



SCAN

The Official Publication of the Sharpstown Civic Association

Issue 6, Volume 47

Nov - Dec 2022



**SHARPSTOWN
NEIGHBORS
ARE THE BEST -
DO YOU KNOW
YOURS?**



Sharpstown Realty

Buying or Selling?



Ronald Graham
Real Estate Broker
Your Sharpstown Expert
832-374-9595

We Remodel & Sell Your Home
With No Upfront Cost
We Make Sellers More Profit

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 1st, 2023

I usually go to bed around 10pm but last night - as most of you, didn't go to sleep until the Sharpstown unofficial neighborhood fireworks display ended...on my street about 1:15AM. Not sure what to say about that - how about I didn't hear any reports of deaths, fires? I am glad it's over and Happy New Year!!

I am working on the Nov - Dec - Jan Scan after much procrastinating...through sleepy eyes. There is so much I could comment on. November elections, direction change on DR update, unbelievable turn out at our November annual meeting, what will 2023 bring...just a few of my jumbled thoughts and all are very interrelated.

Our Deed Restrictions are outdated and lack the legal teeth of years past. Updating these with the recommended move to full HOA/mandatory dues/209 was done. However, the effort and education process by the board to get 51% of each section to pass was not accomplished in 2022. You can read more about this later in the issue. This process had some interesting outcomes.

Did you attend our November annual meeting? In years past we have averaged 50 - 70 neighbors with 40 or so voting. As the result of the invitations to come support that were sent out by various groups, we had more than 450 neighbors with over 260 ballots cast for board member elections. We were overwhelmed to say the least. We did our best to check people in so they could cast their vote and enjoy turkey potluck. At a normal election we would have announced the election outcome and headed to our homes by 8:15pm. With the large # of ballots and large number of persons running, the ballot counters worked until after 10pm. I am sorry for not having that night be less taxing but oh what an amazing show of Sharpstown support. As the lines formed, I remember thinking...this could be my last meeting as SCA president. So many of you I didn't know that were in the lines waiting to vote. Of course, I wanted to be reelected but I can also remember thinking, how proud I was of my neighbors for coming to make their will be known - no matter what that will is.

With the DR Update subject there was much dialogue between supporters and opponents. At least 3 of our newly elected board members are now about to serve as a result of this topic. I hope they can help us come up with the best ways to enforce our deed restrictions, architectural controls and overall safety programs. I welcome their new ideas and energy as we move forward as a board.

Since there were more running than open positions, I now invite those that did not get elected to see the committee list in this issue and come serve in that capacity. It is a meaningful way to have your viewpoints heard and put in place important actions. We need you!

I am grateful for your support, your dues payments, your feedback and your Sharpstown pride. Let's get to work on 2023 together.... after a nap!



Charmaine - SCA 2023 Board President

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Won't you be my neighbor? Do you have a neighbor you'd like to have recognized in the next SCAN? Let us get to know your great neighbors by reaching out to Erica.

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

FREE ESTIMATES

J.Q. BRICK REPAIRS & RESTORATION SERVICES LLC

Brick Crack Repair
Mortar Match
Leaning Walls / Columns

Fireplace & Chimneys
Chimney Leaks
CMU Repair & Installation

Stone Repair & Installation
Brick Paver Repair & Installation

New Perimeter Brick & Wall Repair
Monument Sign

Water Repellent Treatment
Tuck Pointing
Brick Staining

New Brick Mailbox Installation & Repair
Whitewash & German Smear

832-640-1261

8433 Northern St. Houston, TX 77071
office@jqbrickandrestoration.com
www.jqbrickandrestoration.com

BBB
A+ Rating

f
i

GOOD NEIGHBOR RULE #19

BE SURE THAT NO VEHICLE, EVEN IF TEMPORARY, BLOCKS THE SIDEWALK IN YOUR DRIVEWAY



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charmaine LeBlanc – Sec 5 PRESIDENT	deblanc@libertyoffice.com 281-687-1323 (cell)
Matt Wine – CCT3 VICE PRESIDENT	mattwine@gmail.com 713-397-9610 (cell)
Elizabeth Schooler – Sec 2 TREASURER	hpd mama@gmail.com 713-550-3351 (cell)
Casey Cummings – CCT2 SECRETARY	casey.d.cummings@icloud.com 615-879-2670 (cell)
Erica Billings – Sec 5	erica.billings@gmail.com 713-859-1659 (cell)
Matthew Cowan	wrcowan@hal-pc.org 713-818-3114 (cell)
Jason Davalos – CCE-East	jdav99@gmail.com 832-876-9824 (cell)
Dale Ada Davidson – Sec 3	daleadad@gmail.com 713-774-0988 (home)
Donna Fain – CCT3	dkfain@gmail.com 713-818-9931 (cell)
Mark Harrison – Sec 1	mrkaln1@aol.com 713-418-0481 (cell)
Kathy Holston – CCT3	holston.kathy@gmail.com 832-845-8476 (cell)
Annie Love – CCT2	emailtheloves@gmail.com 832-434-2712 (cell)
Carlos Martinez – Sec 1	movewithcarlos@gmail.com 713-724-4354 (cell)
Pat Menville – Sec 2	patmen47@att.net 713-705-2092 (cell)
Byrom Wehner – CCT3	wehnerbt@ieee.org 713-774-5796
Helen Zhou – Sec 5	hzhou002@hotmail.com 832-866-2855 (cell)

SCA BOARD COMMITTEES – WHERE CAN YOU HELP?

Do you want to help build up Sharpstown? Do you have special skills that could be put to use in our neighborhood? While not everyone wishes to or can serve on the Board of Directors (limited to 19 members), there are many other opportunities to participate through SCA committees. Different positions have different time commitments to best match your availability and interests. Some of the Committees are:

- Administration/Office Committee
- Architectural Committee
- Bylaws Review Committee
- Communications and Outreach Committee
- Deed Restriction Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Membership Committee
- Safety & Security Committee
- Special Events and Volunteer Committee
- Finance/Budget Committee

If you are interested and want to learn more, call the SCA office at 713-789-2311 for additional information.

SCA MISSION STATEMENT

"To serve and improve the Sharpstown community through enforcement of deed restrictions, architectural controls, enhancing our residents' safety, and promoting Sharpstown as one of Houston's most desirable neighborhoods."

Membership Final Count for 2022

Year	\$ Recd	Count	Avg	% of Total
2022	\$346,589	1518	\$228	23%
2021	\$336,025	1423	\$236	21%
2020	\$327,016	1382	\$237	21%
2019	\$374,189	1620	\$231	24%
2018	\$364,822	1586	\$230	24%
2017	\$348,380	1675	\$208	25%
2016	\$355,087	1708	\$208	25%
2015	\$314,252	1610	\$195	24%
2014	\$305,235	1506	\$203	22%
2013	\$291,366	1381	\$211	20%

DEED RESTRICTION UPDATE – WHY IT WAS STOPPED?

On October 31, 2022, the SCA Board of Directors discontinued the Deed Restriction Update initiative and disabled voting on it. The decision was made after reviewing the number of approvals to date, considering community feedback and weighing that against the effort for an eventual success.

The initiative to update the deed restrictions began as an effort to address years of problems enforcing deed restrictions and architectural standards due to outdated language which left our courts with little to no recourse against violators and their neighbors intensely frustrated.

The decision to discontinue these efforts means that the Board will have to find new, creative ways to use our existing tools to meet community expectations of enforcement.



WELCOME TO HOUSTON ASIATOWN TOURS!

Our bus tours and walking tours are back, beginning Fall 2022! We are excited to provide you with an immersive experience of Houston's vibrant Asiatown area.

Tickets for all tours will go on sale August 15, 2022.

www.AsiatownTourHTX.com

HOUSTON LUNAR NEW YEAR EVENTS 2023

Now booking January & February 2023 group outings for Lunar New Year. Book a tour or workshop for your group today!



Lunar New Year 2023: Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit
Sat, January 28, 11 am – 4 pm

The Asia Society Texas celebrates the Year of the Rabbit with performances, art and craft activities, and food inspired by Lunar New Year traditions across Asia!
[Learn More](#)



Lunar New Year Festival
Sat, January 21, 10 am – 4 pm

Join the Chinese Community Center for an outdoor event featuring cultural activities, vendors, Lunar New Year merchandise, delicious food, and exciting performances!
[Learn More](#)



Lunar New Year Houston
Sat, January 28 – Sun, January 29

Welcome the Year of the Rabbit at the Viet Hoa Shopping Center with tasty street food, exciting martial arts displays, and breathtaking lion dances!
[Learn More](#)



Texas Lunar Festival
Sat, January 21, 10:30 am – 4:30 pm

In its 27th year, this festival celebrates the Asian Lunar New Year and the impressive qualities of many cultures, promoting diversity while fostering cross-cultural friendships!
[Learn More](#)



Lunar New Year Night Market
Sat, February 4, 4 pm – 10 pm

This Lunar New Year celebration boasts local vendors with special food menus and exotic ingredients alongside a lantern festival at POST Houston!
[Learn More](#)



Lunar New Year at Solstice
Sun, January 22, 5 pm – 8 pm

Enjoy Dance of Asian America, Lee's Golden Dragon, and other performers, crafts, and food vendors at Discovery Green, sponsored by PNC Bank!
[Learn More](#)

ASIATOWNTOURHTX.COM

HoustonAsiatownTours@gmail.com
832.303.3452



2023 Membership Request
Take Action - Support a Proud Sharpstown

2023 Dues	
Membership	\$80
Safety and Security	\$170
Total	\$250

What a whirlwind 2022 was. I had several sanity check moments to see if the work I try to put into the SCA is worth it. The encouragement and support from members and neighbors have fueled my flame for 2023 efforts. This is a plea for you to send in your membership dues if you can. If you are unable to or simply do not see the benefit, then will you contribute in other ways? Paying dues allows you to vote at board elections and on bylaw changes, but there are so many other ways to help our neighborhood be what we want it to be. So I am asking for you to find the way that you can best contribute. We will all benefit and I look forward to working alongside you and hopefully receiving your 2023 dues payment soon.

Charmaine LeBlanc, Member since 2008

I am a newcomer to Sharpstown. Born and raised in Houston (in the age of disco), I moved to Sharpstown in 2010. The location, large lots, and affordability brought me here. And while those reasons are still important, it is the community and diversity that have kept me here for 12 years. There were already so many great people involved in making Sharpstown beautiful and safe. And since I don't like just watching from the bleachers, I got involved with the Civic Association in 2015. And what a great time it has been! I have met so many of you throughout the years at meetings, shred days, movie nights. It takes so many people and resources to make sure we can have these events and that we continue to be safe. But with over 6,800 homes in Sharpstown, we have a great community of people ready to help. Our home is the largest investment we will ever make and I want to keep it moving in the right direction. So please come down from the bleachers and join us in the game! Join the Sharpstown Civic Association with your dues and perhaps even some of your time. It will be well worth it.

Matt Wine, Member since 2010

The SCA provides more than just deed restriction compliance. They assist the city with mosquito spraying, provide fun activities throughout the year in our parks, and much more. I enjoy seeing my neighborhood being spruced up, watching the students at Houston Christian University, Sharpstown High School, and other area schools in the area come together to support our neighbors. Sharpstown continues to be a wonderful place to live. Join me in paying your annual dues!

Elizabeth Schooler, Member since 2015

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES



Mosquito Spraying
beginning April 1st
thru Oct 31st



NEWS
(Sharpstown Civic
Association News)



Architectural
changes
enforcement



Safety
Initiatives with
HPD
Precinct 4
SEAL Security
Patrol



Community
events,
Informative
Website and
Facebook page



Monthly
community
meetings-Vote
at Annual Mtg
for Board
Members



Deed violation
enforcement
including Legal
pursuit when
necessary

Check out the website Sharpstowncivic.org and our Facebook page
for a complete list of member benefits and other neighborhood
information.
Mailing address: SCA PO Box 36559 Houston, TX 77236-6559



SHARPSTOWN CIVIC
ASSOCIATION
PO Box 36559 | Houston, TX 77236-6559

PAY ONLINE @
www.SharpstownCivic.org

[MAIL PAYMENTS TO](#)

January 1, 2023

In an effort to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of life, value of our properties and safety of all residents of the 9 sections of Sharpstown, we ask that you send in your **\$250 payment now**. These dues will allow important programs to continue.

2023 SCA MEMBERSHIP DUES \$80.00: Your membership dues provide resources for Office staff, Deed Restriction & Architectural Control Enforcement, Mosquito Spraying, Communication Programs-- including the SCAN Magazine, Esplanade Signs, and General Beautification including limited mowing of common areas.

2023 SHARPSTOWN PATROL PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION \$170.00: A separate fund is used to provide certified, fully-equipped security officers to patrol our neighborhood. Their presence and response give additional security to all Sharpstown Subdivision residents. Services include active patrol, vacation watch, and security alarm response.

All the best from the 2023 SCA Board of Directors

Charmaine LeBlanc	Matt Wine	Elizabeth Schooler	Casey Cummings
Erica Billings	Matthew Cowan	Jason Davalos	Dale Davidson
Donna Fain	Mark Harrison	Kathy Holston	Annie Love
Carlos Martinez	Pat Menville	Byrom Wehner	Helen Zhou

Check out the website Sharpstowncivic.org and our Facebook page
for a complete list of member benefits

YOU MAY JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT SHARPSTOWNCIVIC.ORG

Or Please Return This Form with Your Payment – Thankyou!

Membership Dues _____ Security _____ Total _____
\$80.00 + \$170.00 = \$250.00

Check # _____ VISA ___ MASTERCARD ___ DISCOVER ___ EXP DATE _____ CVC _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ ZIP _____

NAME(s) _____ ST ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

SECONDARY EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

One payment of \$250 is requested. Please contact the SCA office if other payment arrangements are needed.



SCA 2022 Crime Totals - Up 13% From 2021 (Sort of...)									
Month	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Property	Aggravated Assault	Rape	Murder	2022 Totals	2021 Totals
January	1	4	13	3	0	1	0	22	27
February	0	4	11	5	4	0	0	24	9
March	1	4	15	5	1	3	0	29	15
April	0	3	13	5	1	1	0	23	10
May	1	5	13	5	3	0	0	27	26
June	0	5	10	4	5	0	0	24	27
July	3	4	17	0	3	0	0	27	29
August	3	2	19	1	5	0	0	30	20
September	4	4	13	3	1	0	0	25	34
October	0	6	11	4	0	1	0	22	23
November	1	1	17	1	4	0	0	24	22
December	1	7	16	1	3	1	0	29	25
22 Totals	15	49	168	37	30	7	0	306	267
21 Totals	9	30	165	33	26	0	4	267	

If we made Feb-April of 2021, during the freeze, stats the same as 2022, we would have had 309 reported crimes to HPD in 2021 compared to 306 for 2022. In actuality, Sharpstown crime was down compared to last year!!!

We had less than 1 crime per day if you look at it that way. Can we improve? Reduce crimes of opportunity to our vehicles or belongings in garages? Keep up a better guard for juggings? If you have ideas on this, please come serve on the Safety and Security Committee for 2023. Your ideas are needed to keep Sharpstown the safe island that we are.



DEFINITIONS OF CRIME TYPES

Robbery — the taking of money or goods in the possession of another, from his or her person or immediate presence, by force or intimidation.

Burglary — (breaking and entering) an unlawful entry into a building for the purposes of committing an offence. Usually that offence is theft.

Theft — the act of stealing; the wrongful taking and carrying away of the personal goods or property of another; larceny. Examples include ransacking unlocked cars, taking property out of open garage doors, taking a purse off a front seat of an unlocked car, taking a mower out of the back of a pickup truck.

Aggravated Assault — an attempt to cause serious bodily injury purposely.

Property Crime — destruction, damage, vandalism

Rape — unlawful sexual activity carried out against the will of a male, female, or person under age, or incapable of consent.



SEAL SAVES THE DAY

SEAL officers interrupted a vehicle theft in progress. In December, would-be thieves targeted a contractor working at a home in Country Club Terrace 2. The crooks attempted to steal a quantity of tools from the contractor’s van, but broke off their efforts and left when they spotted a passing SEAL vehicle. Yay! Please help SEAL and your neighbors by reminding contractors at your home to lock their vehicles while working.



HPD TRUNK OR TREAT

Midwest Police Command once again gave back to the Sharpstown area families by hosting their annual Trunk or Treat on October 28. Although weather forced the festivities indoors, the kids got to show off their costume skills while playing games and collecting goodies. SCA President Charmaine LeBlanc and long-time resident Tony Tuckwiller represented our community alongside HPD DRT Officers and Midwest command.



Some of our neighbors aren't afraid of burglars breaking in - the burglars are afraid of what fate awaits them in these houses. Ghouls and Zombies offer a tempting invitation to drop right in and visit for a spell!

It is still a crime to park on your grass in Sharpstown. Please Don't.



South Gessner Substation
8605 Westplace Dr.

24 hours daily
832-394-4700

Midwest Substation
7277 Regency Square

24 hours daily
832-394-1200

Gulfton Storefront
6227 Southwest Fwy.

8-4 Mon-Fri
832-394-2660

Ranchester Storefront
9160 Bellaire, Ste. F

8-Noon M-W-F
832-394-2780

VACATION WATCH

Did you know that one important service provided by S.E.A.L. Security is a complimentary vacation watch for your home? Just download and complete the form on our website, then call the dedicated Sharpstown S.E.A.L. hotline at 713-338-2266. An officer will check on your home daily to help make this year’s vacation a relaxing getaway.



LOOKING FOR HPD IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

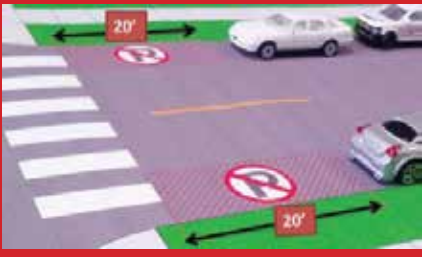
Need a copy of an accident report? Want to talk to an officer about a problem in your area? You see something suspicious and want to let law enforcement know about it? In Sharpstown, you won’t have to go very far. Our community is served by two HPD substations, South Gessner and Midwest, and two HPD storefronts, Gulfton and Ranchester. The officers located at these facilities are there to help you in any way they can, so give them a call or a visit if you need assistance.

PARKING LAWS

THESE ARE ACTUAL LAWS AND
WILL RESULT IN REAL FINES



PARK AT LEAST
15 FEET
FROM A
FIRE HYDRANT



PARK AT LEAST
20 FEET
FROM AN
INTERSECTION



PARK AT LEAST
30 FEET
FROM A
STOP SIGN OR
TRAFFIC SIGNAL

DO NOT
BLOCK THE
SIDEWALK
WHEN
PARKING



DO NOT
BLOCK A
DRIVEWAY
WHEN
PARKING



PARK WITH
THE NATURAL
FLOW
OF TRAFFIC



STORM DRAIN PROBLEMS

If you have a storm drain in front of your house, please check to see if it has any debris. It doesn't matter whether it is leaves, pine needles, or trash--pick it up and throw it away. Don't let it flow into the storm drain and become part of a bigger problem.



PICK IT UP

Sharpstown folks love their dogs, but your neighbors don't appreciate having to pick up the "business" your pups leave behind on their walks. Please be a good neighbor and take along some "poop bags" when you head out with your canine companion.



GARAGE SALE 101

Here is a guide to what is and is not allowed in Sharpstown.

- It isn't our deed restrictions that limit the number of garage sales. **It is state law.** If you have more than two, you are considered to be running a business and must pay taxes.
- A garage sale is for selling your unwanted personal items – not a business for selling merchandise from others.
- You cannot rent out your garage or driveway to other people to conduct a sale.



DO YOU KNOW YOUR DEED RESTRICTIONS?

Remodeling your home? Adding On? Do you know your deed restrictions? Did you know that the Sharpstown Civic Association can look over your proposed plans for free before you start construction? We want to avoid deed restriction violations before they happen. Did you know that we have a 25 foot rear setback for the main structure? Did you know that there is a minimum percentage of brick that must be on your home? Did you know that you can't build in front of your building line? We want to help you! We want you to find out about possible violations before it costs you money and time. Several homeowners in the past couple years have had to tear down and/or modify their construction due to deed restriction violations. The City of Houston does not review deed restrictions when issuing permits. They require a signed affidavit acknowledging that the plans comply with your deed restrictions. This holds YOU, the homeowner, accountable for knowing and complying with your deed restrictions. We are here to help you. Call 713-789-2311 and explain what you want to do and Scott will help you navigate the process. All deed restrictions are available online at SharpstownCivic.org

SHARPSTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.			
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENSES			
MODIFIED CASH BASIS			
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 2022			
	11 Months Ended 11/30/22	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$500,403	\$386,192	\$114,211
Expenses	\$498,794	\$386,192	(\$112,602)
		Under Budget	\$1,609
Cash in Bank	\$315,313		

FULL FINANCIAL REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE ON
OUR WEBSITE SHARPSTOWNCIVIC.ORG

GOOD NEIGHBOR RULE #40

THE UPKEEP OF THE SIDEWALKS
AROUND YOUR HOME IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY. UNEVEN CONCRETE
CAN LEAD TO A TRIP AND FALL.
SOME ARE INEXPENSIVE TO REPAIR.
SURVEY YOUR SIDEWALKS AND PUT
THOSE REPAIRS ON YOUR TO DO LIST.



DEED RESTRICTIONS

ARCHITECTURAL FEE SCHEDULE UPDATED

Below are the fees charged for review of exterior changes to your home. These are the more commonly received requests and account for the costs involved in plan review. This fee schedule, along with the Architectural Change Request, can be found on our website sharpstowncivic.org

• Paint/Siding	\$25.00
• Roof	\$25.00
• Fence	\$25.00
• Windows	\$25.00
• Gutters	\$25.00
• Garage Doors	\$25.00
• Garage Conversion	\$50.00
• Driveway Alterations	\$100.00
• Carport	\$100.00
• Outbuilding/Shed	\$50.00
• Patio / Patio Roof	\$50.00
• Pool	\$100.00
• Addition to House	\$250.00
• Generators/Solar Panels	\$25.00

SHARPSTOWN APOLLOS

**Sharpstown High School Class of 1980
43 Year High School Reunion
April 22, 2023**

**Location: Toddy Oaks Venue
20120 Franz Rd., Katy, TX 77449**

**Starts at: 6:00
Dinner: 7:00
Fun: For as long as we want**

**Cost: \$50/pp
Cash Bar**

Go online to Eventbrite at
tinyurl.com/SSHS1980Reunion43

**Any questions, you can ask on our Facebook
page, Sharpstown Senior High School Class of
1980, or Sharpstownhigh1980@gmail.com**

After March 15th, price will be \$60/pp

LANSDALE PARK ACTIVITIES

- Free After School Program for children 6 to 13 years of age
- Seeking Adult and Teen Volunteers (Build Your Own Hours)

Tiffany Goodlow, Site Manager
Lansdale Community Center
8201 Roos Rd
Office: 713-272-3668

Please visit our website for
program registration:

[http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/
communitycenters/cc-lansdale.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/parks/communitycenters/cc-lansdale.html)



LIBRARY NEWS

Walter Branch Library-So Much More Than Books

Our neighborhood library offers an outstanding
calendar of programs and classes such as

- Basic, intermediate and advanced computer
applications like Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Family movie time
- Bilingual story hours in Spanish and Mandarin
- Citizenship classes

Find the full calendar of events plus location and hours at
[http://houstonlibrary.org/location/walter-neighborhood-library?items_per_
page=200#events](http://houstonlibrary.org/location/walter-neighborhood-library?items_per_page=200#events)



WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?
(COVER STORY)

Hi, my name is Erica Billings. My husband is Thomas, our eldest son
is Kalel, and our youngest son is Noel. In January of 2020 we moved
to Sharpstown from the Heights to be closer to Thomas's office, and
a school we learned of for Kalel. We are currently renting, but hope
to buy a house soon, and make Sharpstown our long-term home.
Since living here, we've scouted other nearby neighborhoods, and it
is clear we are in the right place for us.

We are continually surprised by how many original owners we meet,
or people who grew up here, moved away for a few years, and then
came back to buy their own home...and have spent additional decades
here as an adult! We love the trees!!! We love the homes. We love our
park. We love the proximity to the best the city has to offer. And we
love our neighbors.

Neighbors are what make any place a great place to live. And I want
to introduce you to my next-door neighbors; they, like many of you,
truly embody what it means to be a good neighbor, and they help
make this a great place for our family to live. Meet Liz and Luis and
their two boys, Ethan and Ollie. Liz is from Puerto Rico, and Luis is
from Oaxaca, Mexico.

When we moved in, the pandemic was just beginning. So, we got to
know our neighbors very slowly. As a household, we operated very
cautiously and kept our distance for a while. Then, Liz and I began
to occasionally leave food for each other on our front doorsteps.
Eventually, we began to sit outside together in the front yards,

socially distanced, while the kids played with masks on. After a
while, we dropped the masks and the distance, but continued to only
spend time outdoors in the front yards and backyards. As time went
on, we began to visit in each other's homes. And as more time went
on, I began to send my kids next door without me, and vice versa. Liz
and I still like to visit in each other's homes, but we also like to get a
break from our kids and send them next door!

Liz frequently brings me homemade food or coffee or delicious pan
de muerto (bread for Dia de los Muertos) from Luis's father's bakery
in Oaxaca; and I frequently send her homemade food, matcha, a glass
of wine, and clothes my kids have outgrown. When we moved in our
little Noel had just turned 6 months old; they watched him grow from
a baby. Now Ollie is 7 months old, and we are watching him grow.
Our eldest sons are only six months apart and play together multiple
times a week.

Liz and Luis are good neighbors. They offer help and check in on
their neighbors. They water our garden when we are out of town.
They have watched my kids in a pinch.

It has been a joy and blessing to be a joy and blessing to each other's
families. We are so thankful we ended up living next door to them.
And we look forward to and hope for more days and years like these
with neighbors in Sharpstown.

We hope that you enjoy learning more about your neighbors, and
feel inspired by the values represented in these stories. I plan on
introducing you to more neighbors in each issue.

It's a neighborly day in this beautywood indeed!

Your neighbor,
Erica Billings



**NEXT
SCA
SHRED
DAY**

5 / 13 / 23

SHARPSTOWN AUTOMOTIVE
SERVING SOUTHWEST HOUTON OVER 30 YEARS

CHUCK McCLURKIN
TREY HUDEK

6710 LARKWOOD & SW FWY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77074
TEL: (713) 771-3264
FAX: (713) 270-8566



Our Sharpstown neighbors went all out again
this year to decorate for Christmas. There
are too many winners to list, so here's just
a few photos of the many wonderful homes
that brightened our holidays with a variety of
styles and color combinations. From serene
to flamboyant, cartoon-themed to classic, each
house represents the spirit of the season in
Sharpstown.



We did not have enough volunteer judges to cover
every area. If you would be interested in helping
celebrate your neighbors' hard work in Christmas
decorations, please call the SCA office at
731-789-2311 in November 2023 to sign up.

TNR – TRAP NEUTER RELEASE PROGRAM

Right here in our neighborhood, over 366 cats have been spayed or neutered in 2022. Using the chart below this equates to 6,696 kittens that will not be born in Sharpstown in 2023 if half of the 366 were female. Can you see how this effort positively effects our neighborhood?

This is a 100% volunteer effort by your SCA neighbors...hours and hours of their time. The photo is a holiday gathering of some of the volunteers. Our thanks go out to them.

Kitten birthing season is right around the corner. Many, many feral females had litters that will within 6 months be having their own litters. Please continue to spay/neuter your feral cats. It is not kind and the cats suffer in this kind of over population. Please contact the SCA office if you need help with this issue in your neighborhood.



SOUTHWEST MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESENTS


Liberty Fest

SAVE THE DATE !!!
SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023

Scan QR code to see this year's amazing event and information for Liberty Fest 2023



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TZU CHI WALKATHON

Board member Elizabeth Schooler and Sharpstown supporter Alice Lee attended the Tzu Chi Compassion in Action Walkathon. It was great to see their facility right here in the heart of Sharpstown. We are happy to have them as a neighbor.



FALL PUMPKIN PATCH
HOSTED BY HARRIS COUNTY
PRECINCT 4

Great Fun at Bayland Park in October. Thank you to Commissioner Jack Cagle for this event and for the work his office does to keep our parks great.



Some of the pumpkins were alive!! How cute is this!



Andrew, Charmaine and Matt helped man the Southwest Management District/SCA table to hand out goodies.

SCA NOVEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

The SCA celebrated the Thanksgiving season with its annual meeting complete with a potluck dinner and election of Directors and Officers. A record-setting 450+ residents attended with over 265 members voting in the election. A number of residents ran for positions on the board, many for the first time. It was an exceptional evening of fellowship and community service as people offered up their time and talents to serve Sharpstown.

We offer many thanks to the volunteers who set up and decorated the tables, served food, and worked late into the evening to tabulate the votes cast. The elections tabulations are on the SCA's website.



PLANT SWAP - SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Sharpstown Plant Swap will take place on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2023. Organized by the Sharpstown Parks Alliance, the swap will occur in the Lansdale/Pickard parks at the corner of Roos and Mary Bates.

Highlights include a special demonstration by Urban Harvest, planting information booths, and door prizes to help you kickstart your garden as it recovers from the Christmas arctic blast. Registration will begin in early April. Details will be announced in the March edition of the SCAN.

If you are interested in volunteering or serving on a committee, please email info@sharpstownparks.org



GOOD NEIGHBOR RULE #33
PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS GO
IN THE TRASH, NOT THE RECYCLE
BIN



LIVING IN SHARPSTOWN

My last article was about street names in Sharpstown. I mentioned that there seems to be no pattern to the names, unlike downtown Houston where several streets are named for Texas governors, or Bellaire where there is a section of streets with first names of people and a number of streets named for trees or plants. I wrote that I knew of only one Sharpstown street with a "plant" name, Croton.

I was corrected, emphatically, by a reader in the next SCAN. There seem to be several Sharpstown streets with botanical names. The reader appears to know of some or at least did some deep research into the streets seemingly named for plants and trees, starting with Beechnut. In my defense, that's the nut of a Beech tree and not the tree itself. And I did mention Beech in Bellaire as an example of a street named for a type of tree.

It was mentioned that there is a Barberton Daisey. I had to look up that up. Wikipedia says a Barberton Daisy is indigenous to Southeast Africa. I feel sure if I go to Houston Garden Center looking for a croton, I can leave with a croton. In fact, they're on sale in their current ad. If I go there and ask for a Barberton Daisy, I'm not so sure I would find one, but that's not saying they don't exist.

I assumed Osage Street was named for the Native American tribe. The reader pointed out that Osage is a type of wild orange. A Wikipedia search for Osage brings up the tribe first, but it says "it can also refer to a tree in the mulberry family." It's very possible the street was named for the Osage mulberry tree and not the tribe. After all, there is already a Mulberry Street in Montrose.

I'm not a birdwatcher either, but the mention of Tanager Street brings to my mind a bird called a Scarlet Tanager. Tanager, the reader says,

Commissioner R. Jack Cagle

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16

is also an African daisy which I was not aware of. A Google search confirms this, and in fact, lists the daisy before the bird.

A Rowan bush is known as a Mountain Ash. True. I looked it up. However, their highest species diversity is in the Himalaya, Southern Tibet and parts of Western China, and they are unrelated to the true ash trees.

So, the question is, how did Sharpstown’s streets get their names? Was Barberton named for a Southeast African daisy or someone named Barberton? Was Romney Road (and if it’s only two blocks long, why is it called a road?) named for a person named Romney or the Latin name Romneya, “a genus of flowering plants belonging to the poppy family”, as the reader suggests. Was Rowan Lane named for a bush that grows in Southern Tibet and, despite being called a Mountain Ash isn’t really an ash? Who knows? I understand the developer of the streets off Newcastle in Bellaire submitted a plat and was told it had to include street names, so, on the spot, he just began assigning first names of family members. Did Frank Sharp or members of his family choose street names or was it a committee, or both? I have asked this question in the past on Facebook with no definitive replies. Maybe one or more readers knows how Sharpstown streets were named. Let’s start with who was Mary Bates?

Michael Marshall

FOR THE LOVE OF TREES

Let’s keep our neighborhood beautiful and resilient by planting more trees and properly taking care of our existing trees.

Why Plant Trees?

The question is simple and basic, but often not considered carefully enough when selecting trees. Before planting think about what benefits you would like your tree to provide. The addition of trees to your landscape is important for many reasons.

Consider some of the following reasons for planting trees:

- Energy conservation
Trees planted strategically on the west, south and east sides of your home can reduce cooling costs by up to 50%. Deciduous trees shade your home during the hot summer months, while allowing sunlight to warm your home during the winter. Planting evergreen trees on the north side of your home will slow winter winds which can reduce heating costs by up to 30%.
- Increased property value
Trees enhance the economic vitality of a city. Trees can increase property values by as much as 20%.
- Wildlife habitat
Trees provide food and shelter for birds and other wildlife in our urban environment.
- Aesthetics
Trees beautify our urban environment by making our communities more livable and helping to restore our mental health and well-being.
- Improved air quality
Trees act as filters by trapping dust and absorbing air pollutants, while releasing vital oxygen.

- Storm water reduction
Trees help reduce storm water runoff and soil erosion, while improving water quality.

Source: Houston Area Urban Forestry Council

Questions for you:

1. Your favorite Sharpstown tree(s) and why?
 2. What are your favorite tree facts?
 3. Do you have a story to share about one of our Sharpstown trees? Perhaps you helped plant one with your parents when you were a kid, etc.
 4. Do you have special knowledge about trees?
 5. What is your favorite poem about trees or favorite piece of art featuring trees?
 6. Favorite tree resources?
 7. Who do you trust to help you properly maintain your trees?
- There is a list of vendors here, by the way: <https://www.haufc.org/vendors>

Please get in touch with me and help me make this a lovely recurring piece in the SCAN.

I’ll leave you with this beautiful poem:

Trees by Joyce Kilmer - 1886-1918

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth’s sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



by Erica Billings, Section 5



My favorite Sharpstown trees because they are big and old, right outside my front door, and provide shade to keep my family cool when we are playing in the front yard or doing bikes and scooters in the street!

SHARPSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Sharpstown High School Visual and Performing Arts Department have been busy this semester with contests, performances, and community engagement.



Visual Arts students put together an ofrenda for the Día de Muertos exhibition at MECA. Everything on the altar was created by Sharpstown students.



LEFT: Sun+Stag Dance Company has been introduced and the inaugural year has brought much to this group; they equally have reciprocated those gifts. At Homecoming, S+SDC joined the Apollo Queens for a pep rally hip hop performance, creating another new team: Sharpstown Dance ERA (Evolutionary Rhythm Association). Together, and separately, these dancers have much to come, but we are so glad to have achieved what we have established thus far. As we dance forward, we hope to have many more moments to share with audiences.

BELOW: Sharpstown Choir participated in TMEA All Region Choir this Fall and did an amazing job! Students performed with other schools in the region and qualified to the next round of the competition!



The Sharpstown Apollo Queens 54th Line has done big things this Fall. Last Summer, after attending HTE Dance Camp in the Hill Country, they came home with the intentions of growing, gaining, and giving. They had an exceptional start to the season, bringing life to the lights of the football field. They will continue into basketball season, which then leads into contest season. These Sharpstown sweethearts are gracing much more than the stage this year, and we could not be prouder of them.



Sharpstown Band SOLLOPA DNAB brought the beat and energy to the football games with their sound and spirit!



Sharpstown Theatre attended The Texas Thespian State Festival where students participated in workshops, college auditions, competitions, and more. Sharpstown was awarded Honor Troupe of the Year and All-Star Troupe Display for their work done in the classroom, in productions, and community service like street drain cleaning and October food drive.

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- Missing Shingles?
- Have Leaks?
- Turned Down by Insurance?

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- SEAL SECURITY713-338-2266
- HPD MIDWEST SUBSTATION832-394-1200
- RANCHESTER STOREFRONT832-394-2780
- HPD S GESSNER SUBSTATION832-394-4700
- GULFTON STOREFRONT832-394-2660
- HPD NON-EMERGENCY713-884-3131

RECYCLING THE RIGHT WAY

The City of Houston publishes a trash and recycling collection schedule but there are circumstances that often alter this schedule. Leave your container out and the next day is usually catch up day. If in doubt, call 311 or Scott at the SCA office for information. Here’s a quick refresher on what to place in your GREEN curbside recycling bin and what goes in the black curbside trash container. Put these items in your GREEN Bin (make sure you empty and rinse plastic, metal, glass and coated containers).



METAL AND CANS

METAL and CANS:
Aluminum and Tin Cans (rinsed drained)



PLASTICS #1-5 & #7

PLASTICS:
Plastic Containers #1 - 5 and 7 (rinsed drained)



CARDBOARD & CARTONS

CARDBOARD and CARTONS:
Carton - Cardboard boxes and cartons from items such as milk, juice, soup, crackers, cream, beans, water, broth, wine, etc.



PAPER & NEWSPAPER

PAPER:
Paper, Newspaper, Catalogs, Magazines and Phone Books



GLASS:
Effective immediately, **glass is accepted in the green curbside recycling bin.**

Please don’t put dirty paper (greasy pizza boxes), large plastic items like old toys, or plastic bags in the green bin!

These items clog the machinery used to process recyclables resulting in delays and expense.

WEEKLY TRASH PICKUP

Sec 1, 2, 3, 5 and CCT1, CCT2, CCT3 are “Tuesday B”
Estates East and West are “Monday A”
http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html

HEAVY TRASH SCHEDULE

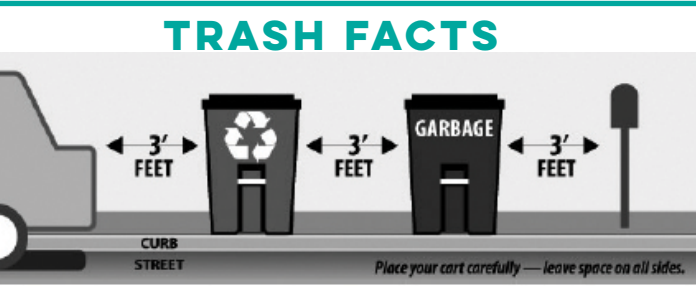
MONTH	MON	TUES	COLLECTION
JAN	9	10	TREE WASTE ONLY
FEB	13	14	JUNK WASTE ONLY
MAR	13	14	TREE WASTE ONLY

Section 1 & 2 - Heavy Trash on Tuesday (second Tuesday of every month)

Section 3, 5, CCT1, CCT2, CCT3, Estates E&W - Heavy Trash on Monday (second Monday of every month)

Yard Waste or Grass Clippings are picked up on Wednesdays.

You may place waste at the curb no earlier than 6:00 pm on the Friday prior to collection.



How to set out your garbage and recycling:

- City-provided containers must be placed at the curb between 6 p.m. the day before and 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day.
- Container must face the street with handle facing house.
- Containers must be accessible and not blocked by obstacles, including parked cars, trees, mailboxes, fencing etc. Blocked containers will not be emptied.
- Leave at least a 3ft space between garbage and recycling container. This allows the truck to operate safely.
- Containers must be removed from the curb line and/or public view by 10:00 p.m. on the day of collection and stored in a secure location.

HOW TO ADVERTISE IN THE SCAN

The SCAN magazine is the official publication of the Sharpstown Civic Association Inc., a 501c4 organization. The submission deadline for both advertising and editorial is generally the 4th Saturday of the month prior to publication. Delivery by U.S. Mail begins the second week of the month.

Contact: Scott Gilbert
SCA Office
6815 Redding Rd.
Houston, TX 77036
Phone: 713-789-2311 Fax: 713-789-2312
E-mail: Scott@SharpstownCivic.org



This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Sharpstown Civic Association.

Editor.....Charmaine LeBlanc & Pat Menville



COH heavy trash contractor was right on time in Section 5 on Mon, Nov 17th. We appreciate that welcome service. Next Heavy Trash is not until Dec 12-13. Anyone putting it out early will be reported to 311.

CONTACT YOUR CITY COUNCIL REPS

All Sharpstown residents are represented by six City Council members, the 5 At-Large members and your specific district. Sharpstown is located within District J. You can contact either your District CM or any of the At-Large members with your concerns or questions. Below is a list of phone numbers and emails for each CM office.

District J— Edward Pollard 832-393-3369 DistrictJ@houstontx.gov

At-Large 1— Mike Knox 832-393-3014 atlarge1@houstontx.gov

At-Large 2— David Robinson 832-393-3013 atlarge2@houstontx.gov

At-Large 3— Michael Kubosh 832-393-3005 atlarge3@houstontx.gov

At-Large 4— Letitia Plummer 832-393-3012 atlarge4@houstontx.gov

At-Large 5— Sallie Alcorn 832-393-3017 atlarge5@houstontx.gov

DOES YOUR NAME BELONG HERE?

Associate Membership enables individuals, businesses, schools, churches, or other non-profit entities to express their support of the Sharpstown community and the work of the SCA. While Associate Members do not vote in SCA elections, they are recognized in each issue of the SCAN, at General Meetings and through other special announcements. Thank you Associate Members for your support!

Alice Lee - Southwest Management District

*Houston Swim Club
8307 Augustine Dr, 77036
713-774-7946*

Gene Wu - State Representative District 137

Sharpstown Rotary Club

Your Name Could be HERE!

→ HEAVY TRASH!!! ←

Heavy trash and tree waste being put out at inappropriate times is a HUGE problem. Ignorance of the schedule and the COH’s inconsistent routine make it an easy pit to fall in.

Please, Please, Please! Everyone can help here. Talk to your neighbors if you see them putting out trash/tree waste before it is time. When one person puts trash out then others think it must be ok too. STOP doing that!!!

Call 311 if they don’t move it - you don’t have to give your name. Call the District J office and report it. Just once I’d like to drive down our streets after a pick up date and see the area clear of debris, wouldn’t you?

NOISY NEIGHBORS?

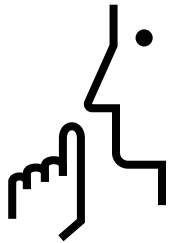
Chapter 30 of the Municipal Code governs Noise and Sound Regulation in the City of Houston.

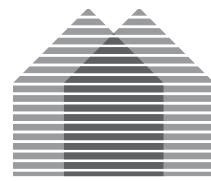
Residential Property Decibel Maximums

- 65 dB(A) during daytime hours (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.)
- 58 dB(A) during nighttime hours (10:01 p.m. – 7:59 a.m.)

Avenues to file Noise/Sound Complaints

- Phone: 713-884-3131 (non-emergency line)
- Online: https://www.houstontx.gov/police/alert_slip/





**SHARPSTOWN CIVIC
ASSOCIATION**
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DEED RESTRICTED COMMUNITY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

Will be in person and streamed LIVE
on our Facebook page.

Meet & Eat @ 6:30 PM
Meeting @ 7:00 PM

JANUARY 26, 2023

Meet the new board members and Houston Parks
Board CenterPoint Trail update

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

Memorial Hermann Southwest – What's
New for 2023?

BAYLAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
6400 BISSENET

Board meetings moving to
Bayland Park, 2nd Mon of the month
starting in Feb 2023 at 6:30pm

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