

# Southgate News

September 2006

## New Location for Civic Club Meetings!

**Our next meeting will be Tuesday September 26, 2006** at 7:30 at **Rice Temple Baptist Church**, 6409 Greenbriar at McClendon. Please try to attend. Your input is important to the neighborhood.

### **Agenda:**

- **Rice Collaborative Research Center Construction:** Rice Community Relations Director Greg Marshall and construction project manager Kathy Jones will present the Rice plan. **(details below)**
- Other topics of interest
- *Harris County voter registration materials will be available at the greeting table. This will be a good time to register for the November general election if you are not yet registered.*

## Rice Collaborative Research Center Construction

Rice University is in the late stages of planning its new **Collaborative Research Center (CRC) to be built in the area bounded by Travis, Main, University and Dryden**. Scientists from Rice and several TMC institutions will jointly occupy the Center. The proposed building will **be 10 stories high** and contain 468,000 square feet of research and related space. Construction is slated to **begin in October of 2006** with the hope of occupying the building in early 2009.

To facilitate the construction process, Rice and its construction partners would like to **close Travis between University and Dryden** for the duration of the construction period. The Civic Club

Executive Committee has requested that a traffic study be conducted in order to evaluate the effects of this closure on Medical Center and Southgate traffic flow. Rice has agreed to have this study performed.

**Rice Community Relations Director Greg Marshall and CRC project manager Kathy Jones will present the plan, answer questions and hear community feedback at the September 26 Civic Club general meeting.** If you are interested in this project and its impacts on our community, please plan to attend this meeting. As always, your input is important.

## Civic Club Officer Nomination

Elections for Civic Club Officers will take place in November. The elected positions include President, three Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary. The nominating committee members are Richard Merrill, Kim O'Reilly and Dan Bass. If you are interested in running for office or if you would like to nominate someone for office, please contact any member of the committee. Please remember that only Civic Club members who are

current in their dues are allowed under the bylaws to vote on Civic Club matters. **If you haven't paid your dues, you can still do so – send \$40 (\$20 for seniors) to Southgate Civic Club, 2660 West Holcombe, #162, Houston, TX 77030.**

- Richard Merrill (fabiomerrl@aol.com, )
- Kim O'Reilly (koreilly@houston.rr.com)
- Dan Bass (713) 665-3411

## Water Line Replacement

### **Status:**

The City's water line replacement contract calls for the contractor to finish by the end of the year. Meeting this deadline will be facilitated by the addition of a second crew in September.

### **Property Restoration:**

The project is divided into sections and property restoration in each section will begin when all of the houses in that section have been connected to the new pipe. The contractor has not given a timetable for the restoration work. Sod in areas containing main valves will not be restored until the entire project has been completed. This is to allow access to the valves throughout the project.

### **Leaks:**

Either the City of Houston or the contractor is responsible for fixing leaks depending on the timing and circumstances of the leak. Project Manager

Benny Flores is responsible for verifying that the contractor is complying with the City of Houston's requirements and he will place responsibility for leaks. Report leaks and other problems with the water system to Mr. Flores at (713) 647-0777, or [bennyf@mda-inc.com](mailto:bennyf@mda-inc.com).

### **Property Damage Reports:**

**In order to preserve your claim, it is essential that the City and the contractor be notified of claims *before* any repairs are done.** To preserve your claim, it is best to (1) report the damage to the City of Houston 311 operator and (2) call Project manager Benny Flores at (713) 647-0777 email:[bennyf@mda-inc.com](mailto:bennyf@mda-inc.com).



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**Jeffrey K. Wolens, M.D., F.A.A.P.**

## MetroOntario Construction

The building permits have been issued for construction of the MetroOntario building at Holcombe and Montclair (the old Towers site). **Construction is scheduled to begin in September** and take 14-16 months. The Montclair end of the lot will serve as a staging area and will be occupied by construction trailers. This area will ultimately be a green space. In addition to the green space, there will be "planted" or "green" walls around the building to somewhat soften the building's presence.

About half of the building has been leased and there are currently two tenants: a **long-term care hospital** and a **gym**. The gym will not be open around the clock, but it will open up early in the morning and remain open late into the night. The rear wall of the gym will be blank so there should not be much light shining onto Sheridan from the gym. There will, however, be lights from patient rooms and from offices in the tower. While this cannot be prevented, the developer is conscious of the community's concerns on this front.

**MetroOntario has also confirmed their intention to build 4 single-family homes on the lots they own on Sheridan.** (The Editor thanks Lalise Mason for contributing to this report).

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## Advertise in the Southgate Newsletter

Please consider advertising your business or practice in the Southgate Newsletter. The Newsletter reaches about 650 homes six times a year. Money generated from advertising will be used to pay for printing the Newsletter and will free up Civic Club funds for other purposes. For more information contact Andrew McCullough at (713) 666-9745 ([andrewjpm2005@yahoo.com](mailto:andrewjpm2005@yahoo.com)). Thanks!

Sally Luna 713-341-1627



## Southgate Chili Cook-Off!

The Civic Club is planning a **Chili Cook-Off** and Fundraiser for **early November**. Proceeds will be contributed to **neighborhood beautification projects** and the first goal is to landscape the Dryden triangle in the wake of the water line crews. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with neighbors and to help improve the community! If

you are interested in entering the Chili Cook-Off or if you would like to donate time or sponsorship, **please contact project organizer Natalie Smith** at [nemgesmith@yahoo.com](mailto:nemgesmith@yahoo.com). Watch for more details in the October Southgate Newsletter.

## Holcombe Beautification Project

University Place Association, several business owners along Holcombe and the Texas Medical Center have formed the **Holcombe Redevelopment Coalition**. The coalition's mission is to beautify Holcombe from Main to Kirby. They have identified three initial goals: (1) plant trees in the parkways and esplanades along Holcombe (2) landscape parking lots and (3) reduce the number of signs along Holcombe by encouraging businesses to share signs.

Residents of Old Braeswood, Morningside Place and Southgate have been invited to contribute to this effort through donations to purchase trees. To date, Southgate has raised \$1250 for tree planting! Thanks to all who contributed! Planting is scheduled for this fall when the

weather cools off.

You may still contribute in your name or as a gift for a friend or family member. Donors contributing the full cost of a tree may do so in honor of a loved one. All contributions are tax-deductible and the trees are earmarked for planting in the neighborhood specified by the donor. (Note that there are physical limitations as to where the larger trees can be planted.) This is a great way to improve the environment and beautify the neighborhood. **If you would like to contribute to this program, please make checks payable to Trees for Houston/Southgate, 2260 W. Holcombe, #162, Houston, Texas 77030.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards the purchase of a tree.

Does your employer offer matching funds? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include information if you have answered "yes")

### **Buy a whole tree:**

15-gallon trees (6-8 ft. tall) \$150                      65-gallon tree (10-12 ft. tall) \$650

30-gallon tree (8-10 ft. tall) \$300                      100-gallon tree (12-14 ft. tall) \$1000

Donation in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

***Contributions are fully tax-deductible!***

## Neighborhood Notes

### Our condolences:

-To Mr. Oscar M. Palmer Jr. on the death of his sister Eunice Palmer McMahan.

-To the family of Janet Chafetz, who passed away on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Janet was a Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston where she had taught since 1971. Janet is survived by her husband, Hank Chafetz and son, Josh Chafetz. Hank and Janet have been Southgate residents since 1973.

### Welcome to our new neighbors:

- Drs Bryce and Michelle McKane, Bryce III, Alexandria and Aiden on Swift
- Marshall and Josephine Davidson, Adele (18 months) and Major on Shakespeare
- Alan and Narina Christensen, Katrina, Alexa and Genny on Swift
- Michael and Stacey Diehl and Chloe (10 months) on Sheridan
- Drs Miguel Valderrabano and Ana, Aparico, Lauri and Lucia on Southgate

**Please notify Bea King** (713) 521-3171 of new neighbors. Bea has welcome packets containing lots of information about our neighborhood and our City.

### Etc.....

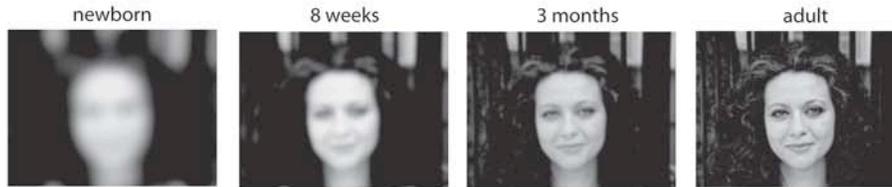
- Dr. Robert Parke Jr. has moved from McClendon to Southgate.
- Southgate resident Vanessa Del Fabbro has debuted her second novel "Sandpiper Drift".
- Southgate resident Dr. Kenneth McClain biked from California to Massachusetts to raise awareness and money for a rare disease of the white blood cells.

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**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.

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