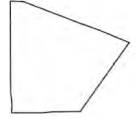




# Southgate News



OCTOBER 2006

## New Location for Civic Club Meetings!

**Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 24, 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:**

- Incumbent State Representative **Martha Wong** and candidate **Ellen Cohen** will address the community and answer your questions as the **November election** fast approaches.
- Other topics of interest

## 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, 2260 West Holcombe, #162, Houston, TX 77030.**

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

## Southgate Chili Cook-Off!

The Civic Club is planning a **Chili Cook-Off** and Fundraiser for **November 5th**. 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** emgesmith@yahoo.com.



## September Meeting Highlights: Rice University 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. Rice University Provost **Dr. Gene Levy**, Collaborative Research Center Director **Diana Randall**, Rice Community Relations Director **Greg Marshall** and traffic study analyst **Jerry Salzman** presented design and construction details and answered questions.

Dr. Levy opened the presentation by discussing the importance of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaborative research to scientific discovery. He explained that in the future, Rice growth would occur toward the TMC and the Main street corridor. Dr. Levy stressed his commitment to the integrity of the residential communities adjacent to the Rice campus noting the importance of those communities to the long-term success of Rice University.

### **Building Details:**

The tallest part of the building will be 10 stories. The building will contain three levels of underground parking and the structure will step down towards the neighborhood. There will be 10,000 square feet of retail on the first level, the nature of which is yet to be determined. The parking garage will exit onto Dryden and the loading dock/service areas will face Dryden. The parking garage will hold 760 cars. A second 8 story "Phase II" building will be added in the future.

### **Construction Plans:**

The project has received conditional approval from the Rice University board and complete approval is expected in November with construction beginning soon afterwards and occupation projected for 2009. To facilitate

construction, two vacant lots on the west side of Travis will be used as staging areas for construction materials. These lots are owned by Rice University. In addition, Travis will be closed to traffic from University to Dryden for the duration of the project. Construction crews will be instructed not to use Southgate residential streets for access to the site.

### **Other Points:**

-Rice envisions developing the vacant lots west of the Collaborative Research Center into 3-4 story residential properties.

-Rice pledges its support for Southgate street closures at Travis if this were supported by the neighborhood.

-Rice University information relevant to the community can be found at [www.rice.edu/neighbor](http://www.rice.edu/neighbor).

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Texas Medical Center**

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*Hot & Spicy-We Will Adjust to Taste  
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## Water Line Replacement

### **Status:**

The City's water line replacement contract calls for the contractor to finish by the end of the year.

### **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.**

## 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

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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!

**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	Catherine Leachman	(713)669-1289
Vice President	Stan Druck	(713)942-2347
Vice President	Blaine Hollinger	(713)665-4458
Vice President	Veljko Roskar	(713)666-2416
Treasurer	Bill Burge	(713)667-6808
Secretary and Newsletter Editor	Andrew McCullough	(713)666-9745
RACS Representative	Richard Lazear	(713)942-7788
Univ. Plc Assoc. Advisor	Thea Fabio	(713)522-7200
Rice Univ. Advisor	Richard Merrill	(713)522-7200

