

Southgate News

April, 2005

April Meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 2005

7:30 pm, at the Plaza Hilton Hotel, 8th Floor, on Travis between Addison and Swift. Reception and cash bar begin at 7:00 pm. Parking is available in the hotel garage for a fee!

- Montclair parking and sidewalk issues
- Update on BCM – Adult Ambulatory Care Center
- Update on Deed Restriction committee meetings
- Ice Cream Social with 6 flavors of **Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream!**

Whoops! Did You Forget?SCC Dues are Due!

Annual Civic Club dues of only \$40 (\$20 for senior citizens and apartment residents) are due. Only a small percentage of Southgate residents have joined to date and we need everyone's support to be able to do the things we do to keep our neighborhood a great place to live! So take a second and write out that small check! You'll be glad you did! And you've paid, talk to your neighbors about joining also. **See the attached**

flyer for information about **how your dues are utilized** and for a form to complete and return in the envelope, with your check, to our Treasurer, John Pastore. You may send check and form by snail mail to John at the Civic Club's P.O. Box (see last page), or give it to your block captain or a Southgate Civic Club Board member or drop it in John's mail box at 2244 Shakespeare. Whatever is easiest, just do it!

RACS – Crime in our Quiet & Safe Neighborhood?

Why should you pay your RACS dues? Aren't we in the Houston City limits and covered by the Houston Police? Yes, but Houston Police cover a lot of territory, and we are only one small neighborhood. So what can RACS do for you that the Houston Police can't? Very good questions! RACS provides deputies (unfortunately now down to 2 because of low RACS dues participation) who in the last 6 months:

- Patrolled 16,061 miles around our neighborhoods
- Answered 1673 calls (within less than 5 minutes! Houston Police take 10-15 minutes, sometimes longer to respond!)
- Conducted 738 vacation watches, e.g. if you are gone, they will pass your house at least once a day to check for suspicious activity, knowing you are out of town! So if you travel a lot, this is a great service! Houston Police can't do this for you!
- Checked 63 suspicious persons and vehicles
- Made 17 arrests!
- Issued 191 citations
- Answered 55 alarm calls

Some of the crimes that recently happened in our neighborhood included:

- Theft, 2300 block of Swift
- Burglary of residence, 2500 block of Watts
- Burglary of motor vehicle, 6000 block of Greenbriar
- Criminal mischief, 2100 block of Dryden
- Abandoned vehicle, 2200 block of Addison
- Disturbance, 2000 block of Southgate

So, yes we have a relatively quiet and safe neighborhood in part thanks to the constant presence of the RACS officers. But with the reduced participation in RACS dues (only 1 in 3 Southgate households are paying the dues), and the decrease in officers we may begin to see more problems, especially as traffic enters our beautiful neighborhood. **So, please reconsider!** You may be the next person who needs that quick response RACS officer at your home!

And if you have already paid, take a couple of minutes to ask your neighbors if they have considered joining RACS!

February Meeting Highlights: Approximately **55** members and guests attended.

2005 Elected Officers:

President Richard Merrill
1st VP Bea King
2nd VP Bert Calabro
3rd VP Stan Druck
Treasurer John Pastore
Secretary Jennifer Schmidt
(Janice Baranowski appointed as Southgate
Newsletter Editor)

Baylor College of Medicine Ambulatory Care Center Development

Dr. Stein is Senior Vice President & Dean of Clinical Affairs of Baylor College of Medicine and Dr. Pate is Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital were present to discuss Baylor's Adult Ambulatory Care Center (AACC) development plans.

Dr. Stein gave a slide presentation addressing the construction of the AACC at 6600 Main (adjacent to the new building at 6620 Main):

- TMC: 80,000 jobs & growing!
- BCM's adult clinical care is undersized for a medical school of its stature
- BCM moved from 17th to 10th place in NIH funding over the past 5 years
- BCM moved from 15th to 13th in its medical school ranking
- 50% less adult clinical activity than the average AMC
- BCM doctors scattered throughout TMC

Phase 1 of AACC Development: at 6620 Main (owned by SLEH & leased to BCM...Note: in last newsletter, it was erroneously reported that St. Luke's new building was recently sold to BCM):

- Move in scheduled for 1st or 2nd wk in June 2005
- 1 floor office space, 3 floors clinical space
- Hours of operation will be 8 am – 6 pm
- Approximately 800 parking spaces
- Academic offices to be housed in SLEH Medical Towers

Phase 2 of AACC Development: at 6600 Main (owned by BCM)

- Includes operating rooms, catherization labs, and radiation oncology*
- Break ground Fall 2005/move in 2008 (approx)
- A question was raised concerning the shielding of the environment from the building's by-products (radiological effects, etc.) Dr. Stein assured that strict guidelines/policies are in place governing these issues & would be followed issues of light

By-Law Amendments:

Of the three proposed By-Law changes, 2 were approved and one was tabled until upcoming April meeting:

- Addition of meeting in Oct approved
- November meeting changed to 3rd Tuesday
- Changing election of officers from Nov to Feb tabled until next meeting

pollution/noise pollution: a solid wall on new construction will block garage lights at night subterranean parking being discussed

Phase 3: Rice University building. Tom Perry gave a brief synopsis of the meeting that took place on Thursday, 02/17/05, at Rice University regarding the construction of its proposed new building. He has posted his notes from this meeting on the Southgate website.

Medical Center Traffic and Parking:

An intense topic of debate centered on additional traffic in Southgate as a result of the proposed buildings. Richard Merrill said the City of Houston wouldn't let the new buildings place an entrance in a location that will back up traffic on Main, therefore placing it on Dryden or Travis. Closing streets on the west side of Travis was proposed with ensuing discussion of limiting traffic through neighborhood vs. issues of flooding, emergency vehicle access, etc. The point was raised that neither TMC nor Rice pay property taxes, & if the City of Houston is short funds, shouldn't the entities profiting off of these additional facilities pay for the impact they will have on Southgate (i.e., repairs to Travis, stoplights, an independent traffic engineer to represent Southgate). Previously SLEH had pledged a certain amount of money to Southgate to reconfigure traffic modifications (when the new building was built).

BCM has hired Hines to study traffic patterns. BCM will meet periodically with Southgate Civic Club designated representatives to review these issues. It was proposed a representative from Southgate Civic Club would serve in a decision-making capacity with other parties involved. Dr. Stein was amenable to this proposal. At the next meeting, Dr. Stein/BCM and representatives from HOK architectural firm & Hines will be present to discuss these issues.

Southgate Parking Developments

Richard Merrill stated that Southgate Civic Club cannot initiate the residential parking permits process. Only the residents of those street(s) involved can do this. Residents should call Jason Jefferies at the city of Houston for a residential parking permit application, which needs to be filled out. The process to obtain residential parking permits includes:

- Neighbors sign petition documenting area of concern
- Submitted to City of Houston

- City of Houston investigates area of concern then holds meeting to grant residential parking permits.

Although some streets currently utilize & are protected by residential parking permits, there are problem areas that still exist (2000 block of Dryden & Montclair). It was also noted that parking would no longer be permitted on either side of Travis (Southgate to Old S. Main).

Montclair Sidewalk Discussions

The topic of a sidewalk on Montclair has been broached again. This has been a continuing issue for approximately the past 10 years. It is complicated due to tree issues (some trees having to be removed) & would necessitate a custom designed sidewalk. The point was raised that this stretch may not be heavily utilized by school children walking to Roberts Elementary, but used instead by walkers w/ pets, bicyclists. There is an ongoing email discussion of the issues including such alternatives such as speed bumps, stop signs and a bike lane. Catherine Leachman is conducting house-to-house walk along Montclair to collect the feelings

of the neighborhood. If you are interested or need more information, please contact her at CLEachman@houston.rr.com.

Meanwhile, based on the information collected and the email discussions, the Civic Club is proposing a 4 step process to handle this concern:

- City erecting "No Parking" signs the entire length of Montclair
- 4 way Stop signs at Montclair and McClendon
- Montclair a "School Zone"
- Adding a bike & pedestrian lane along one side of Montclair.

Rice University New Neighborhood Relations Director

It was announced that Kylie Athanasiou is now the Neighborhood Relations Director of Rice University. If you want information or have any concerns, please contact her at: kileya@rice.edu

Deed Restrictions Meeting:

The Deed Committee Restriction meeting was held 03/01/05 at Christ the King Lutheran Church and possible deed restriction violations were discussed. They will present recommendations at the next Civic Club meeting.

Reminder....Heavy Trash Pick-up Day:

Just a reminder to residents that the 2nd Thursday of every month is heavy trash pick-up. But please, try to help us keep our neighborhood looking great and not to put it out more than a week before. THANKS!

Easy Volunteer Opportunity....Only Several Times a Year!

Bea King would like someone to help her take care of putting up the Civic Club meeting signs before the Civic Club meetings. They are put up the Wednesday before each Civic Club meeting and taken down the following Wednesday after the meeting (6 times a year, February, April, May, September, October, & November). She's not

always around to do this and she would appreciate some help. The signs are kept at her house in her side yard so they are available when she's not there. And you don't have to store them yourself! If you are interested, call Bea at 713-521-3171.

Roberts Corner

by Tamara Thompson



New International Baccalaureate Program!

Have you been wondering what those new initials on a sign out front of Roberts Elementary mean? IBPYP is the newest honor to come to your neighborhood school and one that the administration has been working on for the past couple years.

On March 1, Roberts was authorized to be designated as an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school, along with Mark Twain and River Oaks elementary schools. They are the first three schools in Texas and among the first 100 schools in North America to receive this distinction. Principal Samuel Sarabia received word of the designation from the International Baccalaureate Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, on March 10.

Sarabia says the inquiry-based program “allows us to communicate in the spirit of internationalism, share ideas, and learn more about perspectives and taking different points of view.” It will also enable the school to connect with other IB schools throughout the world and mesh with IB programs at Lanier Middle School and Lamar High School.

The administration and staff have been implementing the program for the past two years and have visited other IB schools in the U.S. Students have been encouraged to develop the

program’s attributes: inquirer, thinker, communicator, risk-taker, knowledgeable, principled, caring, open-minded, well-balanced, and reflective.

Seven Seas Carnival

“Seven Seas” is the theme of this year’s school carnival Friday, May 6, from 3 to 6 p.m. on the school grounds. The carnival is always fun for the whole family and features lots of games, rides, food and fun. Don’t miss the boat! Tickets can be purchased at the carnival.

Baseball Bash

The second annual Roberts Elementary Baseball Bash at Rice University will be Friday, April 22, at 7 p.m. The evening will feature performances by students from the school’s fine arts program. Come support the Rice Owls baseball team and Roberts’ students. Tickets are on sale now at the school for \$5 each.

Visit the Roberts Gardens

If you have not had a chance to see Roberts’ native flower and international vegetable gardens in full bloom, you are missing a beautiful sight! Check them out behind the school on School Street.

Summer is coming and help is needed in maintaining the gardens while school is out (including possibly harvesting some summer - producing vegetables). If you would like to help, contact Jenny Sommer at 713-665-2675 or jenny.sommer@sbcglobal.net



Save Up To 14% On Your Electric Utility Bill

Thanks to the Public Utility Commission’s (PUC’s) Texas Electric Choice campaign, you now have a new way to save on your utility bill and easy access to unbiased information on your power to choose.

You may be able to save up to 14% on your electric utility bills by simply switching to another electric provider. Switching is easy. Comparison charts available at www.PowerToChoose.org offer simple and reliable information to help you choose your energy provider.

More than a million families in Texas have chosen a new electric provider since retail electric competition began in January 2002. By exercising their choice, Texans have saved millions of dollars.

“This is a great opportunity for Texans,” said PUC Commissioner Julie Parsley. “The monthly savings homeowners can enjoy through electric choice can also enable them to save for other household needs or upgrade to more ‘green’ features – such as wind power.”

To find out how to start saving, log on to www.PowerToChoose.org or call 1-866-PWR-4-TEX (1-866-797-4839) to compare electric providers in your area. The information is free and easy to understand.

Join millions of other Texans who have switched and saved. The Power Is Yours. Use It.

Anti-Trash Campaign Heats Up!

Six months into the Stop Trashing Houston campaign, Houstonians are seeing the difference. Mayor Bill White kicked off the Stop Trashing Houston campaign last fall by instituting a zero-tolerance policy for early placement of heavy trash. Since then, more than 3,000 tickets have been written to violators with an average fine of \$184. Heavy trash violations can now be reported by simply calling 3-1-1 or by going to <http://www.stoptrashinghouston.org/>. A warning postcard will be sent the same day alerting the property owner that if they are in violation they may get a ticket.

City inspectors follow up to see if a violation exists and if the resident has not removed the trash, they will be ticketed. Educational door hangers and yard signs that remind people of their heavy trash day are reducing the early placement of heavy trash. Cameras posted in locations with frequent illegal dumping problems are deterring dumpers. And most importantly, neighbors are educating neighbors about trash.

We have over 60 “Trash Talkers” who speak at meetings around Houston about the campaign and how each of us can help. To request a “Trash

Talker” to speak at your next meeting or to get door hangers to distribute in your neighborhood, call Donald Perkins at 713-837-7803. The <http://www.stoptrashinghouston.org/> web site also has downloadable door hangers and other educational material for use in neighborhoods. To request heavy trash day yard signs, contact Marina Coryat in the Solid Waste Management Department at 713-837-9164.

One of the most exciting developments in the campaign is the addition of a new TV commercial featuring Mayor Bill White and Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens. The ad is being aired by all local television stations and Time Warner Cable. Other celebrities are already lining up to make the next ad and a Spanish-language ad. The result of these efforts is that neighborhoods are looking better by the day. What began with a \$250,000 grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has grown with in-kind contributions into a \$1 million plus campaign that is making a difference today.

Do your part to “Stop Trashing Houston!”

Did you know you could find offenders in your Neighborhood?

As a public service, you can go to the following web site and put in your zip code and it will list all registered offenders in your neighborhood.

Remember to ONLY TYPE IN YOUR ZIP CODE, no name. You may be amazed with how many are living in your area, so please be aware. <http://www.criminalcheck.com>



To Our New Southgate Residents

Please notify Bea King, 713-521-3171, if you are aware of new neighbors moving into Southgate. Bea has welcome packets containing lots of information about Southgate and Houston.

**ADDISON
McCLENDON
SHERIDAN**

**SOUTHGATE
SWIFT**

Dr. Yvonne Chu
Timothy & Meredith Nash and Maddie & Michael
Dr. Jacqueline Levesque
Drs. Siddharth Prakash & Igna Van den Veyver
Carol Cooley
Lewis & Carol Pappas

Southgate Neighbors E-Mail Group

To join some 200 other residents as a member of this neighborhood e-mail group, you will need to set up a personal Yahoo profile (unless you already have one), which will allow you access to archives of past messages and to other links and information. Set up your personal profile at

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southgate_neighbors/

When setting up your profile, specify your regular e-mail address for communications with the group. All membership requests are screened to prevent spammers & persons not part of the neighborhood from joining the group, so you may receive a request for your street address to confirm your Southgate residency.

Once you've signed up, you can post and receive messages about crimes; developments at Rice, the Medical Center, and the City; request recommendations for painters and carpenters; inquire about opossums and other

neighborhood wildlife; notify neighbors of a lost dog or cat; share opinions on **neighborhood** issues.

This e-mail group was created by one of our residents, Veljko Roskar, who has administered it as his private group on behalf of and for the benefit of Southgate residents. Since it is a private group, Mr. Roskar has the right to restrict or prohibit communications which he determines to be inappropriate and to refuse access to the group to any person who refuses to comply with the guidelines for use of the group.

Southgate Web Site

<http://www.houstonsouthgate.org>

We still need volunteers to prepare a neighborhood history and to oversee ongoing maintenance of the site.

Calendar:

Future 2005 Civic Club Meetings: May 24, September 27, October 25, November 15

Future Executive Committee Meetings: May 11, September 14, October 12, November 2

Note: Executive Committee meetings are open to members. Please call for time and location.

Feel free to contact any of your Civic Club officers with neighborhood information or with your interests and concerns about your neighborhood and Civic Club.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| President | Richard Merrill | 713-961-0408 (office #) | 2003 Swift |
| 1st Vice President | Beatrice King | 713-521-3171 | 2057 Southgate |
| 2nd Vice President | Bert Calabro | 713-218-9042 | 2159 Swift |
| 3rd Vice President | Stan Druck | 713-942-2347 | 2018 Southgate |
| Treasurer | John Pastore | 713-218-9536 | 2244 Shakespeare |
| Secretary | Jennifer Schmidt | 713-663-7219 | 2027 McClendon |
| Newsletter Editor | Janice Baranowski | 713-664-4964 | 2225 Sheridan |
| Architectural Review | Skip Christy | 713-529-5844 | 2030 Southgate |
| RACS Representative | Richard Lazear | 713-942-7788 | 2218 McClendon |

You can also send an e-mail note to SgateCivClub@aol.com. Or, if you have **any suggestions about or information to be included in future newsletters**, let me know by sending an email to the Editor, Janice Baranowski at janicebaranowski@sbcglobal.net.

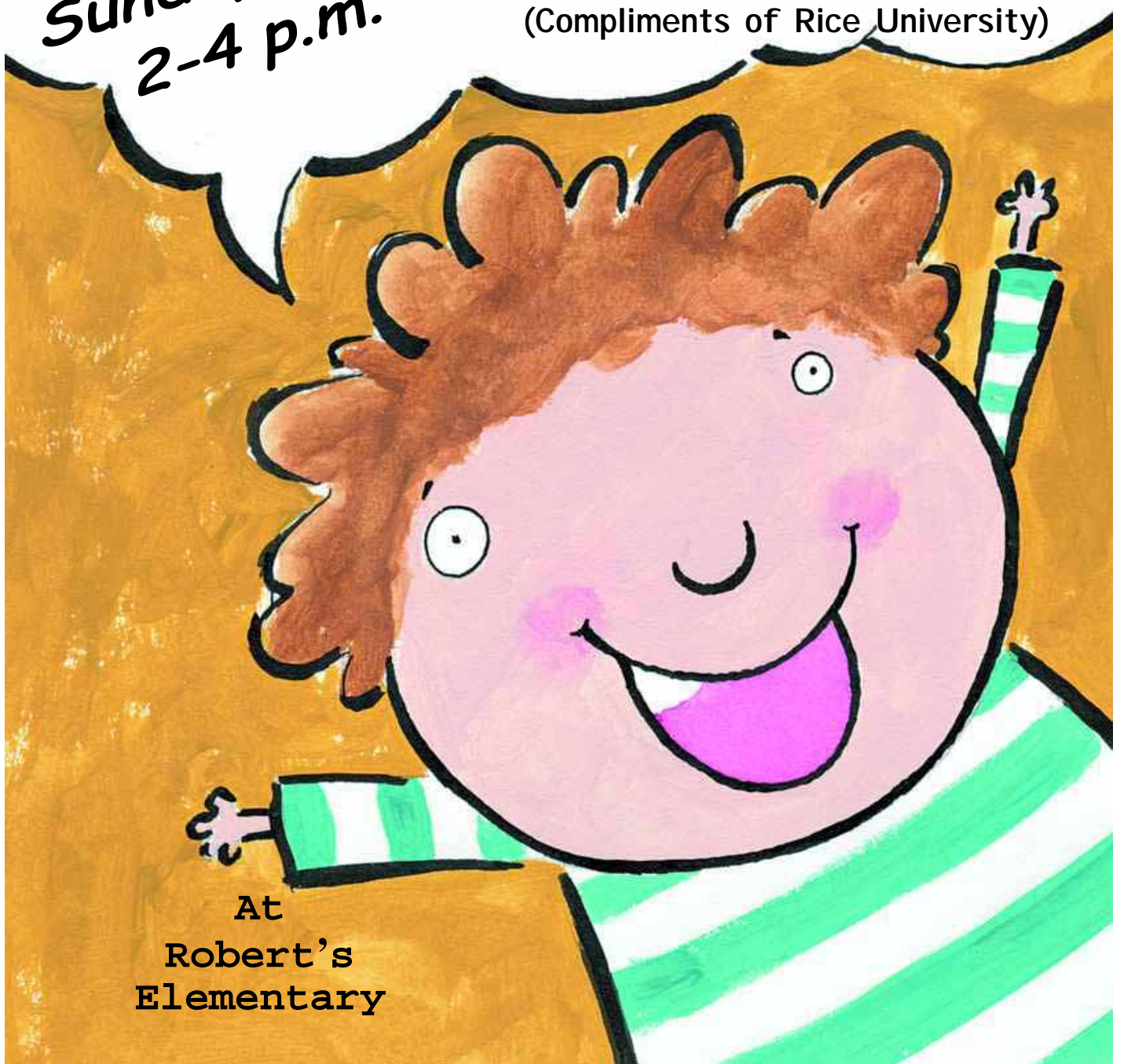
If you are interested in receiving the **Southgate News** in electronic format, please email the Editor janicebaranowski@sbcglobal.net

Southgate Ice Cream Social



WOW!
Sunday, May 1
2-4 p.m.

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream!
Face Painting, Music, Games
Balloons & Door Prizes
(Compliments of Rice University)



At
Robert's
Elementary



Southgate News

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