



# Timbergrove Manor

*Neighborhood Association News*  
*September, 2023*      *Volume 34, Number 9*

## **Houston Stage 2 Drought Plan in Effect**

by Tim Hassett

The following notice regarding water conservation was recently issued by the City of Houston:

On August 27th, the City of Houston announced that it had entered Stage Two of the city's Drought Contingency Plan due to the significant drop in annual rainfall and higher-than-normal daily temperatures leading to continued stress on the city's water system.

During Stage Two, outdoor water use is only allowed between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. with the following schedule:

- Sundays and Thursdays for single-family residential customers with even-numbered street addresses
- Saturdays and Wednesdays for single-family residential customers with odd-numbered street addresses
- Tuesdays and Fridays for all other customers

While water conservation efforts during Stage 1 were voluntary, the restrictions listed above for Stage 2 are mandatory. Any water customer who violates these watering times will be issued a written warning for a first-time violation. Any subsequent violations are subject to a fine of up to \$2,000 for each occurrence of the offense (Section 54.001 of the Texas Local Government Code).

Houston Public Works (HPW) is also seeing an increase in reports of lower water pressure across the city. The intense heat combined with a significantly reduced rainfall have dried up the soil,

causing a shift in the water lines. When the pipes shift, the pipe joints can break, causing water leaks. Combined with the increase in water usage during the summer months, Houston is experiencing massive demand and stress on the water system.

During Stage Two, the goal is to reduce water consumption citywide by 10 percent. HPW crews are working in conjunction with area contractors to repair water leaks across the city. Please call 311 and report any water leaks you notice, so HPW crews can address them as soon as possible. If a reported leak has worsened, please call 311 again to notify Houston Water that the leak has become more serious.

Water customers are also reminded to continue everyday efforts to prevent the loss of water:

- Check and repair water leaks, including dripping faucets and running toilets
- Check sprinkler heads to make sure water is not spraying into the street or directly into a storm drain and/or gutters. Typically, more than 5 minutes of sprinkler use creates runoff into the street.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only when full

## **TMNA Members Meeting**

**- Sunday, Oct 1st -**

**Location**

**To Be Determined**  
**(Location to be sent via e-mail)**

Social time starts @ 4:00pm

## TMNA OFFICERS

**President:** Chris Elliott

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

**Treasurer:** Kathy Utsey  
*e-mail: tmnatreasurer7723@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.tмнаonline.org](http://www.tмнаonline.org)

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**The next input deadline is: Sept 29th**

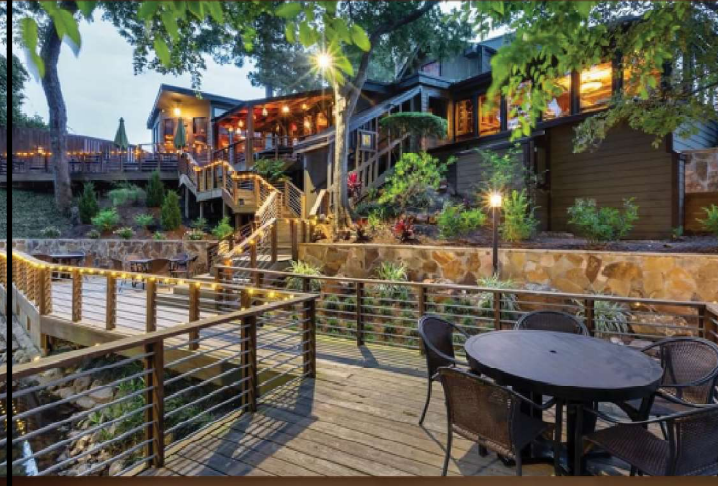
## Speed Cushion Installation Status

by Tim Hassett

TMNA residents who live on the north side of 11th Street may have noticed work crews installing “speed cushions” on the streets of our neighborhood recently. To date, speed cushions have been installed on Wynnwood Ln (3 total) and on Grovewood Ln, Waltway Dr, Woodhill Rd, Worthshire St and W 12th St (1 each). The remaining speed cushions will be installed shortly on Bay Oaks Rd (one each in the 1100 and 1200 blocks), Prince St (one in the 1100 block) and Nashua St (one in the 1100 block).

As you may recall, these speed cushions are being installed by the developer of the Dian Street Villas as a means to limit the amount of cut-through traffic and/or reduce vehicle speed in our neighborhood. Thanks go out to those persons who negotiated this concession with the project developer and the city of Houston, specifically the TMNA Executive Board and former TMNA-resident & Super Neighborhood 14 President, Leigh Killgore!

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



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## **New to the Neighborhood**

by Sharon Balke

When Chase and Mary Kate Sheldon grew weary of the loud, prolonged nightlife along Washington Avenue where they were living in an apartment, they found a home on Waltway and moved there in early June. So far, they have been pleased with this hidden gem.

Chase is from Fort Worth while Mary Kate is from the Florida Panhandle. He graduated from the University of Alabama and she from that school's arch-rival, Auburn. Each year, when the Iron Bowl is played, one of them is very happy and the other is quite the opposite.



Chase is with Platinum Equity. Mary Kate is in residency at the UT medical school in the Texas Medical Center with a focus on pediatric dentistry.

When not working, she enjoys running, cooking, being outdoors (present weather is an exception), hosting dinner parties and reading. She enjoys both fiction and non-fiction and especially likes

historical fiction. Her favorite book is “the Nightengale” by Kristen Hannah.

Chase hunts and fishes on his family’s ranch near Fort Worth and looks forward to the fall when college football starts. He is even becoming a UT Longhorn fan.

Together, this couple, who married just last November, like pickleball. They try to play at Grace Bible Church where they attend services or at Jaycee Park, but have found all courts to be busy nearly round the clock.

Chase and Mary Kate, welcome to Timbergrove!

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## **Improved 311 Mobile App**

by Tim Hassett

An improved version of the City of Houston 311 mobile app is now available for use in reporting non-emergency issues such as water leaks, street conditions, parking violations, missed trash pickup, etc. Features include:

- Create service requests with pictures and details
- Cases are routed to a team, not an individual
- Set up “watch areas”
- Receive notifications on your reported issues

The new Houston 311 mobile app is available for download at Android and iPhone app stores.

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## **Yard of the Month**

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Congratulations to Shirley Jones at 1237 Bay Oaks for receiving the September Yard of the Month. Shirley is a native Houstonian who built her current home in 2012. She has been gardening her entire life and works 4-6 hours a day to make this beautiful garden. Shirley landscaped her yard with holly trees, lorapetalum, Japanese yews, ferns, Rabbit foot, Mondo, Knotty Ferns, and many other shade loving plants. Congratulations again for having such a beautiful yard during such a challenging summer.



## **2023 Timbergrove Manor Halloween**

by David Templeton

It may be hard to believe, but October is nearly here! It's been another exciting and busy year and we want to continue to host the most exciting event of the year with our TMNA Trick-or-Treat parade, Halloween costume contest for the kids, and a Witches' Hut to offer a little excitement and scare!

When: Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Where: The Trick-or-Treat parade will take place along the same traditional route south of 11th Street. It will start at the southwest end of Glen Oaks in the cul-de-sac, travel north along Nashua and then turn west onto Turnpike.

We encourage neighbors to come out and set up tables and chairs along the parade route to cheer and hand out candy to the kids. The more creative and festive, the better! There will also be snacks near the end of the parade with a Witches' Hut to step into and take a chance on a scare, with a food truck set up along the parade route as well.

In order to make each year a success, we need volunteers. If you are a neighbor along the Trick-or-Treat parade route, we are looking for hosts of various carnival games (the games are in TMNA storage, we just need yards to host and run them). In addition to the parade, we want to carry on the Halloween Yard Decorating contest! Let's see which of our neighbors can get creative with their yard! We want to recognize the Best Door, Best Window and Best Overall. Winners will be featured in the November TMNA newsletter.

We will also be holding the Halloween costume contest for kids of various age groups. We need volunteer judges to pick the most creative Halloween costumes amongst our little demons and princesses! Winners will also be featured in the November TMNA newsletter.

For those of you excited to VOLUNTEER to help with the popcorn machine, yard games, Yard

Decorations Judging, and Costume Judging, please contact David Templeton at [templeton6469@gmail.com](mailto:templeton6469@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to seeing all the kids and families in their creative and fun costumes!

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## **Grow The Grove**

by Scott Douglas

Timbergrove has a timber problem, but there is a solution. Over the last few years, our neighborhood has lost a considerable number of trees due to extreme weather events like droughts, freezes and floods with the aftermath of the latter leading to a plethora of new home builds. Needless to say, it is difficult for plant life to thrive in these conditions. Additionally, 40+ year old Pin Oaks, or more colloquially known as Water Oaks, make up a large percentage of the mature tree growth. Chances are high you have one of these in your yard. They are cheap, grow quickly, and have provided shade here for decades. Unfortunately, water oak trees have an average life span of 30-50 years, becoming prone to disease and hazardous as they drop large limbs later in life. They also start to look just plain ugly. It is no surprise that tree trimming services have made so much business recently.

By contrast, trees of similar age all around Rice University, for example, are thriving and looking beautiful, providing much needed shade in this historic summer heat. Yes, they are Live Oaks, and they love the Houston climate. They are slow growing but are drought, heat, and freeze tolerant. They are evergreens that cycle only 1/3 of their leaves out in early spring for new growth, meaning they provide shade and beauty all year round. Timbergrove is certainly not short of these majestic organisms, but their coverage is sporadic. Old tree growth is unique to Timbergrove; I think all of us want to keep it that way. I have long thought how great it would be to go on a walk down a grove of fully shaded streets in TMNA.

Well, we can make that happen! If all of us planted

**Cont'd Grow ... on Page 7**

## **Caring for Landscape during Drought**

by John Brems

Living in the Gulf Prairie ecoregion, we're blessed with unique biodiversity and landscapes. However, we're also susceptible to periodic drought conditions that can jeopardize our lush yards and vibrant trees. With water restrictions in place, it's crucial to take proactive measures to sustain our home landscapes. Here are some steps and strategies to ensure that our TMNA neighborhood remains healthy even during challenging dry spells.

1. **Understand Your Soil** - Our ecoregion predominantly features clay and loamy soils that can retain moisture well but can also become compacted, impeding root growth. During drought conditions, it's even more essential to maintain soil quality. To understand your soil better, Texas A&M AggiLife Extension office has forms for Urban Homeowners to submit soil samples for analysis to help you understand your soil's condition and composition. <https://soiltesting.tamu.edu>
2. **Prioritize Watering** - While we might want every inch of our yards to remain green, it's essential to prioritize.
  - Trees first: Older trees take decades to replace, so ensure they get enough water. A deep, infrequent watering is preferable to short, frequent sessions, watering underneath the tree's canopy and not at the trunk.
  - Shrubs and perennials next: These plants can provide vital shade and habitat.
  - Lawns last: Grass can rebound quickly once rains return.
3. **Mulch is Your Ally** - Mulch conserves moisture, regulates soil temperature, and suppresses weeds that compete for water. A 3-inch layer of organic mulch around trees, shrubs, and flowerbeds can make a large difference.
4. **Adapt Plant Selection** - Consider transitioning to drought-tolerant plants native to the Gulf Prairie ecoregion. Plants like the Gulf Muhly grass or the Texas Lantana have adapted to our local conditions and require less water than non-native species.

5. **Water Wisely** - Timing and technique are essential; please follow the water restrictions around timing and frequency based on your Street Number.
  - Water during the early morning or late evening when the sun is least intense, reducing evaporation.
  - Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems instead of sprinklers, as they deliver water directly to the roots and minimize waste.
6. **Lawn Care During Drought** - Keep your lawn a bit taller. Longer grass blades shade the soil, reducing evaporation. Mow less frequently, and when you do, leave the clippings on the lawn as they can act as a natural mulch.
7. **Tree Care Tips** - Protecting our majestic trees is a priority.
  - Focus on watering the critical root zone, which is the area under a tree's canopy where most of its feeder roots are located.
  - Avoid fertilizing during drought, as this can stress trees.
  - Regularly check for signs of distress, like wilting or discolored leaves.
8. **Rainwater Harvesting** - Collecting rainwater during the wetter months can be a lifesaver during drought. Install rain barrels or cisterns to harvest and store water. This water is especially beneficial as it's free of chemicals and is at an ambient temperature that plants prefer. Please follow Harris County rules and regulations, along with TMNA Deed Restrictions.
9. **Reduce Evaporation** - Using windbreaks like fences, shrubs, or other barriers can reduce wind speed in your yard, minimizing the drying effect on plants and soil.
10. **Communicate and Collaborate** - Talk to your neighbors. Share resources and information. Perhaps you can collectively invest in a neighborhood water tank or share the cost of bulk mulch.

While drought conditions in our Houston, Gulf Coast Prairie ecoregion can pose challenges, with foresight and sustainable practices, we can protect our landscapes. Adapting to our environment not only saves water but also ensures that our yards

**Cont'd Caring ... on Page 6**

## Cont'd Caring ... from Page 5

and trees remain a source of pride and joy, even during the driest times. Remember, every drop counts, and every effort to conserve contributes to the well-being of our cherished neighborhood and community.

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## Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve News

by Laura Bradham

In collaboration with the Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Friends of The Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve is pleased to announce that the first ever Bird Drip that the City of Houston has installed will be at our Nature Preserve! What an exciting opportunity for Timbergrove Manor!

You might not have heard of a Bird Drip and wonder what it is. A Bird Drip provides an attractive source of continual, fresh water for birds, bees, butterflies, and other wildlife. The constant motion provides visual and auditory interest and keeps mosquitoes from laying eggs. It is usually found on the ground because this is the location that animals typically find pools of water in nature.

After some initial meetings, the plan for a Bird Drip was developed and submitted to Houston Parks and Recreation Department for approval. Once approval was granted, the city plumbed the water source by tapping into our existing water lines at the water fountain in July. Finally, in mid-

September, a group of volunteers will complete the rest of the installation. A Quiet Zone will be created around the Bird Drip which will include signage. Visitors to our main trail inside the forest will be able to stand behind the wooden stanchions and look for bird and wildlife activity near the drip. Some birds like to access the drip from the top, some from the bottom or side, and some will endeavor to take a bath if there is enough water in the basin.

One last thing remains for the Bird Drip - a Celebration and Ribbon Cutting! Please regularly check the Friends of The Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve Facebook page to find out when we will have a Ribbon Cutting and Dedication.

Mark your calendar for our Fall Events:

- **Bird Walks in the Forest** resume on Sept 5th weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am - meet at the kiosk across from the corner of Pineshade and Shelterwood.
- **Evening Bird Walks** on Sept 7th, Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, all on Thursday evenings at 5:30 pm, meeting at the kiosk as well. Star Sailor on W. 18th St. is our Bird Walk Special Happy Hour sponsor after the Evening Bird Walks.
- **Morning Mindfulness** will meet on Oct 7th, Nov 4th, Dec 2nd, all on Saturday mornings at 9:30 am at the kiosk.
- **Movie Night in the Park** on Nov 11th. 20 minute **Guided Tree Walks in the Forest** beginning at 4:00 pm until the movie begins at approximately 5:30 pm.

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## DRCC Election Results

by Tim Hassett

Congratulations to Zack Lewis, Kevin Abrahams and Nicholas Banks who were each re-elected to another term on the TMNA Deed Restrictions Compliance Committee. All three have been serving our neighborhood for years in this challenging and essential role.



Zack Lewis



Kevin Abrahams



Nicholas Banks

**Cont'd Grow ... from Page 4**

one Live Oak, we could make a big impact in just a few years. Understandably, many of us won't be able to enjoy the full benefits of this as it does take many years to grow the canopy that exists around Rice University. It is, however, a simple and easy choice that we can all make with some of us reaping the rewards and others getting the satisfaction of paying it forward; a true Timber Grove in the purest sense of the word. With Run the Grove's success over the previous years, it is possible that some of these funds can be used to propel this into a reality,

solving our neighborhood's tree loss problem and proliferating new growth for the future of TMNA. If you are interested in being a part of this initiative, please reach out to me at [scottdouglas86@gmail.com](mailto:scottdouglas86@gmail.com). Stay tuned; many of our members are excited about Growing the Grove!

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



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## SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>SEP</b>	10	11	12	13	14  Garbage Pick-up	15	16
	17	18	19	20 Tree Waste Pick-up	21 Garbage Pick-up	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28  Garbage Pick-up	<b>OCT</b> 29  <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	30
	1 <i>TMNA Qtrly Meeting 4:00 PM @ TBN</i>	2	3	4	5 Garbage Pick-up	6	7 <i>Newsletter Distribution</i>
	8	9	10	11	12  Garbage Pick-up	13	14
	15	16	17	18 Junk Waste Pick-up	19 Garbage Pick-up	20	21