

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
MAY 2020

Quarterly Meeting Going Virtual

When – 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26

Where – via Zoom in the comfort of your own home

How – Meeting ID: 869 4764 4613

Password: 154195

Why? Due to social distancing requirements surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, your Lindale Park Civic Club will bring the Quarterly Meeting to your living room, front porch, bedroom or whatever space you use to connect virtually to meetings. We will *not* meet at the Clubhouse.

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

Follow Lindale Park on Nextdoor and Facebook to find the direct meeting link to join from your web browser.

One Resident's Feat

Makes Lindale Park a Scenic District

I read an article that Heights Boulevard became a scenic district effective February 25, 1986, and I thought, *why can't Irvington Boulevard and/or Lindale Park be a scenic district?* So, I did the research to find out the effort requires a percentage of property owners to sign a petition requesting the area be designated a scenic district.

Then, I typed two petitions, one for Irvington Boulevard and one for the neighborhood. Over many evenings, I came home from work, "put the tennis shoes on" and started block walking.



I knocked on a door, explained what I was requesting and asked for a signature on each petition. A few residents had questions and wanted additional time to research, but most were willing to sign.

In fact, our neighbors already were used to "signing up" for neighborhood initiatives. Lindale Park volunteers had done many requests for signatures beginning with deed restrictions in the 1980s, petitions for getting bars closed and our "sound wall" along I-610.

After getting more than the required signatures, I submitted the petitions to a city department (I think it was the planning department) to verify the signatures matched the property owners.

A department employee drove out to visit the area. After visiting our neighborhood, he chose to increase the boundaries I had submitted. He stated later, he had never heard of Lindale Park before the petitions.

Neighborhood residents supported the Lindale Park neighborhood petition when it was presented to City Council for approval. The Irvington Boulevard petition was not presented for approval, since it was within the neighborhood boundaries.

Ordinance No. 86-1715 became effective September 30, 1986, when Lindale Park officially became a scenic district. Currently, there are 20 scenic districts within the City of Houston, of which Lindale Park is the 12th.

Single business signs within a scenic district have a maximum height of 14 feet and 100 feet square footage in size. Off-premise signs and spectacular signs are prohibited, and electrical signs have restrictions.

The boundaries are basically I-45 on the east, I-610 on the north, 125 feet east of Robertson Street on the west and 400 feet south of Cavalcade Street on the south.

- Virginia Duke, Eleanor Street Resident / LPCC Board Member

COVID-19 Rains on Our Parade

For the last 21 years, our community has taken pride in hosting an annual 4th of July Celebration on our nation's birthday. We are disappointed to announce that the Lindale Park Annual 4th of July Parade is cancelled due to coronavirus concerns.

In keeping with the spirit of Independence Day, we will have **Lindale Park's first July 4th Most Patriotic Yard Contest**. Three residences best displaying the spirit of Independence Day will be selected. Each winner will be recognized on Lindale Park's Facebook page and on Nextdoor. Details to follow.

Like you, we are grateful for the things we've been able to embrace during the pandemic. The humanity shown by many has been touching. It's more than just a cliché when we say, *we are all in this together!*

- LPCC Parade Committee

Termites Swarm in Lindale Park

Termites swarmed May 6 in our beloved Lindale Park home, so much so, that my husband and I feared we might have an infestation.

We looked at each other that evening, as we brushed off and shooed these small, winged flying insects from our arms and shirts and heard our daughter yell from the bathroom, "There are a bunch of dead termites in here!"

Termites were everywhere – our kitchen sink, floors, ceiling and tub. I barely slept that night. We figured we would have to have our house tented for treatment, and a quick Google search suggested it would cost thousands of dollars.

When I woke up the next morning, a newsfeed from Lindale Park's Nextdoor forum popped up on my Smartphone. (Nextdoor is a social media platform for neighborhoods.)

Much to my surprise and relief, dozens of residents were talking about termites swarming in their homes, too.

Graceland Street resident Jane Strohm took it one step further by contacting a pest control company to identify the insects in her home, as shown in the photo she provided above.

"The tech who came out to inspect my house, he immediately recognized them as Formosan," Strohm says. "This genus and species is apparently relatively new here. The tech also told me he'd been to eight other houses in this area in the past week.



"I found the termites crawling on walls, ceilings and floors that fateful swarm night," Strohm continues. "We had our screens open and porch lights on, so pretty easy for them to get inside."

Lindale Park resident Joe Figueroa owns a pest control company. Figueroa adds that Formosan termites are more destructive compared to other termite species.

"The species of termites that were swarming were Formosan termites, not the native Eastern Subterranean termite," Figueroa says. "Formosan termites reproductives (swarmers) are attracted to artificial light, whereas the native species swarm in daylight, usually in early spring.

"What you should know about Formosan termites is that they're highly destructive compared to the Eastern Subterranean termite," Figueroa continues.

We haven't had our house inspected for termites yet, but we hope they didn't stick around.

- Camille Webb, English Street Resident / LPCC Newsletter Editor

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1701 Durham Drive | Houston, TX 77007

Phone 713-802-0794 | Fax 713-802-0388 |

info@starcopierinc.com



Chalk It Up to Artistic Neighbors

With schools closed and more kids and families at home, Lindale Park residents are coming up with some creative ways to keep busy and bring beauty to our neighborhood through chalk art masterpieces on their driveways.

Graceland Street resident Lori Knapp even started an art challenge called the Driveway Art Project where kids could stop by to take and use a piece of provided chalk to create a masterpiece.

The rules were simple: *One piece of chalk; do not return chalk; use it up or take your piece with you. Rude or inappropriate drawings will be washed away. If it rains, we start again (or until all the chalk is used up).*

“It was so fun to watch,” Knapp says. “All ages joined in, as they were driving or walking or jogging by.”

Belinda and Ed Reyes of Woodard Street took care to celebrate moms on Mother’s Day with a loving message on their driveway.



The Hicks’ Family on Eleanor Street used painter’s tape to help them create a stained glass inspired work of art!

It’s encouraging to see how folks in the neighborhood are coping with being at home, through caring and colorful messages and art.



- Camille Webb, English Street Resident/LPCC Newsletter Editor



Congratulations to Andrew Russell Bowman who is a 2020 graduate of St. Pius X High School! Throughout his four years in high school, he has participated in baseball, basketball and rugby. He will be attending Arkansas State University where he will play on the university’s rugby team.

- Stefanie Bowman, Graceland Street Resident

Quarterly Security Tip – May 2020

Be Aware: When thieves are breaking into vehicles, they may take your garage door opener, which a lot of us leave in our cars. Then, the thieves come back later and get into your house through the garage, which they have opened using the garage door opener they stole. Maybe it’s a good idea to carry the garage door opener into your house, along with your keys, so it’s not stolen out of your vehicle.

- Officer Lucia Vieira, HPD liaison for the Central Division

Letter from LPCC President

Dear Neighbors,

It's my hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. In these trying times, everyone is adapting to a new normal – physical distancing, home schooling, working from home – and the LPCC is no different.

Our mission statement is: *The LPCC is your community ally, and we strive to improve the quality of life for all residents by increasing neighborhood safety, maintaining civic and cultural pride, and organizing events where resident can build bonds with their neighbors.*

And, while we continue to work hard to provide these amenities, the way in which they're delivered will be much different than years past.

For example, two planned community volunteer events, the Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM) Program and the Irvington Boulevard Esplanade Renovation, will be organized once safe group working conditions exist, so keep an eye on social media for more information!

The SWIM Program, organized by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), is intended to protect the Galveston Bay Watershed by raising awareness of the role of stormwater runoff drains. Lindale Park's storm drains are located along Fulton Avenue, Irvington Boulevard and Robertson Street at the intersection of each east-west residential street, and we've secured HCFCD funding for a project that will first clean and label ~50 drains along Irvington Boulevard. If successful, we plan to expand to the full footprint of Lindale Park.

The scope of the proposed Irvington Boulevard Esplanade Renovation Project is still being framed, and we want to hear your input! We envision safety and beautification improvements to elements of the Irvington Boulevard esplanade between Kelley and Moody Streets that include trash pickup, tree trimming and planting and landscaping and cleaning of the Lindale Park neighborhood "welcome signs" at the north and south ends of the boulevard. If you have more ideas and/or you'd like to get involved, send me a note.

Lastly, as a sign of the times and a first for the LPCC, our second **Quarterly Meeting will be held online at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26 on Zoom.** I plan to keep the agenda simple by first relating useful community resources and events and then designating ample time for resident feedback and commentary on whatever issues you decide.

Until we meet again, 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

Get Ready for Hurricane Season

While we are still in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, now is also the time to remind ourselves about some other more common hazards: hurricanes and severe weather.

Hurricane season starts June 1, and meteorologists predict that this year's season will be above average. Houston also is at risk from other severe weather, which can happen at any time, such as the tornado that impacted areas just north of Houston in late April. Because of this, it remains important that we all keep in mind the four steps to emergency preparedness, so we can be ready for any sort of disaster or emergency.

1. Make a Plan: Think about how you and your family will respond to various types of emergencies, so you aren't scrambling when disaster strikes. Plans should include communications, meeting points and any special considerations that impact you or your family.

2. Build a Kit: Have a seven-day supply of non-perishable food, water and prescription medications. Don't forget about pet supplies!

3. Stay Informed: Stay abreast of updated information from trusted sources, and be sure to sign up for emergency alerts from the City of Houston's AlertHouston program at www.alerthouston.org. During and after a disaster, official information from the City of Houston can be found on the City's social media channels and at HoustonEmergency.org.

4. Know your Neighbors: Houstonians know how to support one another and come together as a community. Be sure you know your neighbors, check on each other and help those in need after a disaster strikes.

Also, check out the City's Preparedness Guide, which can be downloaded in six languages from <http://bit.ly/HouPrepGuide>, and printed copies can be ordered from that site as well.

- Ian Feldman, Staff Analyst with the City of Houston/English Street Resident