

Proud To Be



# Lindale Park

*The Hidden Jewel*



Lindale Park Civic Club

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE LINDALE PARK CIVIC CLUB  
CELEBRATING 41 YEARS OF CIVIC PRIDE, 1979 - 2020

LINDALE PARK NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2020

## Virtual Quarterly Meeting + 2020 Board Elections 7 – 8 P.M.

Tuesday, August 25  
Zoom Meeting ID: 854 2930 5834  
Zoom Password: 555000

Due to social distancing requirements surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the next Lindale Park Civic Club Quarterly Meeting will be held online via Zoom, so you can attend from your living room, front porch or wherever you decide to log in! We will not meet at the Clubhouse.

Zoom is accessible from a desktop, laptop, Smartphone or tablet. If using a Smartphone or tablet, you will be prompted to download the Zoom app prior to joining the meeting. Once downloaded, simply enter the meeting ID and password above to attend the virtual Quarterly Meeting.

Follow Lindale Park on our social media outlets – Nextdoor and Facebook – to find the direct meeting link to join from your web browser.

Please plan to login ~15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting as we will begin promptly.

## Love Lindale Park Cleanup Coming in September

Did you see volunteers walking in our neighborhood during the first Love Lindale Park Cleanup Event on the morning of Saturday, July 11? Between 15-25 dedicated folks collected trash and recyclables and helped improve the appearance of our wonderful community. They gathered more than five city trash bins' worth of litter.

It was a fun, low-key, no-pressure event that put a few steps on our fitness counters and got us out of the house and seeing our friends and neighbors.

Soon, it will be time to do it again, and we hope you can join us. Here's the scoop:

## LOVE LINDALE PARK



## TRASH PICK-UP EVENT

**WHO:** You, we hope!  
**WHAT:** Love Lindale Park Evening Cleanup  
**WHEN:** 6:30-7:30 P.M. Saturday, September 12  
**WHERE:** Check-in at the playground, St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
**WHY:** Who doesn't love a clean neighborhood?

This time, we'll focus on the north/south streets – Fulton, Irvington and Robertson. So, bring gloves, a 'grabber' if you have one and a few trash bags (to fill one with trash, one with recycling). Partner with a friend or neighbor or even your favorite canine companion. Pick up trash and recycling and leave the filled, closed bags on corners. Others will pick them up.

Cold drink volunteers will come by and keep you hydrated as you go.

At the end of the hour, celebrate your commitment to our community! Snap a selfie and share it on Nextdoor or tag the Lindale Park Civic Club Facebook page.

If your area is already clean, find a storm runoff drain: Because water and trash flow to them, they always need work.

Let's take pride and ownership of the beauty of our unique "hidden gem" neighborhood!

- Dinah Massie with Love Lindale Park Committee

## Letter from LPCC President

Dear Neighbors,

Building codes and deed restrictions are unexciting topics, but they are a necessary fact of life for any neighborhood that wants to preserve their unique spirit.

The City of Houston (COH) and Lindale Park Civic Club (LPCC) provide a complementary set of building codes and deed restrictions for our neighborhood, and every resident has the right to ask whether buildings adhere to these standards, whether they be new construction or structural changes to an existing home or garage. However, it's not reasonable for individuals to memorize each rule and/or know which COH department can help them in these matters, so the LPCC often works on behalf of residents to oversee and manage the enforcement of building codes and deed restrictions for our "Hidden Jewel" neighborhood.

This is not an easy task, since our deed restrictions are a patchwork of documents with small yet important differences between each neighborhood section and ambiguous words and subjective language in some clauses, causing highly divergent individual opinions on the intention of the clauses themselves and making them difficult to interpret for well-intentioned residents who want to "follow the rules" abidingly.

While the current state of Lindale Park Deed Restrictions reflects years of hard work put forth by many, many good-hearted LPCC volunteers, the difficulty in interpreting and enforcing them has led the LPCC Board of Directors to vote to make significant changes to our enforcement strategy.

Going forward, the LPCC will focus on enforcement of clearly defined building codes and deed restrictions, such as Special Minimum Building Line, Special Minimum Lot Size, single-family residence requirements and various COH ordinances – utility rights-of-way, as an example.

We will continue to require new construction and construction that includes structural changes to submit plans to the LPCC to check for adherence to these codes and restrictions. To demystify the process for residents, we will publish to the LPCC website a list of resources and complete workflow for residents to either advocate for

change on their own behalf or seek assistance from the LPCC.

This is a decision we spent months researching, debating and planning. To reflect our new focus, the LPCC has discontinued the "Architectural Review Committee (ARC)" and instated the notionally named "Neighborhood Preservation Committee."

We will address this topic in more detail at the August 25 Quarterly Meeting on Zoom. Until then, please continue to practice safe social interactions, respect and honor your neighbors and help those in need around you.

- Eugene Szymanski, Graceland Street Resident/LPCC President

## Porch Pirates & Package Thieves Get Your Packages Delivered Securely

Since many packages are stolen off porches, here are six alternatives to getting your packages delivered securely.

1. Have your packages delivered to your office or workplace.
2. Have your packages shipped to a family member or neighbor's house, preferably one who's home during the weekdays.
3. Install a package delivery box near your front door.

They are available for under \$100 at Amazon.com.

4. If it's an Amazon package, have it delivered to an Amazon Hub Locker location. (See photo of one named "Shrimp" at the Chevron Texaco station near the Patton exit of NB I-45.)
5. Use a Postal Service location. The UPS Store on 19th St., for example, charges \$20/month for a box and will accept packages from any shipper.
6. Post office boxes are limited to only get mail shipped by the United States Postal Service.

(Of Note: The post office on Cavalcade Street will be closing in the future and will not be rebuilt.)

- Mike Bowlin, Canadian Street Resident/Newsletter Contributor



**Editor's Note:** *Lindale Park bids a very fond farewell to longtime residents Bill and Cherry Laucher. Affectionately known to many as Father Bill, Rev. Laucher has been the vicar of St. Alban's Episcopal Church since 2001. He and Cherry will retire to Fort Collins, Colorado, next month. We cannot thank The Lauchers enough for all the lasting contributions they've made in our neighborhood! Gwyn Guidy, a member of St. Alban's, shared this heartwarming tribute. Photo Credit: Mike Bowlin Photography*

## Saying Goodbye to Father Bill

Saying goodbye to someone who is profoundly important to you can be difficult.

Father Bill literally changed my life. After years of working with him to improve Lindale Park and the Near Northside, in April 2015, I asked Father Bill to baptize me in the Episcopal Church. I was baptized November 1, 2015, also All Saints Day, and I have been attending services at St. Alban's, The Playground Church, ever since.



Father Bill began his ministry at St. Alban's in January 2001 and soon bought a house in Lindale Park. Before coming to Lindale Park, he had several interesting experiences. He was a high school band director in Pasadena, Tex., a pastor in Richmond, Tex., and a missionary in Honduras for six years. He and his wife, Cherry,

both felt the calling and moved their young family (two small children) to Honduras. They came back speaking fluent Spanish, rendering Father Bill a perfect fit for St. Alban's, which has a large Spanish speaking congregation.

Father Bill has contributed to our community in so many ways that it's hard to convey the magnitude of his influence. He has mediated tough meetings, served on the Lindale Park Civic Club Board, made the churchyard available for events like National Night Out and made lots of repairs to our Lindale Park Clubhouse!

But, there are two contributions to our community that are unforgettable to me.

At the first community service for Josue Flores, the 11-year-old boy who was murdered in the Near Northside, Father Bill was asked to speak and say a prayer.

After he and Father Thomas (Holy Name Catholic Church) had spoken, we all released balloons. The amphitheater at Marshall Middle School and the school grounds were full of Northside residents who were sharing their grief. It was a beautiful tribute and a new beginning for resident involvement in community affairs.

The second community contribution, and the most important to me, involves our Lindale Park Playground. I had been waiting seven years for an opportunity to apply for a KABOOM! Playground. Finally, the opportunity arose when I approached Father Bill for help.

Father Bill convinced the Episcopal Diocese of Texas to sign off on allowing a community playground to be built in the churchyard! He then helped me with the grant application, and after we won the award, he helped me establish the playground build committee. Our kids will enjoy this playground for years to come, and it wouldn't have happened without Father Bill!

So, saying goodbye to Father Bill is hard. He is my spiritual guide and my community partner. He and his wife have a special place in my heart. I will miss them enormously, but I'm also happy for them to retire to such a beautiful state and to live next door to both their son and daughter. They deserve the rest and the closeness to their family.

- Gwyn Guidy, Fairbanks Street Resident/LPCC Board Member

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## In Loving Memory

**Dr. Betty Jane Barr**

**September 10, 1945 – November 1, 2019**

Dr. Betty Jane Barr, a lifelong resident of Lindale Park, passed away November 1, 2019, leaving behind many wonderful and lasting memories to the generations of engineering students she taught and mentored, during a 40-year teaching career with the University of Houston (UH).

“Dr. Barr was an excellent professor and fine person, always willing to help her students,” recalls Oscar Rangel, Lindale Park resident and one of Dr. Barr’s former engineering students. “She was both my Linear Algebra and Fortran professor, while attending the College of Engineering at UH. Little did I know that someone who



had helped me (and countless other engineers) achieve my personal goal lived only four streets from me in Lindale Park.”

Dr. Barr grew up and lived in the same house all her life on Fairbanks Street in Lindale Park.

“She lived her entire 74 years in the family residence in Lindale Park,”

says Lindale Park resident Virginia Duke, adding that Dr. Barr also was an active member of the Lindale Park Civic Club. “She was a member of the Civic Club and attended meetings for many years.”

While working as a professor at UH, Dr. Barr helped forge a path for female engineers. According to her obituary, she was “one of the first female faculty members hired in the college, Betty not only was challenged to develop a professional pathway for herself, but also to become a mentor to small batches of women who decided to pursue engineering as a career, charting their own pathways.”

To read the obituary, search for Betty Jane Barr at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/>.

- Camille Webb, English Street Resident/LPCC Newsletter Editor

## Patriotic Yard Decorating Challenge

Lindale Park held its first Patriotic Yard Decorating Challenge on – you guessed it! – July 4, 2020! Congratulations to **Red and Gloria Fernandez of Eleanor Street, The Garcia Family at 216 Woodard St. and Ralph and Becky Morales at 518 Gale St.**

Lindale Park Civic Club extends appreciation to all our residents for participating and showing off their best RED, WHITE & BLUE decor and to our judges Vicky Salinas Colorado and Diane Garcia!

Big THANKS to HEB Buffalo Heights for donating \$30 gift cards to our winners!

### Important Numbers

You May Request to be Anonymous

## See Something Say Something

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
(HPD)EMERGENCY: 911

HPD NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER:  
(713) 884-3131

HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 6:  
(713) 274-3400

HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 1:  
(713) 755-7628

METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT: (713) 224-2677

CRIME STOPPERS OF HOUSTON  
TIP LINE: (713) 222-TIPS (8477)



IF YOU SEE SOMETHING  
CALL THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

**Editor’s Note:** *With the growing stresses related to the pandemic, your Lindale Park Civic Club board is actively searching for helpful community resources to share with our residents, such as the See Something Say Something flier above. We hope to compile a list of health/wellness; financial; and social, emotional and mental health resources to list in our next newsletter. Stay tuned...*