



WOODSIDER NEWS

Important Dates

General Meeting:

February 1, 2012

Recycling:

January 26

February 9, 23

March 8, 22

April 5, 19

May 3, 17, 31

Heavy trash pickup:

February 6 (junk waste)

March 5 (tree waste)

April 2 (junk waste)

May 7 (tree waste)

General Meeting February 1, 2012

The next general meeting of the Woodside Civic Club is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 1** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the library of Longfellow Elementary School, 3617 Norris. There will be the usual reports on the civic club's finances, routine security matters and any topics addressed at recent civic club board meetings.

We finally have a volunteer to serve as the President of the Woodside Civic Club—Nathalie Mandine. She is relatively new to the neighborhood (late summer move-in), but she has experience in the governance of homeowner groups, and she is motivated to improve things in Woodside. Come to the February 1 meeting to meet her.

Yard of the Month to Return in Spring

Houston Mayor Annise Parker has announced that, as of January 12, mandatory water restrictions for city residents are suspended. This is not a cause to celebrate by opening the taps for fun or taking a two-hour shower, but it will enable the return of Yard of the Month awards this spring. Please continue to conserve water when you can. The water use restrictions will likely return in the summer—most forecasters are convinced that the drought is not over and that we will run short on rain again in 2012.



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Disclaimer

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December 7, 2011 General Meeting

The general meeting held December 7, 2011 was held in the Longfellow Elementary School's library, convening at 7:00 p.m. Christmas shopping usually suppresses attendance at the December general meetings, but 19 residents and a guest showed up.

Since no one had yet volunteered to serve as the civic club president, the meeting was chaired by Woodside Civic Club's Assistant Treasurer, Rhnea Chin. A new Woodside resident was introduced, then Rhnea provided the reports on the civic club's finances and dues collections.

As it was Pearl Harbor day, those present were reminded to take a few minutes to consider the veterans in Woodside and elsewhere. They were also encouraged to vote in the runoff elections to be held the following Saturday in the school.

The son of Dorothy Webb, an attorney who served for many years on the Woodside Civic Club board,

addressed the group next and told of Dorothy's recent passing. He provided details of the memorial service and asked for assistance contacting those left in the neighborhood who would have known her.

The discussion of security took several minutes—there were at least two victims of recent home break-ins present at the meeting. Several reports were given of car burglaries and stolen truck wheels. A recent rash of home burglaries in Woodshire was also mentioned. Most concerning, however, was a recent mugging in a Woodside resident's driveway. It seems the end-of-year holidays always bring a spike in such problems, but it is important to be vigilant and cautious in all the seasons.

After a quick plug for the efforts to improve Linkwood Park, the meeting was adjourned at about 7:30 p.m.

Call for Civic Club Volunteers

The Woodside Civic Club's business gets handled by volunteers, many of whom have been providing the same services for many years. The Board is very interested in finding new volunteers who will either take over or help with our administrative functions; several of our most pressing current needs are described below. None of the projects described here takes a significant amount of time.

Newsletter Publisher—This position requires a volunteer with a computer and any sort of page layout software application (word processing or page layout) suitable for publishing our bi-monthly newsletter. The Woodside volunteer who accepts this project is not required to write the newsletter articles but will help our current newsletter publisher, Anne Swanson, by reformatting submitted articles and preparing two or three of the six newsletters distributed each year. The volunteer is free to use existing templates and layouts or to design some new newsletter format.

Dues and Membership Recordkeeping—The dues collections and membership records of the Woodside Civic Club are kept in a Microsoft Access database which has to be updated weekly during the February–June dues collection season. The volunteer for this function will need to have a Windows-capable computer and an email account, but no experience with the software is necessary. We'll install a free version of Microsoft Access and provide instructions on recording payments and preparing a few reports to the directors.

To volunteer, email us at Information@WoodsideCivicClub.com or come to the general meeting.

Longfellow Elementary Mentoring Hearts Program

On Monday, December 12, mentors, parents, and students in the Mentoring Hearts program at Longfellow Elementary enjoyed a holiday breakfast together.

The Mentoring Hearts program at Longfellow is in its second year. About 20 community volunteers commit to spend one hour weekly or bi-weekly with a student one on one. Mentors provide friendship and shared activities, as well as encouragement and help with schoolwork. Special thanks to partners StarTex Power and Bethany United Methodist Church.

If you would like information about becoming a mentor for a child, contact Teri Marsh, tmarsh@houstonisd.org, or call 713-295-5268.



Mentoring Hearts program participants:

Top left: Marcie Zlotnik (mentor) and Lawrence Patterson (3rd grade)

Top right: Jayme Smith (5th grade) and Chuck Stanley (mentor)

Bottom left: Mentoring Hearts mentors and students enjoy holiday breakfast

Bottom right: Katie Amend (mentor) and Sophia Narcisse (4th grade)

Recycling Bins—Rules & Pickup Schedule

All Woodside residents should now be accustomed to using the 96-gallon green barrels for automated recycling pickup. Complete recycling information is available on the City of Houston website, but here are the highlights:

Recycling will be picked up every other Thursday.

You may recycle aluminum and tin cans (rinsed out), newspapers, catalogs and magazines, phone books, plastic containers marked with codes 1–5 and 7 (rinsed and drained), corrugated cardboard (break down those boxes), cereal boxes and similar cardboard packaging material. You can also recycle glass bottles, jugs and jars which have been rinsed out and drained.

Don't put things in the recycling barrels that are not listed here or on the lid: no plastic bags, no batteries, no pizza boxes, no paper plates or cups, no yard clippings or tree branches, no motor oil, no Styrofoam, no plate glass or ceramic. Certainly, no hazardous materials (paint, computer or other electronic components, automotive fluids, insecticides, etc.) are permitted. Those can get you a citation and a stiff fine.

The green bins have an embedded microchip in the round black sensor on the front. They are assigned to a particular street address. The trucks that pick up our recycling weigh each bin and credit the home for its recycling effort—if you have activated your recycling

account with the City, coupons will be awarded for sufficient contributions to the program – those coupons will get you discounts at stores and restaurants. Get more information on the program at this web address: <http://www.houston.tx.gov/solidwaste/recyclebank-participantletter.pdf>

The City of Houston asks that we keep our barrels rinsed out and mostly dry inside (so as not to contaminate the paper). If a barrel is lost or stolen, a police report will have to be filed to get a replacement. Consider putting your street address on your barrel so you'll be able to tell if yours has been switched.

Remember that you can earn rewards with the materials you recycle only if it is credited to your account via the microchip. The truck has to read that sensor's signal when it picks your barrel up in order to credit your home's account. If your sensor has been broken off, request that your barrel be repaired or replaced by calling 311 and providing your home address and barrel number (white letters and numbers on the front). You'll have to leave your barrel outside and accessible to have it repaired or replaced.

Your recycling barrel should be rolled to the curb for collection every other Thursday at the same time you put out your household garbage barrel(s). The recycling barrels should go out **January 26, February 9 and 23, March 8 and 22.**

Important Telephone Numbers

Smith Protective Services	713-789-5944
(Call Smith for vacation watch.)	
Ambulance, Rescue, Fire, Police—Emergency	911
Houston Police Dispatch	713-884-3131
City of Houston Non-Emergency, Complaints	311
City Public Works Department	713-837-0500
City Solid Waste Department	713-837-9158
City Public Utilities Department	713-224-2500
Report Illegal Dumping	311
Poison Control	1-800-222-1222
Crime Stoppers	713-222-8477

Important Websites

Woodside Civic Club	http://www.WoodsideCivicClub.com
Families of South Braeswood	http://FamiliesofSouthBraeswood.wordpress.com
City of Houston	http://www.HoustonTX.gov

2011 Civic Club Financial Results

Dues collections were up by about \$900 to \$38,540 in 2011— 64.4% of the 482 Woodside homeowners paid voluntary dues, compared to 62.7% in the prior year. The civic club also collected approximately \$29,400 from other civic clubs for shared expenses last year.

Expenditures for normal items—security patrols, mosquito spraying, esplanade maintenance, etc.—were also up slightly, but large advance payments in December for the upgrade of streetlights in the northern half of the neighborhood resulted in a significant deficit of \$49,892 for 2011. A summary of expenditures in 2011 is presented below.

Expenditure Category	2011 Totals	% of Total
Esplanade Maintenance	\$ 9,228	14.9%
Mosquito Spraying (8 months)	\$1,617	2.6%
Security Patrols	\$45,607	73.5%
Website, Newsletters, General	\$5,604	9.0%
Subtotal, Recurring Expenses	\$62,056	100.0%
Streetlight Upgrades	\$59,408	
Total Expenditures	\$121,464	

If you would like to know more about the finances of the Woodside Civic Club, detailed financial records and the annual tax returns on Form 990 or Form 990EZ are generally available for inspection at general meetings.

Passing Friends

Art Bleimeyer



In December 2011, the neighborhood lost an old friend. Art Bleimeyer, native Houstonian, Rice-educated engineer, longtime Woodside resident and a board member for many years, died at age 87. Art served in WWII as an infantryman, earning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He was Woodside Civic Club's security liaison for many years and provided security reports at general meetings.

Harry Odem



Harry H. Odem, 80, passed away unexpectedly in Austin, Texas on November 16, 2011. Harry was a longtime resident of Kapri Street in Woodside and was well known by nearly all of his neighbors. Harry was always willing to lend a helping hand to neighbors, friends, and relatives. Most everyone that knew Harry loved him. Harry's quick wit, his playful personality, his love of books, and dedication to his family will be deeply missed.

How To Donate Your Recyclebank Points

Some Woodside residents have joined the RecycleBank to accumulate points for their recycling efforts but found that those points accumulate too slowly to earn the reward items they can really use. You might need a year of full-green-barrel participation to get the 2,500 points needed for that \$10 iTunes gift card. It is still the right thing to recycle as much as you can, but maybe you shouldn't expect a fabulous payback. Here is an alternative you should consider—donate your RecycleBank points to an organization that can make good use of them. It turns out the only school in Texas approved to receive your recycling reward points in the “Green Schools” program is the Monarch School, located right here in Houston. On top of that, the founder and Head of School at Monarch is longtime Woodside resident and civic club member, Dr. Marty Webb.

The Monarch School serves individuals aged 3–29 with neurological differences (Autism Spectrum Disorders, Attention Deficit Disorder, Learning Disabilities, Traumatic Brain Injury, and a host of others). You can find more information about the school at its website (www.MonarchInstitute.org). You are also cordially invited to tour the school any Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. during the school year!

You can add your recycling reward points to those donated by others to make a real difference. Here's how:

1. Register for a free account at www.Recyclebank.com if you're not already a member.
2. Earn points by recycling as much as possible—lots of Woodside households fill their 96 gallon green barrels to the top every two weeks. Check to make sure the 1-inch, round, black disk is still on the front of your green barrel—it contains the sensor that is read automatically when your recycling is picked up so that your pounds of recycling are credited to your account.
3. Donate your points to Monarch so Recyclebank will send the money to fund an

educational project. Find Monarch School at www.Recyclebank.com/greenschoolsprogram. Sign in with your email address and password to access your account. Click on “donate your points” and scroll down to Monarch; click on “The Monarch School” link, then enter the points you want to donate.

This is an excellent cause, and your help would be greatly appreciated. Tell your friends and family about this opportunity, too—anyone, anywhere in the U.S. where the Recyclebank program is available can donate points to the Monarch School. If you have trouble figuring out how to donate your points, email us at Information@WoodsideCivicClub.com for more detailed instructions.

