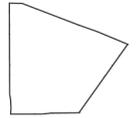




Southgate News



October 2007

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 23nd at 7:30 at **Rice Temple Baptist Church**, 6409 Greenbriar at McClendon. Please try to attend. Your input is important to the neighborhood. The Agenda will include:

- **Traffic**
- **Efforts towards Refining Southgate's Deed Restrictions**
- **Other Issues of Interest**
- **Guest: Houston City Council Member Anne Clutterbuck**

Traffic Mitigation: Update and Clarification

Recent History:

In early 2007, the Hilton and the Houston Medical Center proprietors initiated a conversation with the city about removing the barrier across Southgate Blvd. These businesses expressed concern that the barrier, combined with the recent closure of Travis between Southgate and University, overly restricts access to their properties. The Civic Club responded that removing the barrier would adversely affect the community by allowing traffic to flow into the neighborhood from Main Street and the Baylor Clinic.

Defining Solutions:

The Civic Club has worked with Council Member Clutterbuck's office for the past several months to identify a solution acceptable to these businesses, the city, and the neighborhood. The Civic Club also surveyed Southgate residents about traffic issues. As a result of these efforts, the city and the Civic Club have agreed to the following course of action:

1. **Removal** of the existing barrier.

2. **Installation** of a new and stronger barrier across Southgate and Addison **west** of Travis.
3. **Installation** of "**button medians**" on McClendon and Swift at Travis to *prevent traffic from turning off of Travis and into the neighborhood.* **THERE WILL BE NO EXTENDED SECTIONS OF 1-WAY STREET.**
4. Pave the eastern tip of the Southgate blvd. esplanade to allow fire department ladder trucks to negotiate the turn from Addison to Southgate once the barrier is in place on the west side of Travis.

Current Status:

At the time of this writing, the tip of the Southgate Blvd esplanade has been paved.

There will be a discussion of these efforts at the October meeting. Houston City Council Member Clutterbuck will attend the October Civic Club meeting.

Highlights of the September 2007 General Meeting (44 Present)

Demolition of The Crown Plaza Hotel

Mike Dokell of Cherry Demolition described the planned implosion of the Crown Plaza Hotel:

-The implosion will be **on 11/11/2007** shortly after first light.

-Fannin, Main, Southgate (East of Travis) and Old Main will be closed.

-All streets should reopen by 10:30 to 11:00 that morning.

-Southgate residents should expect some noise and dust, depending on wind direction.

-The Wells Fargo Bank will be demolished by conventional methods some time after the Crown Plaza is down.

-Mr. Dokell suggested that the area near the under-construction parking lot at Travis and Southgate as the best place to observe the implosion.

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, Andrew McCullough and Richard Lazear. 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 \$50 to Southgate Civic Club, 2660 West Holcombe, #162, Houston, TX 77030.**

Richard Merrill
(fabiomerrl@aol.com)

Andrew McCullough
(andrewjpm2005@yahoo.com)

Richard Lazear
(richard.lazear@psdconsultants.com)

Deed Restriction Committee

Southgate residents are being surveyed about potential changes in Section 1 and Section 2 deed restrictions. A written survey was distributed with the September *Southgate*

News and should be returned to the Civic Club. President Kelly asked that discussion of the deed restriction issue and the survey be held until the October 2007 General Meeting.

Section 1 and 2 residents please complete and return your surveys

RACS/Crime Report

-RACS Officers reported more car burglaries in Southgate. Many of these burglaries were from unlocked cars parked on streets or in driveways. The officers suggested locking cars, putting cars in garages whenever possible and never leaving items or money visible in unattended vehicles.

-A Swift resident reported that he interrupted a burglary of his garage and held the perpetrator for HPD. A middle aged white male was taken into custody.

What is RACS?

The Rice Area Constable Service (RACS) provides the residents of Southgate with community police service beyond that provided by the Houston Police Department (HPD).

What is the cost?

The annual cost of this service is \$230 per household (\$150 for seniors).

How do I get help?

Simply call RACS for any police need and expect a uniformed, armed deputy at your door within a few minutes.

What if I am away from home?

Call RACS to participate in the "Vacation Watch" service where patrolling deputies will watch a home while the residents are out of town. Some residents feel that the Vacation Watch protection alone justifies their annual RACS payment.

Everyone in the neighborhood benefits from this program. Our goal is 100% participation, which would provide even more coverage than we can afford now.

Please do your part, and send your name, address and phone number along with payment to: RACS, 2523 McClendon Street, Houston, Texas 77030.

Report from The Traffic Committee

-The Committee reviewed the background and details of this issue. (*Editor: See Page 1.*)

Suggestions and Comments from the floor included:

-The Burger King should be removed to allow traffic to flow from Travis to Holcombe before the Southgate barricade is moved. (*Editor: This idea has been around for years but has not materialized for lack of someone willing to buy out the BK.*)

-Questions about the imminence of moving the Southgate border to the west side of Travis.

-Do we need to do anything now or can we wait?

-Question if the plans for McClendon and Swift are for a full block of 1 way street or for just blocking turns off of Travis into the neighborhood. (*Editor: See page 1 for clarification.*)

The Executive Committee agreed to evaluate these points and clarify at the October meeting.

Community Emergency Response Team

(Editor: This is from an email sent to the Civic Club by the Houston Fire Department.)

Community Emergency Response Team training is a Federal Emergency Management Agency program that educates citizens about the hazards they face in their community and trains them in lifesaving skills. If needed following a disaster, these citizen-responders use their training as part of a neighborhood or workplace team to help others when professional responders are overwhelmed or not immediately available. CERT members

provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training, and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources when they arrive. *Please visit the CERT website for more information on how to train for and participate in this program* <http://www.harriscountycitizen corps.com>.

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Architectural Review Committee

Thinking about remodeling? If you have plans to remodel your house or garage and it involves the exterior, you should have your plans reviewed by the architectural review committee. This committee will look at your plans and make sure that they conform to the deed restrictions of the neighborhood. Having your plans reviewed will avoid the possibility that you get half way through a project only to discover that there is a violation of some kind requiring a costly change in plans. You may not know that Southgate as a whole is made up of four separate sections, each with different deed restriction language. So just because you see something in one part of Southgate, or even across the street, it doesn't necessarily mean that it conforms to the restrictions in your section. **Contact Roger M. Cooner at (713) 822-4270, to arrange for the committee to review your plans.**

Dine In Carry Out Delivery Catering

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Owned and Operated
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Free Delivery within 2 Miles
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Neighborhood Notes

New Neighbors

Dr. Danny and Kim Conley

Dr. Milind "Mel" Javle

Gerry and Lynn Trenta

Ms. Abby Daniels

Dr. Hesham and Farida Morsi (Hala)

Fadi and Linda Shakkour

Duncan and Lorraine Cameron (Alice and Sophie)

Dr. Guy and Sharon Lahat

Dryden

Swift

Addison

Southgate

Southgate

University

McClendon

MacArthur

If you are new to Southgate or know of new Southgate residents, please contact Bea King at (713) 521-3171 so that she may deliver a welcome packet. The welcome packets contain information on the Southgate Civic Club, the Rice Area Constable Service, our neighborhood and our City as well as coupons redeemable at local businesses.

Sally Luna 713-341-1627



Southgate Website

Previous editions of the *Southgate News* and other community information are available at www.houstonsouthgate.org.

Congratulations

-Doug and Deanna Fuehne on the birth of Alex

-Tom and Souad Kent and their son Davis on the birth of daughter and sister Charlotte Grace

-Josh and Jamie Bell on the arrival of their son MacLaren Parker

-David and Ann Heikkinen on the arrival of triplets Charles, Grace and Joseph

-Scott and Danielle Breitenwischer on the birth of twins Joseph Daniel and Robert Dane

-William Fraser Simpson on becoming an Eagle Scout

Do you own your stuff or is your stuff owning you?

Let me help you GET ORGANIZED!

Contact Natalie for more information on organization services.

**713-419-9455
nemgesmith@yahoo.com**

Organization Guru

Southgate Resident

Condolences

Our condolences to the friends and family of longtime Southgate resident and MD Anderson Professor Dr. Eleanor McDonald. Professor McDonald passed away at the age of 101.

Southgate resident and Rice University Professor Dr. Alan Grob passed away in September. We extend our condolences to his wife Shirley, to his children and to his friends.

Southgate resident George Praiswater passed away. We extend our condolences to his wife Kathy, to his family and to his friends.

Southgate resident Emmett Parkerson Jr. passed away in July. Mr. Parkerson was a devoted worker at the 143rd precinct polls and was very active in the Rotary club. We extend our condolences to his wife Rosemary, to his children and to his friends.

Our condolences to Southgate residents Lois and Selma DeBakey on the passing of their nephew Barry DeBakey in June.

PLEASE JOIN

If you have not paid dues in calendar year 2007, please consider adding your support to the Southgate Civic Club. Simply complete the Resident Information Form below and mail it with your dues of \$50.00 per residence, to Southgate Civic Club, 2260 Holcombe Blvd., Box 162, Houston, Texas 77030.

=====
Clip and Return with Your Dues Payment

SOUTHGATE RESIDENT INFORMATION

Names of Adult Residents: _____

Names of Any Children: _____

Address (Number & Street): _____

Telephone Number(s): _____ E-Mail Address: _____

May We Use Your E-Mail Address to Contact You About Critical News and Activities? _____

Check as Applicable: Own ___ Rent ___ Amount of Dues Enclosed: \$50 _____

Include my information in the upcoming Southgate Directory Yes _____ No _____

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	Neil Kelly		NKelly@andrewskurth.com
Vice President	Veljko Roskar	(713) 666-2416	veljko@earthlink.net
Vice President	Bill Burge	(713)-817-2128	wwbjr@sbcglobal.net
Vice President and Traffic Committee	Curt Frisby	(713) 807-1149	CFrisby@marmonkeystone.com
Treasurer	John Boom	(713) 349-8775	johnmboom@yahoo.com
Secretary and Newsletter Editor	Andrew McCullough	(713) 666-9745	andrewjpm2005@yahoo.com
RACS Representative	Richard Lazear	(713) 942-7788	
Univ. Plc Assoc. Advisor	Thea Fabio	(713) 522-7200	fabiomerrl@aol.com
Rice Univ. Advisor	Richard Merrill	(713) 522-7200	fabiomerrl@aol.com
Deed Restriction	Catherine Leachman	(713) 669-1289	cleachman@comcast.net
Architect Review	Roger Cooner	(713) 822-4270	rogercooner@sbcglobal.net

Southgate Civic Club

A Texas Non-Profit Corporation