



Timbergrove Manor

Neighborhood Association News

December, 2023

Volume 34, Number 12

The 11th Street Canopy

by Chris Elliott

TMNA was happy to have our Oaks along 11th Street trimmed in November. Although membership approved the project at the July 20th quarterly meeting, we waited patiently for relief from the long HOT summer drought before we initiated the project. The trees were meticulously trimmed to improve the overall health of the trees and enhance the long-term beauty of the canopy. Also, as part of this project the trees will be treated with fertilizer and a new bed of mulch will be applied to the ground in time for spring. As the seasons change, we expect everyone will certainly notice the improvement and the beauty along 11th Street. Thank you to TMNA membership for your trust and commitment to keeping Timbergrove looking its absolute best.

Deck The Halls and Everywhere Else

by Sharon Balke

Hang those lights and freshen the ribbon on the wreath. The holiday decorating contest is just weeks away.

Two judges from outside of the neighborhood will hit the streets beginning at 6:30 on the evening of **Sunday, December 17th**, accompanied by two members of the Yard of the Month team. As in the past, there will be three overall winners and one best door/window. Pictures of the winners will be in the January newsletter.

Please remember that, while your neighbor's house may be drop dead gorgeous, if they have won in

the past two years, they won't be eligible to win again this year.

We have some very creative people in the neighborhood and I look forward to seeing what they will come up with this year.

2024 TMNA Dues are Due

by Tim Hassett

It's that time of year again. No, I'm not referring to mistletoe and holiday lights - it's time to recommit to TMNA by paying your annual dues. Our dues remain a true bargain; only \$100/yr. per household or \$40/yr. for households of neighbors over 65! Your dues go toward making Timbergrove a great place to live by enabling TMNA to host social events (quarterly meetings, Halloween Extravaganza, Run The Grove), beautify our neighborhood (esplanades and trees) and facilitate communications (website, newsletter). And paying dues makes everyone in the household a member of TMNA for the year, providing both a vote and a voice on issues that affect our neighborhood.

Paying your dues couldn't be easier - just go to the TMNA website using the following link:

<https://tmnaonline.org/membership/>

Once at the TMNA membership page, you can either (1) fill in the requested information on-line and submit your payment via PayPal or (2) print out the TMNA membership form by clicking on "Membership Form" on the right side of the page, completing it and mailing it to TMNA along with your dues check (the mailing address is at the bottom of the form). Don't wait - pay today!

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 L. Blakely
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

Timbergrove Manor Neighborhood Association
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Neighborhood Association - P.O. Box 7723,
Houston, TX 77270-7723

Newsletter Editor - Tim Hassett
(e-mail: tehassett@hotmail.com)

Distribution - Sharon Balke 713-862-8645
Proofreading - Kendra Williams 713-869-8948

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'Tis The Season to be Cautious

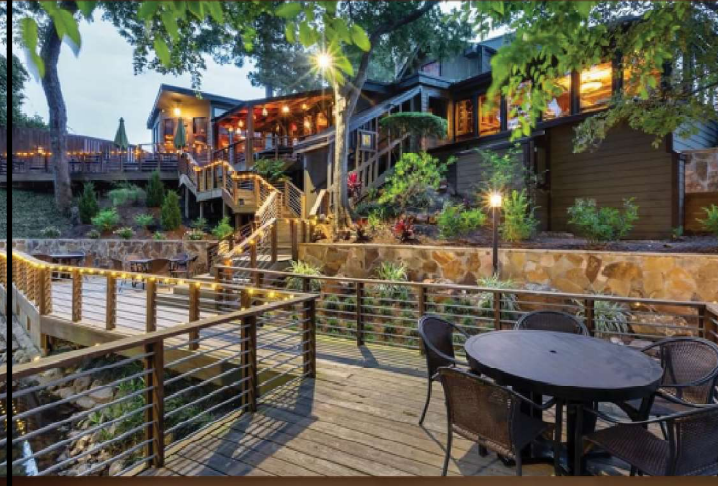
by Sharon Balke

Recently porch pirates stole a package from my neighbor's front porch. Security cameras from three nearby houses didn't pick up anything - the package was there and then it wasn't. Perhaps even more disturbing was finding a man's wallet, cell phone and several pieces of paper thrown under a tree next to a neighbor's driveway. The person who threw the items there walked up a long driveway between two houses. Unsettling.

We need to work together to keep thieves from snatching unattended packages. If you are going out of town or away for a while, ask one of your neighbors to retrieve and hold any packages you receive. This could be a retired person, a work-from-home employee or a stay-at-home parent. Offer to return the favor when they are gone.

Working together to deter crime is just one of the benefits of being neighborly. Now is a good time to start.

PATIO TIME!!
LUNCH, DINNER
and SUNDAY BRUNCH!!



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New Arrivals

by Rebeca Merka

Congratulations to the Antony and Merka families of Nashua Street on their new family additions!



Hudson Michael Antony was born on October 27th, 2023 to Kyle and Jenny Antony and is baby brother to proud big sister Marie. Hudson loves tummy time and being cuddled up on the couch

with his big sister. His four-legged sister, Rouge, is also warming up to her new baby. The new family of four cannot wait to introduce Hudson to his extended Louisiana family over the holidays!

Vada Lynne Merka (pronounced Vey-duh and named after the 90's cult classic movie "My Girl") was born in the wee hours of November 2, 2023 to Brian and Rebeca Merka. Vada joins her two older brothers, Hector and Victor. Vada is as calm as her brothers are energetic - a welcome addition to the Merka home. The family looks forward



to spending the holiday season cuddled close to its newest member and the rest of their family.

Lights Out? I'll Take Them!

by Sharon Balke

For the seventh year in a row the Houston Zoo is collecting old holiday lights, both indoor and outdoor, for recycling.

Do you still have old icicle lights that you haven't hung in years? Maybe you have strings of colored lights and now you are going all white. Or, maybe you have retired from decorating the house yourself

and have professionals do it for you. No matter the reason, the zoo will accept the lights, recycle them and use the proceeds to buy bananas for monkeys, hay for antelopes and apples for the elephants.

You know that box of tangled lights you have had stored in the garage attic for years because you always think you will take the time to untangle them? This is your way out of that job and will make you feel good at the same time. The zoo recycles the lights and, with the proceeds, uses the money for expenses (think hay for the elephants, fish for the seals, lettuce for the giraffes).

So far, approximately 30,000 pounds of lights has been collected by this project. Less landfill space means more space for humans and nature.

String lights only - no flood lights, extension cords or light hooks. Deadline to deposit the lights is Sunday, January 7. You can drop them off in the large box by the main zoo entrance at 6200 Hermann Drive or, if you don't have the time but want to help reduce landfill space, you can put them in the box on my front porch (1020 Waltway) NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, and I will take them for you.

Recycle, make a difference...it's your world, too.

Groveswood Raingarden Update

by Tim Hassett

At the TMNA quarterly meeting in August, 2022, a presentation was made by Robert Snoza from the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) regarding plans to transform the FEMA lot at the corner of East TC Jester Blvd and Groveswood Lane into a "raingarden". As it has been a while, I recently contacted Robert for a status update on this project. I was glad to hear that significant progress has been made with detailed design work well under way.

As you may recall, the raingarden at Groveswood is one of five such facilities being built within Harris County. The intent of the raingardens is

Cont'd Raingarden... on Page 4

Deed Restriction Compliance Committee by Tommy Britt, Chairperson

Note: this article was about 4 months in the making and is a “two-parter” to be finished up next month.

First, it is important for everyone to understand that the Timbergrove Manor Neighborhood Association (TMNA) and the Timbergrove Manor Deed Restriction Compliance Committee (DRCC) are two separate entities, connected at the hip, but separate. Confused? Here are a few key points:

1. While TMNA is a voluntary membership organization, there is nothing voluntary about abiding by the deed restrictions.
2. TMNA has a dues structure and ability to raise money for projects to make life in our neighborhood safe and more enjoyable. The DRCC has no ability to collect or assess funds from property owners.
3. Only TMNA dues-paying members can vote for their governing board. ALL property owners in Timbergrove Manor Sections 1-4 are eligible to serve on the DRCC and to vote for the principal DRCC officers regardless of their membership status in the TMNA.
4. The TMNA Executive Board can hear appeals and overturn decisions made by the DRCC.
5. The TMNA president is empowered to appoint the chair of the DRCC and people to fill unexpired terms should a member drop off.

All this leads to the following: despite the weighty decisions that the DRCC deals with, we couldn't exist without the full support of the TMNA. Everything from letterhead, postage stamps and a forum like this newsletter is funded by the TMNA.

With that said, I spent over two hours on the phone with two property owners who felt aggrieved by a variance we had granted. The time was well spent, however. While I'm certain they were unsatisfied with my reasoning for granting the variances, it sparked a debate within the committee, causing us to establish some new parameters on granting that particular variance. More on that next month.

After the last call was finished, I found out that

neither gentleman with whom I was speaking was a dues-paying member of the TMNA. These two neighbors were demanding a robust effort by the DRCC to enforce the document. As property owners, they have that right, but like many people, they only become concerned and get involved when their perceived ox is gored. One even suggested that the “easy and simple” (his words) course for the DRCC in resolving their issue was to file lawsuits. Anyone want to guess what he does for a living?

After this experience, my new policy is to start such conversations by asking if the person I'm speaking with is a dues-paying member of the TMNA. While the DRCC mandates that we be accountable to all property owners, it doesn't specify how we do it. In short, I'm practicing “Put it in an email.”

Cont'd Raingarden ... from Page 3

to determine how effectively native plants and trees can absorb rainfall and thereby reduce water discharge into bayous and waterways. While the raingarden at Grovewood is not intended to reduce flooding in our neighborhood, it will provide data to HCFCD to help determine if the concept could be beneficial on a larger scale across the Houston area. Work at the Grovewood site is expected to begin in spring/summer of next year. There will be opportunities for community input as design plans progress and possibly even neighborhood involvement with planting. More to come!



Draft Concept Drawing - Grovewood Raingarden

Drone Pilot Needed

by Tommy Britt

The Run the Grove 5K Committee is seeking a neighbor (or a friend of a neighbor) who both has the proper equipment and who would be willing to volunteer a few hours of their time to take aerial video and/or photos of the “Run The Grove 2024” 5K race. The race will be held on the morning of Saturday, April 13th, starting at 8am at the Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve on 11th Street. Drone footage and pictures will be used in post-

race publicity and for promoting future 5K’s.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who might be, kindly contact Tommy Britt, either by email at britt2600@hotmail.com or by phone at 713-447-5367. Thank you.

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the TMNA Deed Restrictions
when building and planning
home improvements.**



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DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
DEC 3	4	5	6	7  Garbage Pick-up	8	9
10	11	12 <i>Runoff Early Voting ends</i>	13	14 Garbage Pick-up	15	16
17 <i>TMNA Holiday Decoration Judging @ 6:30pm</i>	18	19	20 Junk Waste Pick-up	21  Garbage Pick-up	22 <i>Christmas Eve Observed - City Holiday</i>	23 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>
24	 25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Christmas Day</div>	26	27	28 Garbage Pick-up	29	30 <i>Newsletter Distribution</i>
31	JAN 1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">New Year's Day</div>	2	3	4  Garbage Pick-up	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Garbage Pick-up	12	13