



Timbergrove Manor

Neighborhood Association News
August, 2023

Volume 34, Number 8

Executive Corner

by **Chris Elliott, President**

TMNA held its quarterly meeting at Kojaks on July 20th. There was a nice turnout and membership enjoyed a complimentary dinner of very fine food while we discussed all the activity in and around the neighborhood. It was an important meeting that included our annual election. I am grateful for our membership's support.

We held the TMNA Executive committee election and were honored by the unanimous support that our ballot of candidates received. All of the following candidates were elected and now represent you as your new TMNA executive committee:

- President: Chris Elliott
- Vice President: John Brems
- Secretary: Robert Alfonso
- Treasurer: Kathy Utsey
- Corr. Secretary: Jessica Lasseigne

We are excited to serve the neighborhood and look forward to working together and with you. Our primary goal remains to build and strengthen our community. We are eager to get busy and focus on some new projects.

Our New TMNA Vice-President

by **John Brems**

Hello, I'm John-Williams Brems, your neighbor and new Vice President of TMNA residing at 830 TC Jester Blvd. Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, I've lived in Houston for six years and work for bp as a Strategic Corporate Director, after years of working in the energy and renewables sector.

I moved to the neighborhood on Valentine's Day 2022 after years of living in Houston's Old Sixth Ward. I chose this neighborhood for the community, friendly neighbors, and to enjoy having a large yard while being so close to the center of town. I live with my two cats, Daisy and Lily.

When the cats aren't acting like it's been days since I fed them, you can find my girlfriend, Claire Johnson, and me trying new restaurants and bars, enjoying the White Oak Bayou Trail, reading a book or practicing photography, and tending to the garden and lawn. As of recently, I have been picking up trash along the median along TC Jester.

Claire and I love celebrating the holidays and it was a treat for us to put on the Haunted Hut for the kids at the annual Halloween block party! Living on TC Jester can make it hard to feel safe with the traffic speeding by. Next time you head North (or South) on TC Jester, please remember to be mindful of the speed limit.

I am really looking forward to meeting more neighbors! Thank you for letting me serve our community as VP. Please reach out if you'd like to grab a meal or a beer to talk about the neighborhood - or even exchange gardening tips.



TMNA OFFICERS

President: Chris Elliott

Vice President: John Brems
e-mail: JWB.TMNA@gmail.com

Treasurer: Kathy Utsey
e-mail: tminatreasurer7723@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Robert Alfonso

Corr. Secretary: Jessica Lasseigne
e-mail: TMNACorresponding7723@gmail.com

Queries concerning TMNA should be made to the
TMNA Corresponding Secretary.

COMMITTEES

Run The Grove Event

Chairperson: Scott Douglas
e-mail: Timbergrove5k@gmail.com

Deed Restriction Compliance

1. Nicholas Banks
2. Bill Caldwell
3. Zach Lewis
4. Tommy Britt
5. Kevin Abrahams

Chairperson: Tommy Britt
e-mail: britt2600@hotmail.com

TMNA Block Captains

Chairperson: John Brems
e-mail: JWB.TMNA@hotmail.com

TMNA Neighborhood Communications

Chairperson: Tim Hassett
e-mail: tehassett@hotmail.com

TMNA Website: www.tmnaonline.org

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The next input deadline is: Sept 1st

Deed Restriction Compliance Committee by Tommy Britt, Chairperson

I probably don't do this enough, but below is a list of the items the DRCC dealt with in the first 6 months of the year.

You will notice that specific addresses of the violation notices are omitted. Our primary mission is to educate our neighbors, not to embarrass them. With the exception of one issue, all were resolved satisfactorily. While that situation tested my diplomatic skill set, I have to remind myself that the vast majority of our interactions with neighbors usually involve them saying: "We just want to do the right thing." That's what keeps me going.

Talk about what keeps me going. This job for sure has its high and low points. Anytime friends ask me what I do with my spare time, I answer "I'm on the neighborhood association deed restriction committee" and they recoil with that sour pickle face. I get it. Fortunately, this neighborhood is

Cont'd DRCC ... on Page 4

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and SUNDAY BRUNCH!!



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Run The Grove 2024

by Scott Douglas, Chairperson

Mark your Calendars on April 13, 2024 for the 7th annual Run the Grove event! Planning is well underway, and we would love to see every neighbor from all 420 homes in our corner of Houston participating next year. After all, it is the biggest event TMNA runs (pun intended) and last year was our grandest ever. We broke records on participation and funds raised, and next year we will continue to build on the success!

With the money raised, we have decided to continue supporting the Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve

and the board's efforts to keep that park beautiful and enjoyable for all. TMNA is donating \$3000 to their efforts with RTG's 2023 proceeds. This will go to improved walking paths, park maintenance, and new creative projects. We also have a number of new beautification projects in the works for our neighborhood utilizing these funds. Stay tuned for more exciting information on beautification plans and for RTG 2024 details in the coming months.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please reach out to Scott Douglas, Run the Grove Chair, at Timbergrove5k@gmail.com. There has never been a better time to live in TMNA!

Yard of the Month



Our August Yard of the Month is an example of what shade and water can do to help your shrubs and grass survive this heat! Martha Fraps at 1610 Turnpike has spent the past three months re-working her landscaping and her efforts have paid off! Martha and her late husband Tony, built their home in 2000 because Timbergrove was their sanctuary within the big city. Martha has worked in tandem with her neighbors to landscape their shared ravine, which is to the west of Martha's home. A curved bed of low-cut jasmine draws your attention to the natural grasses planted to accent the decorative flagstone wall. The wall helps prevent soil erosion into the ravine. Martha is a passionate advocate of protecting and planting trees. The ravine is landscaped with a Cypress Tree, Red Oaks, a pine tree, and river birch. Martha knows the trees attract birds - which she enjoys watching every day. Martha's flower beds demonstrate her love for a variety of plants including golden ligustrum, boxwood, firecracker plants, and purple salvia. The focus of her yard is the semi-circle of huge crepe myrtles that have wonderful blooms and provide much needed shade for the foxtail fern. When Martha isn't working in her real estate investment business, she is enjoying the birds (and occasional rabbit) that visit her magnificent garden. Congratulations Martha - keep up the good work!

Cont'd DRCC ... from Page 2

blessed with several people who do the heavy lifting a lot of people avoid.

Three “heavy lifters” - Zach Lewis, Kevin Abrams and Nicholas Banks - were re-elected to a new two-year term on the DRCC at the last quarterly meeting. These guys stepped up a couple of years ago and serve without complaint or drama. Their dedication, careful review of the issues and thoughtful suggestions make my job so much easier. And none of them have a “sour pickle face.”

Stay safe and call any member of the DRCC if you have a question or concern.

YTD 2023 DRCC Activity

Approvals

- Jan - 1134 Woodhill - front door ramp
- Feb - 819 Worthshire - guest house
- Feb - 1119 Prince - roof and shed
- Mar - 926 Prince - roof
- Mar - 854 T C Jester - patio w/cover
- Apr - 1127 Grovewood - swimming pool
- Apr - 1026 Prince - new siding
- Apr - 914 Prince - swimming pool
- May - 1709 Turnpike - new roof
- May - 1003 Wynnwood - deck remodel
- May - 827 Nashua - new windows
- Jun - 915 Worthshire - new construction

Violations

- Feb - Bay Oaks - yard debris
- Feb - T C Jester - work w/o approval
- Feb - Cranston Ct - pool w/o approval
- Feb - Bay Oaks - yard debris
- Feb - Bay Oaks - violation retraction
- Feb - Cranston Ct. - 2nd pool w/o approval
- Feb - T C Jester - 2nd work w/o approval
- Mar - Bay Oaks - yard junk
- Apr - Prince - no approval for pool
- Apr - T C Jester - no approval for drive
- May - Nashua - no approval for construction
- May - T C Jester - weeds and grass
- May - Bay Oaks - weeds and grass
- Jun - Worthshire - parking on sidewalk
- Jun - Bay Oaks - response to complaint

What Makes A Community: The Role of a Block Captain

by John Brems

As a first-time homeowner, I eagerly anticipated moving in, meeting my neighbors, and introducing myself. Growing up in a neighborhood similar in size to Timbergrove Manor, the strong bonds of friendliness and mutual assistance among the residents were palpable. From lending a hand without hesitation to welcoming newcomers with baked goods, or comforting those facing challenges, the community spirit was always evident.

As a young boy, I used to grumble about my Saturday morning chores, especially tasks like mowing the lawn or pulling weeds, which seemed far from fun. It was only when my parents explained that I was helping a recently widowed and ailing neighbor that I began to understand the value of community service and neighborliness, lessons I now wish to inspire and revitalize in our community.

Being a good neighbor isn't just about helping those unable to do so themselves. Sometimes it means borrowing a tool and returning it in better condition. Sometimes it's truly listening to each other or respecting privacy. At other times, it's as simple as greeting each other, asking open-ended questions, celebrating happiness, comforting in sorrow, or just being present and available.

Upon moving in and sharing a warm welcome card with my immediate neighbors, Patty Newby, Travis Foster, and Gary & Cindy Ortiz, I felt warmly embraced by a friendly and caring community. There remain several houses, however, where my attempts at connection have gone unanswered.

Times have changed, and factors such as technology and Covid have reshaped our interactions. Nevertheless, I believe the value of seeing a familiar, friendly face at the door remains priceless. That's why I'm calling for the restart of the TMNA Block Captain program. The Block Captain should be a recognizable, friendly face, always ready to lend a hand.

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Cont'd Block Captains ... from Page 4

Block Captains would organize community enrichment activities and outreach along their streets, such as National Night Out, or coordinating neighborhood crawfish boils or winter holiday parties. They would help us get to know everyone on their street. While this may seem like a significant commitment, it would only require about four hours per month, primarily for mutual acquaintanceship and door-knocking.

In emergencies, like when Hurricane Ike and

Tropical Storm Harvey struck Houston, the old block captains ensured everyone was safe and ready. A Block Captain should be someone with whom you feel comfortable sharing contact information in case of emergencies.

I'll share more details at the next TMNA meeting and hopefully meet you at your doorstep to personally invite you. If you'd like to nominate a block captain or are willing to help establish the Block Captain program, please reach out to me at JWB.TMNA@gmail.com.



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AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUG 13	14	15	16	17  Garbage Pick-up	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Garbage Pick-up	25	26
27	28	29	30	31  Garbage Pick-up	SEP 1 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	2
3	4 <i>Labor Day Holiday</i>	5	6	7 Garbage Pick-up	8	9 <i>Newsletter Distribution</i>
10	11	12	13	14  Garbage Pick-up	15	16
17	18	19	20 Tree Waste Pick-up	21 Garbage Pick-up	22	23