



Timbergrove Manor

Neighborhood Association News

October, 2024

Volume 35, Number 10

TMNA Executive Corner

by John Brems

Thank you to all those that attended the 3rd Quarterly at Star Sailor. For those unable to attend, a quick recap of the voting items and key points:

- **Approved the budget for our Halloween Spooktacular** allowing us to buy candy and toys for those volunteers who are hosting carnival games on their yards. We still need adult volunteers to help run the event activities from 6pm to 8pm on Halloween night.
- **Reformed the Beautification Committee**, which is tasked to manage the landscaping and care of the trees on 11th St & TC Jester medians, TMNA signage, our new Rain Garden, and the Grow the Grove program. Chairperson will be announced at the 4th Quarter TMNA meeting.
- **Rain Garden Update** - Our community is home to the only completed rain garden within our city district and only the second in all of Harris County. Harris County Flood Control's program manager has been cycling to our rain garden on his weekends to weed and ensure the new planted flowers and native flora will thrive. Jill Sisler has volunteered to lead efforts on planning how we as a community can improve it further. Dianne Laurence has graciously stepped forward too to help ensure the native plants take root. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more, or know of a Scout looking for an Eagle project, please reach out.
- **Neighborhood Night Out** - We did not get much volunteer engagement ahead of time to properly coordinate an activity across the TMNA neighborhood. In Texas, Neighborhood Night Out (NNO) is the First Tuesday in October.

We encourage neighbors to outreach to other neighbors in spirit of NNO. Next year, we hope to have more volunteer engagement allowing us to coordinate across the neighborhood and sponsor with drinks or burgers.

- **4th Quarter TMNA Meeting** is December 8th, at Ovinnik Brewery. Social begins at 4pm. Call to Order at 4:30pm. We hope to see you out there for our final meeting of 2024.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the volunteers, and TMNA members who take time out of their busy normal lives to help make our neighborhood run smoothly. At the start of this year, Chris Elliot put a call out, asking for more volunteers to keep the TMNA running smoothly, and several did. Thank you to all those who do contribute, and if you are on the fence - I implore you to come lend a hand. One of our points of pride in this community is that it feels like an actual community, where neighbors know neighbors and genuinely care. Without new participation, it makes the work only harder for those trying to benefit your community, so please - reach out, get involved.

TMNA Halloween

Spooktacular

- Thursday, Oct 31st -

Location

800 block of Nashua Street

- Children's costume judging starts @ 6:00 pm -

- Trick-or-Treating, Carnival Games,
Food Truck & more -

TMNA OFFICERS

President: John Brems

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Vice President: Jason Konet

Treasurer: Alan Shand

e-mail: tmnatreasurer7723@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Wendy Wilson

Corr. Secretary: Jessica L. Blakely

e-mail: tmnacorresponding7723@gmail.com

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

COMMITTEES

Run & Grow The Grove Events

Chairperson: Scott Douglas

e-mail: Timbergrove5k@gmail.com

Deed Restriction Compliance

1. Nicholas Banks
2. Zach Lewis
3. Robert Alfonso
4. Chris Elliott
5. Niko Anagnostopoulos

Chairperson: Nicholas Banks

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TMNA Block Captains

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TMNA Website

Webmaster: Kimberly K. Elliott

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Timbergrove Manor Neighborhood Association
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*The next input deadline is: **Nov 1st***

Sharing with Our Community

During our 3Q meeting, TMNA President John Brems and Run The Grove Chair Scott Douglas presented checks for \$1,000 to representatives from Sinclair and Love Elementary schools. The donations are from proceeds from our 2024 Run The Grove and will help fund school improvements.



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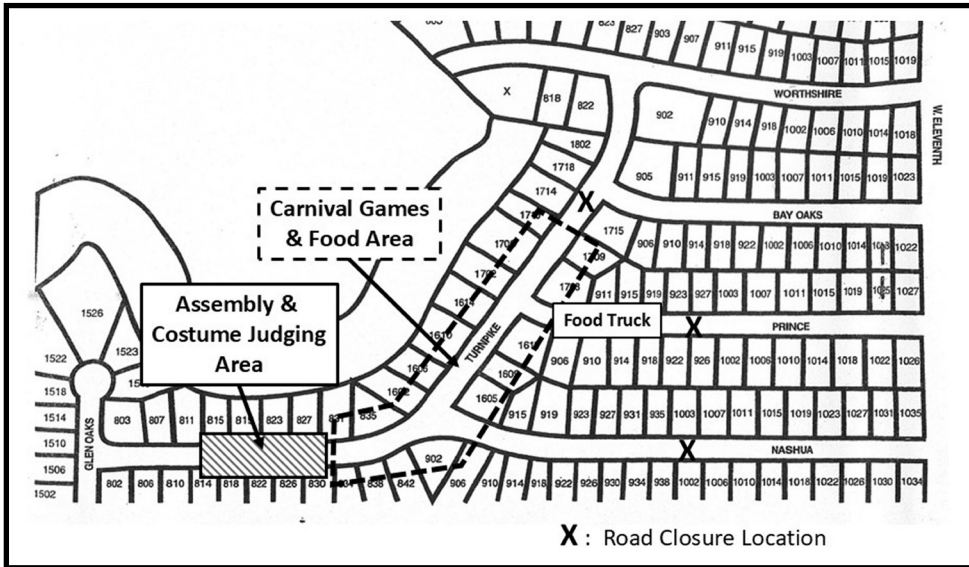
TMNA Halloween Spooktacular

by Jason Konet

Join us on October 31st from 6pm-8pm for our annual TMNA Halloween Spooktacular event taking place on Nashua and Turnpike! Dress up in your best Halloween costumes and come out and enjoy trick-or-treating, carnival games, and much more. A Children’s Costume Contest will start at 6pm in the 800 block of Nashua St (note the new location) where the winners will get special goodie bags! Children’s carnival games will be scattered throughout the event where you can win even more candy and prizes. Make sure to stop by the popcorn stand to snag some popcorn and enjoy a local food truck! Please note and plan accordingly - Nashua

(North of Turnpike), Prince, Glen Oaks and Turnpike (East of Bay Oaks) will be closed off to provide a safe environment for the kids while the event is going on.

We will also be holding the Halloween Yard Decorating contest! Recognition will be given for the two “Scariest” and the two “Most Creative” decorations. Judging will be held on October 30th with the winners featured in the November TMNA newsletter.



Yard of the Month



Driving by 1124 Wynnwood has always caught my eye. It is a renovated home that had been flooded during Topical Storm Harvey. The ranch style home has been given a modern look with the addition of new windows, brick, shiplap siding, board and batten accents and a beautiful cedar gable bracket. It is the home of Reza Mollai who lives there with his precious daughters Alava, age 6, and Kaleah, age 5.

His flower beds have a backdrop of boxwood hedges and multi-colored Vinca across the front of the house. There is a young live oak tree that is surrounded by more colorful Vinca. A water feature flanks the left side of the house and will project light through the water when it is

finished. On the side of the driveway is a shaded ravine that Reza has manicured. A bridge crosses the drainage area. There are terraced flower beds flanking his patio’s edge, a shaded dining area with a view and an above ground pool to cool them on a hot summer day. All of this is enclosed by a beautiful fence that compliments his yard.



Reza feels so lucky to have found Timbergrove. He talked about his wonderful neighbors and the great sense of community. Congratulations to the Mollai’s on a beautiful yard.

It's All About Pumpkin

by Cindy Miskell

After the challenging last few months that we've been through, I hope everyone is as excited as I am about the hint of fall that we are starting to feel. Autumn is hands down my favorite season, and I am one of those people who loves all things pumpkin! As I write this, I have a loaf in the oven that is filling the house with the sweet and spicy aroma of chocolate and pumpkin and wanted to share this simple, delicious recipe with you.

Many of you may think of pumpkin only in the context of a sweet treat but it is great in savory recipes too. Stay tuned next month for one of those. Enjoy!

Chocolate Pumpkin Spice Bread

- 1 box Devil's Food Cake Mix
- 1 16 oz can Pumpkin Puree
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- ½ tsp Cayenne
- 1 C Semi-sweet Chocolate Chips
- Chopped Walnuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a loaf pan. Mix dry cake mix with pumpkin. Fold in the puree and spices with a mixer. By hand, fold in the chocolate chips. Pour into greased loaf pan and top with walnuts. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes.

Neighborhood-wide Garage Sale

by Amy Carter

Have too much stuff? Want to make a few extra dollars? Sounds like it's time for a garage sale!

Timbergrove Manor Neighborhood Association is hosting a neighborhood-wide garage sale on Saturday, November 16th. TMNA will get the word out (via Facebook, Instagram, Newsletter, website, etc.) and by posting signs on the 11th Street & TC Jester esplanades on the day of the event. Your job?

- Start cleaning out, collecting, and organizing your garage sale items

- Schlep your goods to your driveway from 8:00 am – 11:00 am on Saturday, November 16
- Donate a portion of your proceeds (10% is suggested) to TMNA to cover the cost of advertising and to help fund neighborhood improvement projects.

In order to properly plan for the event, kindly send an email to Amy Carter (amycarter1@aol.com) with your name and address if you plan to participate. The more houses involved, the more sales traffic we hope to generate in the neighborhood - which should work out to more dollars all the way around.

Quick Treasurer Update

by Alan Shand

It is such a privilege to be involved in the TMNA. Taking on the treasurer role has been quite fun and a big thank you to Jessica Blakely for keeping things in order and a smooth transition. While I do enjoy all the numbers stuff, the engagement with fellow neighborhood residents has been by far the most enjoyable part. Seeing the passion from so many people who have the collective best interests of Timbergrove in mind is rather humbling. I am in awe of what it takes to ensure successful running of Run the Grove, the Halloween Extravaganza, all that Tim and everyone do for this newsletter, giving back through Grow the Grove, activities of the Deed Restriction Committee and all the other activities from the many volunteers who get involved.

All of this is only possible with the level of commitment we get through our dues. This year, we are at 40% participation, with 15% of our residents also making additional donations. Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues, everyone who has made additional donations and everyone who volunteers to make this such a great neighborhood.

If you are new to the neighborhood, paying your dues couldn't be easier - just go to the TMNA website using the following link and follow the instructions to pay via PayPal or by mail:

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

Scams, Scams, Scams

by Tim Hassett & Leah Braden

It seems like every time you watch or read the news these days, there is a story about someone getting scammed out of their life savings or a significant amount of money. A particularly egregious example occurred right here in midtown Houston when an elderly woman who was in the midst of a telephone scam was attempting to deposit \$19,000 into a cryptocurrency kiosk (yes, there are such things) but was instead robbed by two men - the robbers were not part of the scam operation. Wow.

If you are like me, when you read or watch such news stories you tell yourself “I would never fall for such a thing!”. Perhaps you wouldn’t but what about your parents or grandparents? Speaking from personal experience, my 80-plus year old mother called me a few years ago after providing a “friendly woman from the cable company” with her bank account details including password and social security number. Luckily she grew a bit suspicious and called me, but during the 5 minutes that elapsed, the scammers had changed her on-line banking password and were in the process of transferring her bank funds before I got in touch with her bank and shut it down. Believe me, it feels very different when it’s personal. While my mother ended up not losing any money, it took a week to change all of her credit cards, financial accounts and Social Security information.

According to the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, an “imposter scam” is an attempt to steal money by pretending to be a trusted authority, such as a sheriff, local, state, or federal government employee, or charity organization. They may offer a wide range of stories to alert you into taking action, ranging from claiming to find “fraudulent activity” on your account and working to prevent issues, to threatening to arrest you for not following detailed instructions.

Whatever the story, the end result is usually the same: The scammers on the other end will try to coerce their customers to send them money either through UPS or FedEx, or in the form of gift cards

and cryptocurrency. While it may sound easy to spot, these attacks are becoming a major issue. In 2023, the Federal Trade Commission said imposter scams were their second-most pressing fraud issue, costing consumers \$2.7 billion in losses.

So how do you protect yourself and your loved ones? The Federal Trade Commission says there are several ways to identify a fake caller. The first thing you should know is how you will be contacted by government authorities or a bank when there’s a real issue. In the case of the woman in Houston, her trouble began with a call, conveying an urgent warning about her bank account. The FTC emphasizes that **government agencies will never call, email, text message, or otherwise electronically contact you about a problem**. If there’s an issue, you’ll be contacted by mail first.

Depending on your bank, you may be contacted by text message to ensure your credit or debit card isn’t compromised, or that you aren’t being attacked with fraudulent charges. In this situation, you need to look closely at who is texting you. **Banks will only text from a six-digit short code, and never from a 10-digit telephone number** (even if it is their official 800 number). Moreover, a bank will never call you and ask you to read off a code sent to your phone or e-mail to verify your information.

In such a situation, the best thing to do is to not respond to the scammer — simply hang up, or delete the text entirely. Not engaging is the best way to not become a victim. If you do answer a call from someone claiming to be from your bank or government agency, hang up and call them back directly on a trusted number to ensure they are in fact attempting to contact you.

Above all, never offer to transfer or send money to solve a problem like a compromised account or fine for a crime you didn’t commit. You can also report scams directly to the Federal Trade Commission. Reports are shared with thousands of law enforcement agencies nationwide to help them stop scammers and protect the community. And be sure to discuss this topic with your Mom.

The Seasonal Sweet Spot

by Wendy Wilson

October is finally upon us! Let the short moment of perfect weather commence. Hurricane season is nearly in the rearview mirror, bearable temperatures and perfect BBQ weather on the horizon. This is the month that I encourage northern and international guests to visit; the brief moment that they can endure our climate, and my favorite time to entertain.

Here are a couple of recipes that have been inspired by Houston friends and have become my go-to entertaining dishes when I need to prepare something quick that is guaranteed to be a crowdpleaser.

Steak & Chimichurri Tacos

- The chimichurri can be made in advance and lasts in the fridge for several days. You can hand chop/mix, but I like to use a food processor:
 - 1/2 cup finely chopped cilantro leaves (about 1 cup before chopping)
 - 1/2 cup finely chopped flat leaf parsley leaves (about 1 cup before chopping)
 - 2-3 good size garlic cloves (minced if doing by hand)
 - 3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
 - 2 tsp red wine vinegar
 - 1 tsp Aleppo or Chili pepper flakes
 - 1 tsp ground cumin
 - 1/2 cup olive oil
- Steak - Skirt, Hanger or Flat Iron Steak all work well, grilled to your liking. I typically allow the steak to come to room temp for 30 min; season with oil, salt & pepper; then grill for 6-8 minutes on the first side, rotating 45 degrees halfway for those fancy grill marks, then finish the other side for 4-6 minutes (total for both sides - max 12 min for medium rare).
- Rest for 5 min then thinly slice steak against grain.
- Assemble on corn/flour tortillas of your choice. (I love the buttery, warmed HEB Bakery Flour tacos) and top with:
 - Steak slices
 - Chimichurri

- Thinly sliced purple onion
- Mexican Cotija Cheese
- Roughly chopped cilantro
- Fresh squeezed lime

Grilled Street Corn

- Fresh corn on the cob, shucked and grilled on medium heat for 10-15 min, turning every 3-4 min (char to liking)
- Drizzle with Crème Fresh / Alternative - Sour Cream or Plain Greek yogurt, mixed with a small amount of water and fresh lime juice
- Top with crumbled Mexican Cotija Cheese and roughly chopped Cilantro
- Sprinkle Tajin or Chili Lime Seasoning & Cholula or Valentina hot sauce (to liking)

Mandie's Marvelous Margaritas

(Scale recipe as needed)

- 1 cup (good) Tequila (I like Casamigos Blanco)
- 1/4 cup Cointreau or Triple Sec
- 1/2 cup fresh lime juice (hot tip: HEB sells fresh squeezed lime juice in the produce section)
- 1/2 cup of Simple Syrup
- 1 teaspoon egg whites fresh or carton
- Combine in a blender until frothy
- Rim salt or Tajin and lime wedges for serving (optional)

Warning: Mandie's Margaritas are mighty, and are recommended to be drunk in moderation. I may be speaking from experience. Regardless, enjoy this fabulous fall season and hope to see you all at the Halloween Spooktacular!

Save The Date!

2025 Run The Grove 5K

***** March 29, 2025 *****

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

Key 2024 Election Dates

by Tim Hassett

The table on the right is provided by the League of Women Voters of Texas and provides key dates for the upcoming general election. Please be sure to add these dates to your personal calendar. As we get closer to Election Day, you will be able to find relevant information on federal, state and local elections as well as state and local propositions at www.lwvhouston.org.

2024 General Election - Key Dates	
OCT 7	Last day to register to vote or change your address
OCT 21	First day to vote early in person
OCT 25	Vote by Mail ballot application receipt deadline
NOV 1	Last day to vote early in person
NOV 5	Election Day and Vote by Mail ballot receipt deadline



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OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
OCT	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		<i>Voter Registration Deadline</i>			 Garbage Pick-up		
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Junk Waste Pick-up	Garbage Pick-up		
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		<i>Start of In-Person Early Election Voting</i>			 Garbage Pick-up		
	27	28	29	30	31	NOV 1	2
				Garbage Pick-up	 TMNA HALLOWEEN PARADE!!	<i>End of In-Person Early Election Voting</i>	<i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	<i>End of Daylight Savings Time</i>		<i>Election Day</i>		 Garbage Pick-up		<i>Newsletter Distribution</i>
	10	 11	12	13	14	15	16
		Veteran's Day			Garbage Pick-up		<i>TMNA Yard Sale</i>