out parties. The Houston Police Department is once again collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Houston Food Bank. This would allow us all to assist those less fortunate than ourselves during these tough economic times. Let's try to make a difference in their lives! Here is a link to the Houston Food Bank:
<http://www.houstonfoodbank.org>

Citizens on Patrol

Since we are experiencing a rise in criminal activity, we are in need of more neighbors actively patrolling our streets to help curb this trend. I urge everyone to contact me so that I can schedule a COP training class for you. Just a few minutes a week can really make a big difference in keeping Lazybrook safe. Patrolling is as easy as driving or riding a bike through the neighborhood with a cell phone and calling in any suspicious persons or activities. We will train you, the hours are flexible to fit any schedule, and you are reimbursed for the cost of gas.

Please email lazybrook.security@gmail.com to let me know if you are interested.

Lazybrook Email Network

We have over 320 neighbors signed up to receive email updates. If you are not currently receiving the email you can join by emailing: lazybrook.security@gmail.com

If you change your email address please drop me a line so I can make the change and keep the list current.



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As of August 29, 2010 there are ten active listings, two option pending, and two pending listing in Lazybrook.

Of the 10 active listings prices run from \$229,000 to \$449,000 with an average square footage of 2,139.5 and an average per square foot asking price of \$157.64. The most expensive is a 3/2.5 with 2,418 square feet built in 1968. The least expensive active is a 3/2 with 1,418 square feet built in 1955.

The two in Option Pending are both in Section 2. The asking prices are \$254,900 and \$409,900 (this one completely re-done).

In Pending we find the least expensive listing from last newsletter (and this) is a 3/2 built in 1958 with 1,436 square feet. This property is a foreclosure, definitely needs work and I suspect it was priced to created a bidding war. The property went under contract in 7 days but has not yet closed. The other Pending was on the market for only 7 days and is scheduled to close mid-September.

Lazybrook had five closing between July 1, 2010 and August 27, 2010.

Average time on the market 112 days (fewest 5, longest 296)

Average Sales Price: \$334,600

Average Square Feet: 2,353

3.4 bedrooms, 2.4 baths

Average Per Square Foot Sales Price: \$142.18

The most expensive property sold was \$415,000; the least expensive was \$288,000. Two of the five sales included Seller contribution to closing cost (\$2,500 & \$3,400) and a third had Seller repair contribution of \$6,925.

Information as reflected on the Houston Association of Realtors web site.



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Walking Safety Tips - A Successful Start

Birgitt Haderlein , tofityou@sbcglobal.net 713-763-0332

I got some really great feed back on my article in last month's newsletter which focused on a walking program for all. Are we ready to let go of the dog days of summer? I know I am. Yet it has been amazing how many of you I have seen walking around the neighborhood this past month. This tells me we are committed to being a healthier and happier community in spite of this heat.

Now that you have some idea about how to start a walking program and have some idea of your technique, let's talk about walking safely in and around the neighborhood.

Walking outside is a great way to enjoy some fresh air and get some exercise at the same time. Before you head out the door here are some safety tips you may want to consider.

Find a buddy.

It can make the time more fun and motivating. But more importantly there is safety in numbers. If you cannot find a buddy that day let someone know what time you will be back and the route you are walking.

Wear clothes that are light colored

if walking early morning or ate evening. There are many clothes that have reflective materials built into them from shoes to shorts hats etc.

This will help oncoming traffic see you and walk on well-lit trees as much as possible.

Walk facing traffic.

Especially if there are no side walks the rules f the road say walk against the traffic. This way you can see the oncoming cars or any potential danger coming your way.

Vary your route.

This is important for safety and enjoyment. It is uch more interesting to experience different surroundings and great way to meet your neighbors. This keeps anyone from memorizing your route.

Be aware of drivers.

Do not assume that a driver can see you or hat they know the rules of the road. Be cautious of driveways. ost drivers are looking for oncoming cars not walkers.

Be aware of your surrounding.

Watch for cracks, holes, cars and bikers. You get the point, it can be very easy to trip and fall and especially dangerous if you are by yourself.



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Here are a few things every walker should bring or not bring.

What to bring.

Carry pepper spray and a phone with an alarm. And walking stick of some sort in case you need to fend off a dog. Take muffin with you, she needs the exercise too and it keeps you safe. Always carry your I.D. in case of injury.

What not to bring.

Do not wear any jewelry, expensive watches or headphones. They can prevent you from hearing oncoming traffic or someone behind you. Pay attention to your surroundings. Your safety deserves it.

So, have fun, get out and walk. This will make your experience fun and enjoyable and most of all safe.

In Health,

Birgitt Haderlein Owner of To Fit You, Wellness coach/Fitness Consultant



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Yard of the Month

David Long, Yard of the Month Chair (281) 974-2561 dlong27@comcast.net

August 2010



We selected the yard at **1830 Seamist Court** as yard of the month for August. This month's yard of the month is owned by **Nancy Piwonka** who has updated the exterior of the house as well as the landscape.

A new sidewalk from the street has one step half way up to accommodate the gentle slope in the yard. As the sidewalk approaches the house it makes a sharp right turn to go around a new planter box about three feet tall made of the same brick as the house. In front of the planter box, the owner has placed a beautiful square glazed clay pot about 3 ½ feet tall in which she has planted butterfly iris. This pot is a focal point for the landscape. The planter box creates a semi-private area near the front door. The planter box is planted with asparagus fern which is very lush even in the August heat. Behind the planter box and before the porch Ms. Piwonka has created a maintenance free area with the ground covered with gray rocks. This rock area is a very nice complement to the gray colored flagstone which is used to pave the porch.

In the landscape from the driveway to the planter box across the front of the house are five *Liriodendron* plants. Stepping stones in front of the *Liriodendron* provide a walkway from the driveway to the front sidewalk. In front of the stepping stones the landscape features *Prostrate Juniper* planted along the front of the curved bed. In the center of the bed a *Holly* tree about 12 feet tall is becoming established. Starting with the area around the large glazed pot and continuing on to the other side of the sidewalk are some *Dwarf Mexican Petunia* plants which are also called *Ruellia*. This plant is designated a Texas Superstar on the Aggie Horticulture website because it is a spectacular, low-growing, heat tolerant perennial with profusions of violet flowers. The *Ruellia* is blooming nicely in August.

Across the front of the porch, the owner has planted some *Horsetail Reed* which is a plant which is increasingly recommended by garden designers who are searching for a minimalist design. The horsetail consists of many reed-like segmented green tubes that grow straight up to a height of four feet. Attractive black and gray bands are found at both ends of each segment. This plant will spread easily.

At the corner of the front porch is a beautiful *Japanese Yew* which is very adaptable to our area. The *Yew* is about 7 feet tall.

If you would like to nominate a yard for "Yard of the Month," send your nomination to me at dlong27@comcast.net or telephone your nomination to me at (281) 974-2561. Thank you to all who have submitted nominations.



We have observed the house at **2218 Brooktree** since late 2007 when the house went into foreclosure. At that time the house and the landscape was a disaster. The front sidewalk was gone and the indentation where it used to be was filled with dead sod. Whatever plants were there were overgrown or dead.

Less than three years after **Vonda and Sean Bonte** bought the run down property in December 2007, the house has been completely remodeled with new siding, new roof, new windows, new carport, a new wrought iron gate across the driveway, new gameroom/entertainment area in the back yard and a new salt water swimming pool, new outdoor kitchen, three pallets St. Augustine sod and new landscaping. The house was not habitable when they bought the house but they started the remodeling process and moved into the house on July 1, 2008. The Bonte's have two sons, Kenneth age 14 and Mitchell age 12. The two boys do the lawn maintenance. Sean who is an electrician did a lot of the remodeling work himself. Vonda grew up in Lazybrook. Her parents live on Watercrest.

Today this home stands out in Lazybrook as a prime example of what updating can do to a 1960's Lazybrook house. The new landscape was designed and planted by the homeowners. They purchased all the plants in the neighborhood at Lowes, Home Depot and Garden World. When Vonda and Sean went looking for plants, they wanted plants native to the area and plants that were maintenance free. They chose five Italian Cypress trees about four feet tall and spaced them across the front of the house. They created curved beds and in the beds they planted a variety of plants including Dwarf Indian Hawthorne, Variegated Pittosporum, Mexican Heather and Foxtail Fern. At the left end of the bed they planted a tall Callistemon or Bottlebrush and at the right end of the bed near the driveway they planted a Sago Palm. Across the front of the beds, they planted clumps of Aztec Grass which is a variety of Giant Liriope with very distinctive green and white striped foliage. Their St. Augustine grass is greener than any other yard on Brooktree and when asked about how they kept it so green, Vonda and Sean said they watered a lot but they do not fertilize the St. Augustine. The sidewalk in the front yard is new and connects the driveway with the front door. As the concrete curves toward the door the sidewalk gradually gets wider until it forms a welcoming entrance to the home.

The driveway has been widened by adding about a foot of white gravel on each side of the existing driveway. Sean has started gathering the pine straw which falls from the large pine trees in the front yard. He is wisely using the straw as mulch in the flower beds. This is a mulch which is free, attractive and very effective in controlling weeds.

LAZYBROOK NEWS is on the web at <http://www.Lazybrook.org>



SEE the Yards of the Month
in full color!

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around current events!

READ past and current
neighborhood news!

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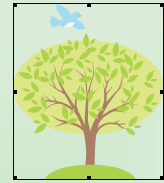
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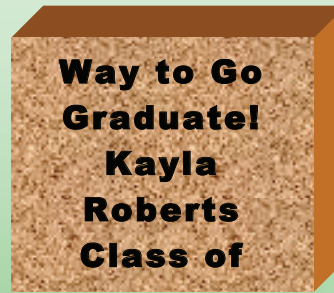


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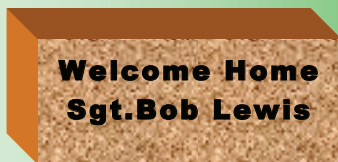


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Info: E-mail Ileana Desalos at friendsofjayceepark@yahoo.com or call 713-922-6742

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Block Captain Update

Shane Davis, President (832) 659-4277 shane-davis@comcast.net

Block Captains are an essential part of our neighborhood civic club. Thank each of you for serving.

Chief Block Captain

I am seeking one **Chief Block Captain** to help me organize the Block Captains. This position would be the liaison between our Membership Chair, Janell Bryans, for dues information as well as solicit/receive announcements for our Newsletter Chair Crystal Frommert on births, deaths, anniversaries, graduations, honors etc.

Please let me know if you were listed as a Block Captain in the last newsletter and want to retire. I am trying to get active block captains on 100% of our blocks and I will fill your position if you do not want to stay on.

Block Captain Responsibilities

Watch for new home sales and call our Hospitality chair Jo Crawford (713.864.0685) to deliver a WELCOME PACKET, retrieve announcements for birthdays, births, deaths, graduations, etc. and forward to the newsletter editor Crystal Frommert (713.802.0120 or email lazybrook.newsletter@gmail.com), help collect yearly dues and host the National Night Out in October of each year (serve snacks, bring a dish or pizzas in a yard on your block).

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LAZYBROOK

5th Friday Social

Come and say hello to your neighbors. Each month containing 5 Fridays we host a meet and greet at our home for all Lazybrook residents on the 5th Friday of the month.

In the 1960's when our neighborhood began, impromptu social gatherings were the norm. Families got together for no reason other than saying hey and catching up. The Hooper House driveway was active most Fridays. 50 years later we are in a fast paced world and we have to actively seek our neighbor's company. The Hooper House is now our home and we too love to visit with our neighbors. This past gatherings have been full and fun. We have some very colorful folks in Lazybrook. If you aren't coming you are missed. Come help us get to know the new neighbors, visit with the original neighbors and hear about what's up on the different blocks.

Who: Lazybrook Residents and families

What: Dinner by Richard Cade & Shane Davis

(Bring a small dessert or bottle of wine and your TO GO bags for the many desserts left over)

When: October 29, 5:00PM - 8:00PM

Where: Shane and Richard's home

2111 Lazybrook @ Nauts

(713) 426-2661

Why: Why live in a neighborhood where you don't know you neighbors? Come say hello!

No unattended minors. No pets. No RSVP required. Questions? Call Richard Cade's cell at 713.825.2406.











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SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please note:  = Heavy Tree Waste			1	2  	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9 	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 North   	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 	24	25 Jaycee Park Coin Drive
26	27 South 	28 Civic Club Mtg 7pm	29	30  		

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please note:  = Heavy Trash - Junk					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14  	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 North  	22	23
24 31 Halloween	25 South 	26	27	28  	29 5th Friday Social	30

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please note:  = Heavy Tree Waste	1 Newsletter Article Deadline	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day  	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 North  	19	20
21	22 South 	23	24	25 Thanksgiving  	26	27
28	29	30 7pm CHRISTMAS PARTY Civic Club Meeting After the meeting, bring a dish.				