

LAZYBROOK NEWS

LAZYBROOK

MAY 2011

President's Letter

Shane Davis, President (832) 659-4277 president@lazybrook.org

Hello Neighbors! The March 2011 Civic Club meeting was well attended. Thank you all for showing up and participating. Your attendance is encouraging to our volunteers. I really enjoyed the 290 Hwy expansion discussions.

This is my first year to take on mail pick up duties at our PO box in Oak Forest. WOW – March and April was a busy month at the LCC PO Box due to the Membership Drive our Membership Chair, Janell Bryans, and our Block Captain Chair's, Ilya Martinalbo, team of Block Captains organized. Thank you very much for your hard work and dedication to our club. If you have not sent in your dues, please consider paying to allow your Block Captain to attain 100% participation for their block and receive recognition for their hard work. The 1st Lady, Richard Cade, is still missing a few from our block and it is really hard to believe.

I want to say THANK YOU to David Long for 3+ years of service to our community as your Yard of the Month Chairperson. He is relocating and will be missed. Jim and Mary Gorab of the 2000 block of Millwood have graciously stepped up to fill his position. So another Thank You for the prompt reply to my Eblast requesting help. You can reach Jim at yard@lazybrook.org or (281) 881-4800.

We have a new "Around the Neighborhood" reporter for the newsletter. Please call or send your information to Julie Kleine jkleine@stewart.com (832) 971-4731 or drop a note to her address @ 1703 Tannehill.

Thank you to Melissa and Mark Cogle for taking on 5th Friday Social while RC and I were in Europe for a few weeks! Best wishes to all, Shane Davis



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IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY: 911

HEIGHTS STORE FRONT

HPD DISPATCH
(713) 884-3131

Sgt.. Chad Wall
(713) 803-1151
centralpatrol2district@cityofhouston.net

HPD CENTRAL STATION
(713) 247-4400

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

Membership

Janell Bryans, Membership Chair membership@lazybrook.org (713) 426-0148

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Lazybrook Civic Club Membership Dues

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Timberkids

Looking to connect with other families in our community? Join Timberkids! Families in Timbergrove, Lazybrook, and surrounding communities network via Big Tent online. Timberkids is a great way to share information, get referrals for home improvements/baby sitting, sell your stuff in our classifieds, and learn of neighborhood/local events. A new playgroup is also forming for families with little ones 15 months and younger. Contact Cheryl Erickson at illini_civil@yahoo.com for details on membership.



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January Meeting Highlights

Highlights taken from minutes recorded by Sherri Oldham, Recording Secretary, recording@lazybrook.org

New Members and Guest Speaker

- Shane introduced and welcomed the new Lazybrook Civic Club members
- Shane introduced our guest speaker Mike Zientek with the US 290 Program who gave a presentation on the construction along 290 and 610 that affects the neighborhood. Ms. Karen Othon, the TxDOT Public Involvement Officer and Julio Salinas, the transportation officer also spoke about the construction.
- Concern by Lazybrook residents was expressed in regards to rerouting traffic through the neighborhood and about cutting off traffic to the mall. Representatives said they would do their best not to reroute traffic through the neighborhood. They also explained how the traffic would get to the Northwest Mall via Mangum.

Committee Reports

- **Membership:** Janell Bryans reported that March started off well and 26% of homeowners have paid their dues. We still need more people to sign up. Membership information is on the website. She appreciated all the new signage that goes in the block captain's yard. The Cougles are hosting the 5th Friday social.
- **Security:** Matt Herring reported that we have continued to have yard art and smaller types of theft. We have now experienced a home invasion that occurred on Willowmoss. The men were armed. Join the Lazybrook Security Network by signing up on the website. With the 290 expansion Matt said we will see more problems.
- **Architectural Review:** Gregg Kalba reports that we can now download plans and rules on the website.
- **Block Captains-** Ilya Martinalbo reported that a few blocks still needed captains. The newsletters go to the block captains for distribution.
- **Beautification:** Carolyn Lehnert needs volunteers for future plans. She doesn't want a big committee but call or email her with your ideas. Ralph and Maryann Bullard had the idea of taking chain link fences down on 18th and promote tree planting in individual yards.

Other Business

- The Architectural Review/Deed Restrictions committee needs to gel and come back together.
- It was discussed cutting the newsletter back to 4 times a year. It is now at 6 times a year. It is getting to be 20+pgs. The newsletter chair needs a volunteer to organize and write the "Around the Neighborhood" article. *(Julie Kleine volunteered for this position)*

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Thanks to Pat Koteris for gathering door prizes from the following merchants:

Heights Mobil - 18th & Ella
Pizza Inn - 18th & Mangum
Kojak's Fine Foods - 18th
Demeris BarBQ - NW Mall
Queen Burger - 18th
Queen Donuts - 18th
Tony's Mexican Restaurant - Ella
Dominos Pizza- 18th St.
Clean This- Mangum

Please patronize these generous businesses.

Recycling

Rose Brewer (713) 880.3845 recycling@lazybrook.org

Dear Lazybrook,

You have asked me so many times when we will be getting the automated recycling with the rolling bin, like our trash containers. I spoke to Marilyn Leday, who has been the right hand of Ed Chin for many years. They are the ones at the city that we worked with when recycling started. She told me that the neighborhoods are chosen because they can be added with the greatest efficiency - either because they are next to another neighborhood that is receiving automated recycling or because it's the right size to be added to a route, or some other circumstance really out of our hands. However, it is my belief that if we had a greater percentage of people recycling regularly, we would be in a better position to ask the city to consider us. Think about it, if we have more recycling and more households participating, we would be a more efficient neighborhood to add to the list.



Please, also, fold, cut up or in some way flatten your cardboard when you put it out. It's really hard for those guys to deal with whole boxes - especially when there is stuff inside. Also, remember that if you need another green bin, you may call 311 and request one. And, if you need any info, I will be glad to do research if I don't know the answer.

Also, you might watch out at HEB and at Lowe's for "Houston Mulch" which is processed at Living Earth and comes from our tree waste here in Houston!! Let me know if you buy some - give me a report to put in the next article!

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Around the Neighborhood

Julie Kleine, (832) 971-4731 jkleine@stewart.com

In Memory:

- **Edward Dowell Peterson of the 1800 block of Watercrest Dr.**, went to be with his Lord and Savior on the morning of Saturday, April 9, 2011, at the age of 78. He is survived by his wife, Mary Katherine Peterson, the former treasurer for LCC. Dowell was a loving husband, father and grandfather to his family. He will be greatly missed in our community.

In lieu of usual remembrances, the family respectfully requests that contributions in Dowell's name be given to the Lazybrook Baptist Church - Senior Adult Fund or to the charity of one's choice.

Have Announcements to share with your neighbors?

Please call or email Julie Kleine at jkleine@stewart.com or 832.971.4731

Spark Park Dedication

Adina Akin (713) 869-5676 advertising@lazybrook.org

They couldn't have had a more perfect weather day for the dedication of the SPARK Park at our local neighborhood elementary school, Thomas A. Sinclair, Communications Magnet School. The event started with both the Pledge of Allegiance & the Texas Pledge. The Principal Bonnie Clark welcomed all guests, guest speakers, students and their families and to all who participated in making this SPARK Park a reality.

The guest speakers were Brian Cannell (2009-2010 SPARK Park Coordinator), Terisa Billingsley (2010-2011 SPARK Park Coordinator) and Certificates were presented to recipients by Kathleen Ownby, SPARK Parks Executive Director. **Our Lazybrook Vice President Richard Akin accepted the certificate for our neighborhood and he gave a short speech.** State Representative Jessica Farrar, of District 148, presented the Texas State Flag to the school.



Sinclair students cutting the ribbon to dedicate the park

The day was declared, "April 30, 2011 as Thomas A. Sinclair Elementary Day". The school's award winning Folklorico Dancers performed three separate dances for the audience, under the direction of Leon Mayweather. The event concluded with a 'Ribbon Cutting' ceremony at the Reading Gazebo and was officiated by Bonifacio Munoz, Terisa Billingsley and two very special students. The current students at Sinclair have painted pictures on tiles that have been affixed to the base of the gazebo steps for the student body and park goes to enjoy for many years to come. This park, with the new walk path and new fencing surrounding the entire perimeter, is open for all to enjoy.

Security

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

Citizens on Patrol Hours Logged

- February 2011 – 48.75
- March 2011 – 56

I appreciate the continued support of our patrollers. We are looking for more volunteers to join our Citizens on Patrol program to help do our part to protect ourselves and our neighbors. If you are interested please send an email to security@lazybrook.org to learn more.

Crime in the Neighborhood

- 3/14 – Robbery, 1800 block of Willowmoss, mid morning
- 3/20 – Theft, 2400 block of Lazybrook, from driveway early morning
- 3/31 – Burglary, 1800 Tattenhall, home break-in mid afternoon
- 4/6 – Burglary, 1800 Seaspray, home break-in mid afternoon
- 4/18 – Burglary, 1800 Millcreek, home break-in mid afternoon
- 4/19 – Theft, 2100 Lazybrook, vehicle break-in overnight
- 4/19 – Theft, 1800 Nauts, vehicle break-in overnight
- 4/24 – Vandalism, 1800 Millwood, car window broken overnight

Lazybrook has had several home break-ins that are occurring during the middle of the day, HPD has been notified on all of these cases and reports have filed. I have heard that an arrest has been made in relation to some of these cases but I know that HPD is still looking for more suspects in the other cases. HPD is working to increase Officer presence and patrol in our area, but they are facing budget shortfalls, along with the rest of the government agencies. I encourage all of our neighbors to join the Citizens of Patrol and help keep an eye out for each other.

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/> or www.spotcrime.com

Continued on Page 8

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Security continued

Citizens on Patrol

I am proud to announce that our neighborhood has a new Citizens on Patrol Coordinator, HPD Officer, Steve Duffy. Officer Duffy has served for several years at the Heights Storefront and has been a great asset to our community. He is reviewing the current Citizens on Patrol records and has plans to coordinate a new patroller training class as well as a recertification for current patrollers. I will send an email to notify you of the training class once a time and date has been set.

The COP training class is normally about an hour-long class that covers the basic rules and safety regulations for Citizens on Patrol certification. 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. Just a few minutes a week can really make a big difference in keeping Lazybrook safe.

Patrolling is as easy as driving a car 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 security@lazybrook.org to let me know if you are interested.

Lazybrook Email Network

We have over 370 neighbors signed up to receive email updates. **If you are not currently receiving the email you can join by emailing: security@lazybrook.org** If you change your email address please drop me a line so I can make the change and keep the list current.

March PIP Meeting – Recap

Houston Police Department holds several meetings every year through their Positive Interaction Program. The March meeting had guest speaker Marc Decatur, with Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission, explain the history and basic duties of TACB. He gave a speech that included interesting and humorous stories of prohibition era “speak speakeasies,” current enforcement, and future legislation that is currently up for legislative debate. I encourage everyone to attend these meetings for a great chance to speak with HPD officers that work in our area and hear speakers from across the state.

Clean Up After Your Pets

I have received email over the past month with complaints that people are walking their dogs and either not picking up their poop or they are bagging it up and leaving it somebody else’s driveway. **Please be respectful of your neighbor’s property and kindly pick up after your pets and dispose of it properly.**

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Real Estate Corner

Brenda Brummett (713) 861-1710



As of April 30, 2011, there were nine active listings, and two in the option pending stage and two pending listings in Lazybrook.

Of the 9 active listings prices run from \$240,000 to \$624,900 with an average square footage of 2,351 and an average per square foot asking price of \$158.14. The most expensive is a 3/2.5 with 2,093 square feet. The least expensive active is a 3/2 with 3,737 square feet built in 1972. The lowest per square foot asking price is \$123.00 and the highest is \$197.23. The homes have been on the market between 8 and 205 days as of April 30.

The Option Pending listings are listed at \$279,000 (1,713 sq. ft. 3/2) and \$424,900 (2,093 sq. ft. 3/2.5).

The two that are in Pending are listed at \$395,000 (1,968 sq. ft. 3/2 on the market 39 days) and at \$499,900 (2,247 sq. ft. 3/2.5 on the market only 4 days). Both properties are scheduled to close before the end of May.

Lazybrook had two closings between February 28 and April 30, 2011. The sales prices were \$275,000 & \$290,000. In both cases, there had been extensive updating to the properties. There was no seller contribution to closing costs or any repair allowance on either.

Average time on the market 8.5 days (one for 2 days the other 15 days)

Average Asking Price: \$292,400 Average Per Square Foot Asking: \$190.55

Average Sales Price: \$282,500 Average Per Square Foot Sales Price: \$184.10

Average Square Feet: 1,534 - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths

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Yard of the Month

Yard of the Month Chair yard@lazybrook.org

April 2011 - by David Long



For the month of April 2011 Lazybrook had many yards from which to select the yard of the month. Many yards were filled with beautiful color. We selected the home of **Tom and Nancy Duncan at 2023 Willowmoss Court**. This home was purchased by Tom and Nancy in April 2010 when they undertook an extensive remodeling and updating of the home. Almost everything is new, roof, soffits, windows, floors, cabinets, counter tops, a new stamped concrete sidewalk and front porch and then finally the landscaping.

Nancy with the help of her yard man Pedro designed the new landscape with gracefully curved beds and Nancy bought the plants at local nurseries. Tom completely updated the sprinkler system.

The result is a spectacular array of wonderful plants. There are too many different kinds of plants to describe them all. The only original plants are two large clumps of Formosa Azaleas on the side of the house and a row of trimmed boxwoods across the front porch and the four huge and beautiful Red Oak trees along the side of the house.

Near the front door are clumps of Flax Lily with miniature pink and purple Pentas in front of them. To the left of the porch along the front of the house are several Loropetalum plants and a Varigated Ginger as well as a Virburnum near the corner of the house. White Encore Azaleas are planted in front of the other plants and pink Begonias are planted across the very front of the bed. On the other side of the front the Duncan's have planted Indian Hawthorne with dwarf purple and white Lantana at the front. Further down on the right we found some blue Plumbago, some walking Iris and some more white Encore Azaleas. A very large rust colored Cache pot stands to the right of the sidewalk with an Asparagus Fern falling gracefully from the top. There are many other beautiful plants and planters that are too numerous to list.



Congratulations go to **Jim and Mary Gorab at 2102 Millwood** for receiving May Yard of the month. Jim stated he spends many afternoons working on the yard to keep it beautiful for our main road through Lazybrook on Millwood. I spent some time in his yard last evening and was amazed at the volume of blooming annuals. Jim planted white petunias, red geraniums, pink and white begonias. The front pole light is covered in blooming star jasmine which stands out with the gardenias across the yard at the front door. His tropicals off to the right side of the yard in the shade are doing wonderfully as well. Jim has finished off his bed edges with stone and added new mulched for that professional look. Great Job Jim and Mary. Your love of gardening shows well for our neighborhood!

If you would like to nominate a yard for "Yard of the Month," send your nomination to me at yard@lazybrook.org or telephone your nomination to Jim Gorab at (281) 881-4800. Thank you to all who have submitted nominations.



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Summer is the Time we all Slow Down

Birgitt Haderlein , tofityou@sbcglobal.net 713-410-3376

Summer is upon us and extreme heat keeps us indoors and less active. Sitting by the pool is nice but won't burn a calorie. If you don't belong to a gym or don't have enough time to get to one what else can you do?

Walk. It is a great way to start your day and burn calories.

Yes, exercise is good for you. This we know. Heaps of evidence point to the countless benefits of regular physical activity. Federal health officials recommend at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise, like brisk walking, every day.

Studies show that when you adhere to an exercise regimen, you can improve your cardiovascular health, lower blood pressure and improve metabolism and levels of cholesterol and triglycerides. You can reduce diabetes risk and the risk of certain cancers. And, finally, exercise can help you maintain a healthy weight, which can boost all of these benefits even more.

Epidemiologist Steven Blair, a professor of public health at the University of South Carolina has spent 40 years studying physical activity and health. "Many of us have sedentary jobs and engage in sedentary activities after work, like watching television or sitting around a dinner table talking. When you add it all up, it's a lot more sitting than moving."

Blair recently headed a study at the University of South Carolina that looked at adult men and their risk of dying from heart disease. He calculated how much time the men spent sitting — in their cars, at their desks, in front of the TV. "Those who were sitting more were substantially more likely to die," Blair says.

Specifically, men who reported more than 23 hours a week of sedentary activity had a 64 percent greater risk of dying from heart disease than those who reported less than 11 hours a week of sedentary activity. And many of these men routinely exercised. Scientists are just beginning to learn about the risks of a mostly sedentary day.

"If you're sitting, your muscles are not contracting, perhaps except to type. But the big muscles, like in your legs and back, are sitting there pretty quietly," Blair says. And because the major muscles aren't moving, metabolism slows down.

"We're finding that people who sit more have less desirable levels" of cholesterol, blood sugar, triglycerides and even waist size, he says, which increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease and a number of health problems.

If there's a fountain of youth its probably physical activity," says Dr. Toni Yancey, a professor in the health services department and co-director of the Kaiser Permanent Center for Health Equity at the University of California, noting that research has shown benefits to every organ system in the body.

"So the problem isn't whether it is a good idea, the problem is how to get people to do more of it."

Information courtesy of NPR

Have a great summer and keep moving! Coming soon! A "Strengthening and Walk" class is starting June 22 at 6:00 a.m. outside in the neighborhood. Class lasts 6 weeks. Registration and more information can be found at www.tofityou.com or call 713-410-3376.

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Lazybrook Neighbors Ride in the BP MS150

Vernon and Graciela Moore of the 1800 block of Millwood just finished riding the BP MS150! The BP MS150 is a two day bicycle ride from Houston to Austin benefiting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This was Vernon's 5th time to complete the ride and Graciela's 4th time.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving. MS is a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system (the brain, optic nerves, and spinal cord). It is thought to be an autoimmune disorder. This means the immune system incorrectly attacks the person's healthy tissue. Most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, although individuals as young as 2 and as old as 75 have developed it.

MS is not considered a fatal disease as the vast majority of people with it live a normal life-span. But they may struggle to live as productively as they desire, often facing increasing limitations. Approximately 400,000 Americans have MS, and every week about 200 people are diagnosed. World-wide MS affects about 2.5 million people.

Because the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not require U.S. physicians to report new cases, and because symptoms can be completely invisible, the numbers can only be estimated.



Vernon and Graciela Moore raised a combined \$4,021.00 for the MS Society. The money goes to funding research and supporting those with MS.

If you would like to donate, you can donate online at:
<http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/vernon> or
<http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/graciela.moore>
(you can find these links on lazybrook.org)

Or send a check to 2011 BP MS 150, National MS Society, P.O. Box 4125, Houston, TX 77210-4125. Make checks payable to the NATIONAL MS SOCIETY and include either Vernon or Graciela's name & BP MS 150 in the memo section of each check.



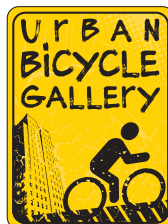
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Jaycee Park Update

Ileana Desalos, Contributor friendsofjayceepark@yahoo.com

Jaycee Park frequently asked questions:

How do I start the new splash pad?

To conserve water, the splash pad is equipped with a timer. To activate the water sprays, push the red button on the ground to the right of the entrance.

Are dogs allowed to play in the splash pad?

Pets are not allowed to play on the splash pad. We are working to get a dog water bowl attached to the new drinking fountain that will be installed with the new playground.



*Splash Pad Grand Opening May 21
Sponsored by H-E-B*

Who do we call if cars are parked in the park (other than construction vehicles)?

Immediately call Police Non-Emergency number 713-884-3131 and/or Park Ranger Dispatch 832-395-7100. Parking in the park is against the park rules (see the big board of rules posted at both entrances of the park).

Can something be done about the splash pad being slippery?

The coating on the splash pad is specifically meant for pool decks. It is much less slick than "smooth" concrete for slip resistance, and "broom finished" concrete is way too rough on bare feet. The pad surface is the best coating product currently available on the market, but just as with swimming pool decks, running on it, jumping off the benches, rocks or containment border is not advisable (yes, this has actually been observed). There is currently no sign posted that says "No running or jumping". Padded rubber surfacing is not an option to the city due to the fact that they are very expensive and, because the sun exposure deteriorates them and they fall apart. Hermann Park and Aron Ledet Park used to have the rubber surfacing on their splash pads, but they deteriorated to the point that they had to be ripped up. They are now painted with the same pool deck surfacing as the Jaycee Park splash pad. If you have additional questions about the surface, please send a message to Trent Rondot at Houston Parks Board: trent@houstonparksboard.org.

Who do we call when we see litter in the park?

Call 311 and report it. Or, go to https://webintake.houstontx.gov/web_intake/Controller to make an on-line request for city service at the park. They usually come out to clean it up within a day or two. Also, if you have a few minutes to spare, pick up a few pieces of litter and put it in the trash can. Every little bit will help.

What is happening with the playground?

All the old asphalt patches and paths around the playground and tennis courts will be pulled out. The borders around the current playground will be enlarged towards where the old pavilion used to be and the old playground will be taken away. New sidewalk will be added by the tennis courts, the playground and the two entrance sidewalks will finally be cleanly connected. At the end of this phase, there will be easy, safe access to those facilities. Also, new drainage will be added near the playground. All of the pebbles in the playground (they are not up to the current ADA code) will be replaced by the standard playground wood chips.

The new playground will feature the typical main playground piece (slides, monkey bars etc) as well as cool new features such as an 8' climbing wall, a tire swing and seesaws.

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.

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<p>NEW PRICE</p> 	<p>PENDING</p> 	<p>PENDING</p> 
<p>6327 Woodbrook 3/2.5/2 \$334,900</p>	<p>1255 Clovis 3/2/2 \$299,500</p>	<p>1210 Heritage Creek Park 3/2.5/2 \$259,500</p>
<p>PENDING</p> 	<p>JUST SOLD</p> 	<p>JUST SOLD</p> 
<p>6322 Kury 3/2/2 \$363,000</p>	<p>4302 Lido 3/2/2 \$200K's</p>	<p>2714 Haverhill 3/2/2 \$250K's</p>



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MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Please note:  = Heavy Tree Waste	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo 	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12  	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 North  	20	21
22	23 South 	24 Civic Club Meeting 7pm	25	26  	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

JUNE

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

JULY

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