



# Timbergrove Manor

*Neighborhood Association News*  
 February, 2025 Volume 36, Number 2

## FEBRUARY / MARCH 2025 EVENTS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>FEB</b> 2	3	4	5	6 Garbage Pick-up	7	8
9	10	11	12 Junk Waste Pick-up	13 Garbage Pick-up	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 <i>Washington's Birthday - Federal Holiday</i>	17	18	19	20 Garbage Pick-up <i>TMNA Quarterly Mtg</i>	21 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	22
23	24	25	26	27 Garbage Pick-up	28 <i>Go Texan Day</i>	<b>MAR</b> 1 <i>Newsletter Distribution</i>
2	3	4 <i>Start of Houston Rodeo</i>	5	6 Garbage Pick-up	7	8
9	10	11	12 Tree Waste Pick-up	13 Garbage Pick-up	14	15

### Executive Corner by John Brems

It's the start of a new year which means it's time to renew your membership for Timbergrove Manor Neighborhood Association. With membership, you can help support and have an active vote in deciding this year's priority of activities and functions. This year we have a lot of exciting activities ranging from our Run-the-Grove 5K and Grow-the-Grove tree planting initiative to TMNA members' social and beautification projects. We're exploring how we can create community parks in the Harris County Flood lots in our neighborhoods, and improve the recognition of our neighborhood while preserving the community spirit we have. While financial donations from our neighborhoods help, what's often in short supply are the individuals who can help turn these ideas into reality. We thank those who have been, and currently are, providing resources to TMNA through their time, energy, and pocket books.

### TMNA 1Q Meeting

After last year's overwhelming requests to move our quarterly TMNA meetings away from Sundays, I'd like to announce that our first quarterly TMNA Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025 starting at 7:00 pm. Our meeting will be held at the Spaghetti Western restaurant located at 1951 West TC Jester Blvd. (not the one on Shepherd Drive!). We hope to see you there, as there will be voting on the projected 2025 budget as well as discussions on prioritizing neighborhood activities for the year. If you haven't paid your dues yet, you can pay at the door. Our Executive Officers can check that you're registered as an active member.

### Some Musings of a Senior Timbergrovia by Scott Williams

As I write these words on Friday, 13 December 2024, I wonder whether anything positive could come on an infamous "Friday the 13th." I do not suffer triskaidekaphobia, and I hope the thoughts I share will not be devoid of value to some of our newsletter readers.

I could not help but notice the last couple of days the demolition of my childhood home at 1006 Nashua. My parents brought me as a new baby from Heights Hospital to that home in July 1950. Seeing that property start its metamorphosis into something new and exciting got me to think and reflect about how our precious neighborhood has changed, been challenged, evolved, and flourished during my lifetime. What a wonderful little island we enjoy near the heart of the bustling metroplex Houston has become.

When I was a young child there was no Durham.  
**Cont'd Musings... on Page 5**

### TMNA Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, February 20th

**Location: The Spaghetti Western**  
**1951 W. TC Jester Blvd.**  
**Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm**

If you haven't paid your 2025 TMNA dues yet, you can pay at the door. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the restaurant.

## TMNA OFFICERS

**President: John Brems**

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**Vice President: Jason Konet**

**Treasurer: Alan Shand**

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**Recording Secretary: Wendy Wilson**

**Corr. Secretary: Jessica L. Blakely**

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

## COMMITTEES

### 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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### Fundraising & Philanthropy

**Chairperson: Scott Douglas**

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### Beautification & Community Readiness

**Chairperson: Travis Britt**

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### Community Engagement & Outreach

**Chairperson: Open**

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*The next input deadline is: **Feb 21st***



Haven't paid your 2025 TMNA dues yet?  
Just use the QR code in the picture above or go  
to the TMNA website membership page at

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

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### Repair, Refresh and Renovate Your Yard by Cindy Miskell

It is January 21st and as the newsletter deadline approaches, everyone's yards are covered with frost cloth and snow. So instead of selecting a Yard of the Month for February, we'll share some ideas about cleaning up after the freeze and landscaping trends for 2025.

A key point to remember after a freeze is to be patient! Once the danger of frost has passed, you can remove visibly dead or mushy foliage, but avoid aggressive pruning immediately, as it can take days or even weeks for the full extent of damage to become apparent. When spring arrives, look for signs of life in new growth, or by scratching the bark to check for green tissue. If there is no green tissue indicating live wood you should prune with clean cuts at a 45-degree angle.

If you need to replace plants that didn't survive, refresh your yard, or perhaps completely make it over, consider the following:

- **Naturalistic and Unstructured Outdoor Design Choices** - Embrace lush plantings, flowers and color in outdoor living spaces.
- **Wild Gardening** - Weeds are not necessarily a bad thing, self-seeders can be good, and plants take on special qualities when allowed to ramble in peace. These characteristics are favored by birds, bees and butterflies and less maintenance will leave you more time to relax and enjoy the garden and wildlife.
- **Smaller Lawns** - Replace a portion of the lawn with native plants, edible gardens, and usable space. These elements provide a more natural looking landscape filled with color and a sense of life and movement, and also help with water conservation.
- **Native Plants** - Native plants are those that occur naturally in the region in which they evolved. Gardens that integrate more native planting can be seasonally stacked so that beautiful things are happening year-round. You can use the National Audubon Society's database <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> to discover natives in our area.

- **Permeable Hardscape** - Water management is increasingly important. Porous pavers filled with grass and/or gravel help create a stylish and sustainable yard, reducing runoff and replenishing groundwater. Plastic porous pavers tend to be made from recycled plastic, an added benefit for the environment.
- **Cover Crops** - Cultivate healthy soil by returning depleted nutrients and protecting against erosion. Cover crops such as clover, rye and mustard are easy to plant, and seeds can be sown at different times of the year. They are left to grow for several months, then cut down and dug into the soil before planting to give them time to break down and enrich the soil.
- **Drought Tolerant Plants** - Ornamental grasses, succulents like agave and yucca, and flowering perennials like lavender and coneflowers will thrive under low water conditions, fill a garden with color and texture, and attract wildlife.
- **Luxury Outdoor Kitchens** - A luxury kitchen may be a splurge, but our climate affords us the opportunity to spend many months of the year outdoors and a fully furnished outdoor kitchen can provide a wonderful extension of living space. Grills can be incorporated into a kitchen that includes pizza ovens and smokers. Counters and sinks can be added alongside multi-purpose bar fixtures and outdoor-rated wine fridges to complete the space.

After the past year, with the derecho and the hurricane, and now the snow and freeze, most of our yards need some TLC. Hopefully these ideas will provide a bit of inspiration for you to help create a beautiful, functional and sustainable yard.

### Running Brought Them to Timbergrove by Sharon Balke

In the past, Timbergrove has gotten new residents from Shady Acres, a subdivision to our north, which is predominately townhomes. People in that subdivision walk their dogs through Timbergrove or run, bike or push baby strollers down our quiet, tree-lined streets - they soon come to realize that they want to live here.

Cont'd Running... on Page 6

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# Timbergrove Manor Winter Wonderland!



## Run The Grove 2025 by Scott Douglas

The 8th Annual TMNA Run the Grove 5K and Kids Run is in less than two months! If you haven't already, save the date for **March 29, 2025!** Eureka Heights is once again sponsoring the 5K and Heights Speech and Language is sponsoring the kids run. After the runs, there will be a Grovechella celebration at the Lorraine Cherry Nature Preserve with free beer from Eureka Heights, food and drink from sponsors, food trucks, and a kid's area

with bouncy houses provided by Heights Speech and Language.

We are really looking forward to the Run The Grove 2025 event, and we anticipate it will be the biggest ever! We're in need of volunteers for the day of the race - if you would like to volunteer, please reach out to [timbergrove5k@gmail.com](mailto:timbergrove5k@gmail.com). Coffee, donuts and kolaches will be provided by TMNA to volunteers. If you can't participate directly, be sure to head outside on the morning of the run and cheer on the runners!



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## Tribute to Martin Vives

by Sharon Balke

Most likely no one in Timbergrove Manor has ever heard the name Martin Vives. He didn't live here or even close by. However, you saw his work each month when you read the neighborhood newsletter.

Martin was the Manager of Graphics Design at Reflection Printing, the company that TMNA has used for many years for printing the newsletter. He was responsible for making sure the newsletter was properly prepared before sending it to the press..

On December 22, Martin, 57, was killed by a drunk driver. He died instantly. He leaves behind his wife, Michelle, and his father. Sadly, Martin's mother died suddenly the day before Martin was killed.

His co-workers at Reflection Printing are still in shock at his loss. The company employs 10 people so each one is important.

As you read this issue, take a moment to reflect upon Martin and his dedication to the job, and also think about Martin the next time you might have a little too much to drink. Call a friend, call a taxi or call an Uber; just don't get behind the wheel.



## Cont'd Musings ... from Page 1

Eleventh Street was a shell road from Shepherd to the Hempstead Highway. Behind our house on Nashua was a thick forest full of oak trees that seemed like giants to a young boy. Wearing my prized Davy Crockett coon-skinned hat, actually the skin was rabbit but I did not know that, I blazed trails and built forts in what I considered my private forest.

My forest was a place filled with opportunities to play, explore, and adventure. Before the Corps of Engineers rerouted the White Oak bayou my friends and I used to play army, fish, and hunt nutria in the oxbow of the bayou that is now Hidden Lake. As the city grew its way around Timbergrove, 11th Street was paved, and my private forest gave way to Durham and Merchant's Park.

Our Timbergrove was home to many young post WWII families. The neighborhood was filled with young adults starting to build their lives and with lots of children. Most of the homes did not have air conditioning - the homes were "cooled" by attic fans that seemed as large as windmills to a young boy.

The famous Houston "houmidity" was no different in those days than it is now, and the summers were sweltering. Kids and parents spent a good bit of time in front yards, and Timbergrove began to forge its character as a neighborhood. We played outside. A group of us boys marked off a 100-yard football "field" on the south end of Prince Street. We also played a baseball of sorts where our infield was the south end of Prince and our home run wall was the fence and roof of the Fickes house that stood at Prince and Turnpike.

My father was among the Depression Era generation. He was frugal, to say the least, and a compulsive pack rat. He was an engineer, and he could fix almost anything. Neighbors helped neighbors, and almost every weekend he worked on someone's washing machine, car, or refrigerator. I was always in tow, fishing bolts, nuts, and washers from five-pound coffee tins filled to the brim with mechanical treasures.

The first major disaster I remember was Hurricane Carla in 1961. For us kids it seemed like an adventure. Trees were down all over the neighborhood, and we had lots of new places to play among them. My parents fired up the Coleman camp stoves, and we had plenty to eat. Our neighbors did the same, and we all had shared picnics until Timbergrove got squared away, albeit with fewer of our beloved oak trees.

## Cont'd Musings... on Page 6

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

The developer who built Timbergrove did not include streetlights in the project. I remember my mother and other concerned neighbors going door-to-door asking neighbors to contribute enough money to fund the addition of streetlights. It is my earliest recollection of such a grass roots initiative in our neighborhood. Decades later, my wife and a similar ad hoc committee of concerned volunteer neighbors went door-to-door soliciting support for new deed restrictions to help maintain the character and integrity of our Timbergrove.

It is often said "the more things change, the more they stay the same." As I reflect on my life in Timbergrove, the gist of that phrase has been borne out. Many of our so-called "original owners" have left the neighborhood, whether moved to other locales, transitioned into assisted living facilities, or passed on from this life. Timbergrove Manor has dealt with many challenges and changes during the seven decades of its, and my, lives:

- When I stroll around our neighborhood now, I once again see many young families and children playing outside and riding bicycles.
- There is a new, younger generation leading the TMNA which was formed in 2002.
- We endured and recovered from two unprecedented floods associated with storms spawned in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Our neighborhood took another serious blow in May of this year when the derecho Uri stormed through Timbergrove, destroyed some of our homes, and took many more of our lovely trees for which Timbergrove was named.
- Neighbors once again rallied to help each other recover. Better yet, TMNA has launched the wonderful "Grow the Grove" initiative to reforest our neighborhood with new live oak trees that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

As I look back today, our Timbergrove Manor neighborhood has changed. It has evolved. It has endured challenges, picked itself up, and gotten back on the road to recovery. What a wonderful place is our little island in the middle of the Houston metroplex!

## Cont'd Running ... from Page 3

That's basically what happened to Mark and Naomi Donoghue. The couple, both from a small town in England, came to the US a little over 10 years ago on work assignments. They spent four years in Shady



Acres and grew to love this part of Houston. They then spent six years for work in Seattle, moving back to Houston last fall.

Mark is a member of several running clubs, including the one at Eureka Heights, that routinely run down Wynnwood. That is how he spotted 1119 Wynnwood. He brought Naomi over for a tour. When she found that the house included a wine fridge and a pool, she was hooked. The couple, along with their super friendly pit bull, Moose, and rescue cat, Cat, moved in early last December.

Both Mark and Naomi work for Phillips 66. After COVID restrictions eased, they started traveling. One of their goals is to visit all 50 states. They now have a map on the office wall showing a photo of them in each state. In the same room is a large built-in shelf where Naomi has a collection of special Starbucks mugs that she bought on their travels. The shelf is full, along with another rack with miniature Starbucks mugs. They have started filling in two more maps, one for national parks they have visited and one for all the National Baseball League parks. They both enjoy baseball and attend many Astros games.

In addition to Eureka Heights, Mark also runs with clubs from New Magnolia Brewery and North Shepherd Brewery. He plans to run in Timbergrove's 5K this spring. Mark and Naomi both love animals. Naomi volunteers with a rescue group. They currently have a large foster cat who terrifies Moose, swatting him when given the chance. Welcome to our neighborhood!