

SCAN

The Official Publication of the Sharpstown Civic Association

Issue 3

May - October 2023



CHANGES AT SHARPSTOWN GREEN PARK

READ MORE ON PG 14





SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU
SouthwestManagementDistrict.org

We create dynamic economic development and exceptional well-being for the community and area businesses through programs & services...

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

business trespassing affidavits
supplemental patrols » equipment & training
security cameras » cadet cultural orientation
coffee with a cop » multi-language PSAs

24/7 SECURITY DISPATCH

281.407.1160

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S.E.A.L. Security #TXPSBC15942

BEAUTIFICATION

graffiti & litter abatement » landscaping
public art » identity signage

CULTURE

funding for tours, events and festivals

UNIQUE ANNUAL EVENTS

Liberty Fest - *celebrating Independence Day*
March On Crime - *honoring first responders*

PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

for restaurants, businesses and non-profits

PARTNERSHIPS with government entities on
public health, small business development,
infrastructure improvements and more...

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charmaine LeBlanc – Sec 5 PRESIDENT	deblanc@libertyoffice.com 281-687-1323 (cell)
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Helen Zhou – Sec 5	hzhou002@hotmail.com 832-866-2855 (cell)

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ON THE COVER

Sharpstown Parks Alliance

Who are they? They are your special neighbors that are responsible for park make-overs, the annual Plant Swap with Urban Harvest and more. Why don't you become part of the group? See story on page 14



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TRAVELING SCAN

Sharpstown residents Pat and Ed Menville escaped the oppressive Texas summer heat with a trip to Alaska and chilled out with a glacier.

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."



DUCKDUCKJEEP

I have three favorite things. My Jeep, cat rescue efforts and hummingbirds. This past Saturday I was tickled to enjoy all three. I had trapped 11 cats on Hazen who will no longer be making kittens as the TNR effort in our neighborhood continues and was visiting with the homeowner in her driveway. My orange Jeep had just

had a bath and looked spiffy. A really souped-up Jeep passed us by and then turned around and came back. A young lady got out of her Jeep and handed me an orange rubber duck – exactly the color of my jeep. You might not know this but Jeep owners are a cool bunch who surprise other jeep owners with a duck! I had never seen this young woman before but her random act of kindness really made me love my neighbors!! Look up DuckDuckJeep to read about this phenomenon.

I returned home, washed out 11 cat traps and sat on my driveway eating Bluebell and homemade peach crumble as I enjoyed watching the dozens of hummingbirds having their fill on my Turks caps and Mexican heather. What a wonderful day I had in Sharpstown.



THE GLOVES ARE OFF:

This is my 9th year to be on the SCA board. Never in those 9 years have I seen such unkind and unacceptable behavior towards well-meaning board members from adversarial individuals. Social media has allowed people to post negative comments without repercussion. I do not mind, in fact, I welcome healthy discussions of SCA matters, but what is posted online is so often just partial truth and sometimes false. Since there is no way to combat this nonsense the SCA has tried to maintain a distance. However, there are board members who read what is posted and are discouraged and made to question whether their efforts are meaningful.

There are also those who state that the SCA is doing everything wrong and simply should not exist. We joined the board because we want to maintain and improve our neighborhood. Instead of attacking us, work with us. Reach out in a positive manner about issues which are important to you. Talk to us about alternative ideas. Learn to react by understanding and compromising.

This year we are losing 3 excellent board members who could have continued to serve the neighborhood because the negative rhetoric is more than they wish to hear. I don't appreciate losing good people. How do we stay above the dirt and protect our morale? I am not sure, but I am not being silent about this situation anymore. It's time to take a stand and speak out about the good that we are doing.

The SCA will continue to work for what we think is best for everyone. Take your boxing gloves to the gym

Mister Rogers did not adequately prepare me for the people in my neighborhood.

WHAT HAPPENED TO LAST SCAN?

Did you enjoy the 3rd and 4th issues of the SCAN? Well don't rack your brain because you never got them because I singlehandedly failed to do them. More like refused. I was dug in and frustrated since I wanted more help to do them and in my mind that help never came forward. In reality Pat Menville, Tony Tuckwiller and others HAVE contributed – thank you.

Going forward, I will try to get back on the regular bi-monthly schedule. What got me going? Someone reached out to me and said they missed the SCAN and looked forward to each issue. Sometimes that is all it takes...kind words to light the spark so thank you and here is your SCAN.



BYLAWS

At the August membership meeting the SCA board presented the membership with 9 changes to the current bylaws to be voted on. We had posted the redline and new version on our website and discussed it at previous meetings. Unfortunately, we failed to reach the 2/3 majority of members to pass the vote that night.

Wow, that has never happened before. Why did it happen?

We realized the board failed to use all of its tools to encourage paid members to attend and help us pass it. The opposition was in overdrive, including a cryptic mailing to get their point across that the changes were evil and that the current SCA board must be squashed. Let me assure you that these were and are good changes to make to our bylaws. Nothing drastic, just making procedures and definitions clearer and easier to define.

We will be bringing this back to the membership to consider and when we do, we will be sure that the membership has been amply notified and encouraged to attend the voting meetings. The redline version is still on the website and can be reviewed at any time.



DEED RESTRICTION ENFORCEMENT

I have a question for you: Should the SCA pursue a major deed restriction violation as far as they can? The current board has recently decided that we must do this with regards to our set-back lines. Set-back is the required space you have to leave from your property boundary to the structure of your home or driveway. Example: a home owner cannot build their house on their property line...it has to be set-back the required number of feet depending on your particular deed restrictions.

If we are legally supposed to uphold these standards then what is the problem? Problem is, the current legal system seems to hate HOA's and favor the poor pitiful victim that they are harassing. Until something in our legal system changes, we will hope to get a judge that cares about the ramifications of these decisions for neighborhoods like Sharpstown. We are the legal entity to enforce and so do that we must.

NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Sharpstown Civic Association has legally existed for almost 47 years to serve and improve the Sharpstown community. And in all those years, it has taken the collective and diverse talents of many residents who volunteer their valuable time to further this mission by serving on the Board of Directors.

This November, members like you and I will once again vote on who we think will serve Sharpstown the best over the next two years. Fortunately, we have several experienced Board members wishing to return for another term as well as several new candidates wanting to get more involved.

In accordance with Article 3 Section 9 of the SCA Bylaws, the Nominating Committee will identify candidates for election to the officer and director positions. The nominating committee shall present a final proposed list of directors and a final proposed list of officers to the Board published to the membership no later than two months before the scheduled Annual Meeting and presented to the membership for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

MARIA K ALLISON

Terrace 3

Lived here 24 years

SHARON GALLOWAY

Terrace 2

Lived here 28 years

SYDNEY ANN BUMPASS

Section 1

Lived here 5 years

MIKE MARSHALL

Section 5

Lived here 35 years

MARIO PINHEIRO

Terrace 2

Lived here 14 years



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

In accordance with Article 3 Section 9 The Nominating Committee will identify candidates for election to the officer and director positions. The nominating committee shall present a final proposed list of directors and a final proposed list of officers to the Board published to the membership no later than two months before the scheduled Annual Meeting and presented to the membership for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

The following People Have been nominated for Director (2-year term)

1. Donna Fain Existing Board Member
2. Byrom Wehner Existing Board Member
3. Mark Harrison Existing Board Member
4. Sydney Bumpass
5. Mario Pinheiro
6. Mike Marshall
7. Sharon Galloway
8. Matthew R. Cowan Existing Board Member
9. Maria Allison

The Following People have been nominated for Officer (1-year term)

- President Matthew R. Cowan - Existing Board Member
- Vice President – Elizabeth Schooler - Existing Board Member
- Treasurer – Helen Zhou - Existing Board Member
- Secretary – Annie Love - Existing Board Member

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the October 26th general meeting. You must have paid your dues for 2023 in order to run for a board position for 2024 and you cannot have any outstanding deed restriction violations

SAVE THE DATE

Sharpstown SCA Board requests all voting members to show up on Thurs, November 16th to support the proposed list of candidates.

WE CAN HELP

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

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Almost time to get ready for Trick-or-Treaters! Make your street the best decorated!

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.



GOOD NEIGHBOR RULE #39

PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS GO IN THE TRASH, NOT THE RECYCLE BIN.



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.



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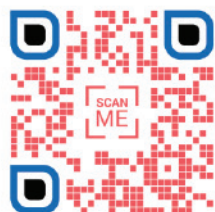


ALAN HERNANDEZ
BROKER & DIRECTOR
832.422.6050
Alan@TeamWPR.com

RAMSEY TRUSTED



SellMySharpstownHouse.Info



MARIA P. HOMEOWNER

I REALLY WANT TO GIVE ALAN AND ALL HIS TEAM 10 STARS, SELLING MY HOME WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME AND MY FAMILY AND ALAN MADE IT HIS PRIORITY FROM THE FIRST TIME HE WALKED IN. HE IS HONEST, HAS A LOT OF ENERGY, HE LOVES HIS JOB, AND HE WILL RESPECT YOU FROM BEGINNING TO END.



17 DAY PERFORMANCE
GUARANTEE

ASK ABOUT OUR "MULTI CASH OFFER - NO COMMISSION" PROGRAM



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

Erica Billings

Donna Fain

Carlos Martinez

Matt Wine

Matthew Cowan

Mark Harrison

Pat Menville

Elizabeth Schooler

Jason Davalos

Kathy Holston

Byrom Wehner

Casey Cummings

Dale Davidson

Annie Love

Helen Zhou

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

2024 SCA BUDGET

During the fall, SCA directors begin preparing the budget for the new year beginning January 1. This is a time when we examine each item of revenue and expense, trying to understand how the numbers will look in the future, and seeing if costs must be reduced to be in line with forecast revenues.

We need input from our residents on what YOUR budget priorities are, what services you consider must-haves, which programs you would be willing to cut back on. We often hear from only those with a negative view of a program item which doesn't help us understand what our community wants as a whole.

Will you take a moment to help by going to our contact form at on the SCA Website Communicate – Sharpstown Civic Association and letting us know your budget priorities? Do you favor security patrols over mosquito spraying? Would you be willing to say goodbye to a SCAN issue or two in your mailbox? What about the fireworks display at PlazAmericas Mall – do you see a benefit? We will tell you the results in the next SCAN.

The SCA office 713-789-5120 is an option for folks that aren't online.

2023 MEMBERSHIP TO DATE

Year	\$ Recd	Count	Avg	& og Total
2023	\$298,935	1275	\$234	19%
2022	\$346,589	1518	\$228	23%
2021	\$336,025	1423	\$236	21%
2020	\$327,016	1382	\$237	21%
2019	\$374,189	1620	\$231	24%

DEED RESTRICTIONS

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

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

BOARD MEETINGS MOVED TO BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

The SCA moved its monthly Board of Directors meetings to Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street effective February 2023. This new meeting space better accommodates both the larger number of Directors meeting monthly, and visitors attending. Board meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month (visit Sharpstowncivic.org for latest schedule) and are open to the public.

Helpful LINKS and PHONE NUMBERS

To report low level neighborhood related violations:

DistrictJPatrol.com

To report illegal dumping for the HOT Team, call 311

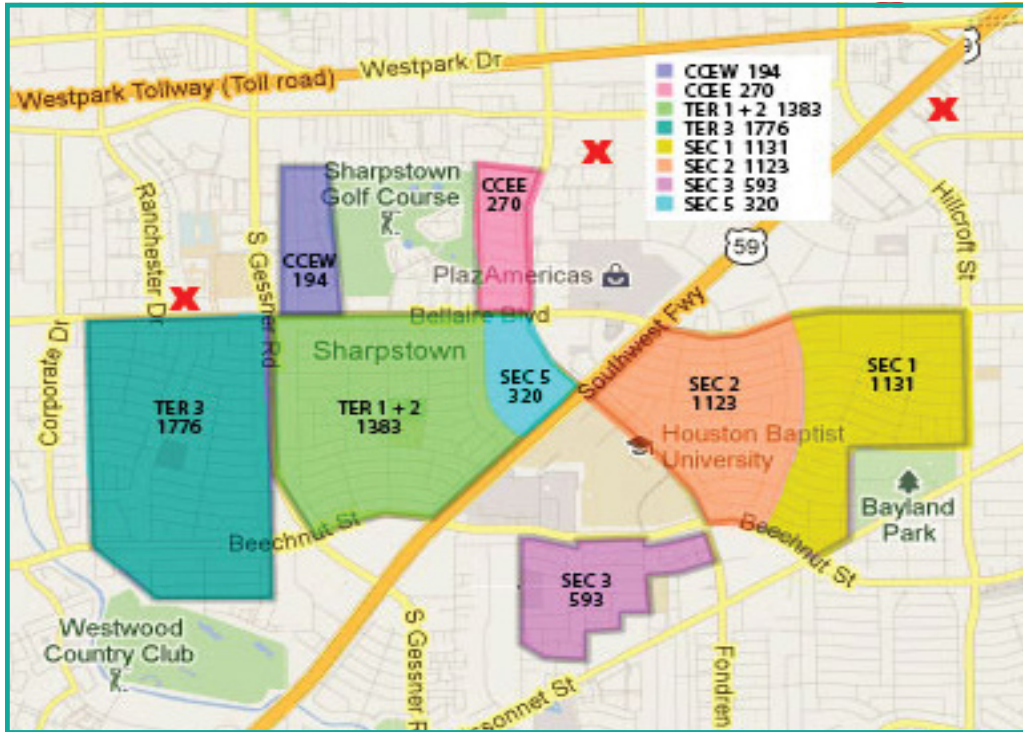
For employment opportunities, visit DistrictJJobs.com

To report HPD misconduct, visit www.houstontx.com/policetransparency

District J email is districtj@houstontx.gov

District J office phone number is 832-393-3015





SOUTH GESSNER SUBSTATION

24 hours daily
8605 Westplace Dr. 832-394-4700

GULFTON STOREFRONT

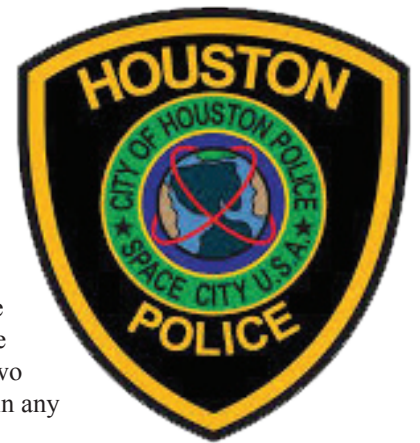
8am - 4pm Mon-Fri
6227 Southwest Fwy. 832-394-2660

MIDWEST SUBSTATION

24 hours daily
7277 Regency Square 832-394-1200

RANCHESTER STOREFRONT

NEW HOURS! 11am - 3pm Mon, Wed & Fri
9160 Bellaire, Ste. F 832-394-2780



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.



SEAL Officer Vera has new ride!!



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

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.



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.

SCA 2023 CRIME TOTALS - 16% DOWN FROM 2022

Month	Robbery	Burglary	Theft	Aggravated Assault	Property	Rape	Murder	2023 Totals
January	4	3	11	5	8	0	0	31
February	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	6
March	0	1	8	3	2	0	0	14
April	0	4	15	3	2	0	0	24
May	0	4	14	5	4	1	0	25
June	0	3	12	4	2	1	0	22
July	0	8	11	5	3	0	0	27
August	0	4	11	4	1	0	0	20
Totals								
2023	<u>4</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	172
2022	<u>9</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	206

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.

In a perfect world there would be no crime anywhere in Houston but that's not the reality of modern life. Is there crime in the apartments and commercial areas around our homes? Of course there is, so the SCA efforts focus on making our streets less inviting to the criminals out there. Private security such as our current SEAL patrols offers a strong deterrent effect. Through August 2023, reported crimes in Sharpstown residential areas are down over 16% compared to the same period in 2022.

But maintaining this remarkably low crime incidence takes money. Your security fee contribution is needed to continue security patrols, officers whose sole job is to keep an eye on our homes and property. The \$170 annual security fee works out to less than 50 cents per day, a small sum that offers big rewards in enhanced safety.



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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>



NEXT SCA SHRED DAY

11/11/23

**SCA OFFICE AT
6815 REDDING RD
77036
9AM - NOON**



- Full Time & Part Time Programs
- 6 Weeks to Pre-K
- Low Teacher to Student Ratio
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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



GOOD NEIGHBOR RULE #19

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



SCA'S MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAM

For many years, the SCA has operated the only proactive mosquito abatement program in Sharpstown. Neither the City of Houston nor Harris County routinely treat our neighborhood for mosquitoes; Harris County only sprays areas where a disease-carrying mosquito has been identified.

The SCA contracts with Cypress Creek Pest Control for weekly mosquito spraying from April through October. Every home in Sharpstown is covered on the same night with GPS verification of service. The day of the week may vary due to weather conditions; the product can't be applied during rain or high wind conditions.

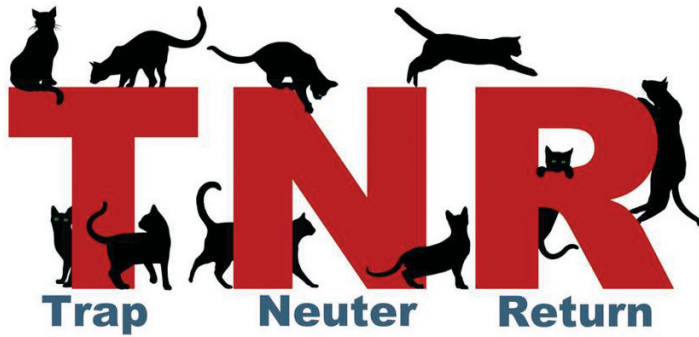
Cypress Creek Pest Control is licensed by the State of Texas to perform this service, and uses Kontrol 30-30, an EPA registered product for the control of adult mosquitoes in residential areas. Detailed information on Kontrol 30-30 is available online. The product is applied using a ULV (Ultra Low Volume) fog generator

Spraying occurs at night when mosquitoes are most active, and desirable pollinators such as bees and butterflies are not actively foraging.

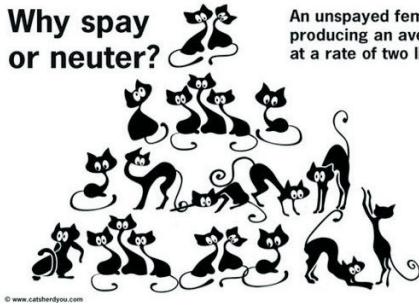
The cost of the mosquito abatement program has risen over time and must be weighed against the SCA's overall budget. We would appreciate feedback from our residents on their interest in continuing the program, so let us hear from you via email at Scott@SharpstownCivic.org.

Sharpstown residents can amplify the benefits of the mosquito abatement program by reducing or eliminating potential breeding sites such as low-lying wet areas in the yard, water-filled plant saucers, or debris that can store water. Make sure rain barrels are screened, and bird baths are rinsed and refilled frequently.

TNR – TRAP NEUTER RELEASE PROGRAM



Why spay or neuter?



An unspayed female cat, her mate, and their offspring producing an average of 2.8 surviving kittens per litter at a rate of two litters a year adds up quickly.

1 year: 12 cats
2 years: 67 cats
3 years: 376 cats
4 years: 2107 cats
5 years: 11801 cats
6 years: 66,088 cats
7 years: 370,092 cats
8 years: 2,072,514 cats
9 years: 11,606,077 cats

Spaying or neutering one cat saves many lives.

Right here in our neighborhood, over 400 cats have been spayed or neutered 2022-2023. Using the chart above this equates to 6,000 kittens that will not be born in Sharpstown in 2023 if half of the 400 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. Please contact the SCA office if you need help with this issue in your neighborhood.

District J recently sponsored a 50 Cat TNR Event just for the district. We appreciate that Edward Pollard sees the value in this effort. His use of his service funds was well spent and we thank him for his support. We hope more city council districts will follow suit.

ED WHITE TRAFFIC ISSUES

A resident recently contacted the SCA about serious traffic problems during drop-off and pickup times at Ed White Elementary. Sadly, Sharpstown residents report being threatened with armed assault, and have experienced parents blocking their driveways and driving on their lawns. Their conversations with the school principal, HISD police and HPD Midwest command were not productive. The SCA reached out to the District J office who spoke with one of the concerned residents. District J has contacted the City's Public Work's Community Outreach Coordinator and engaged them to work in conjunction with HISD and law enforcement to address this issue. The SCA will continue to advocate for our residents whenever possible.

SAVE THE DATE VACCINATION DRIVE



Date/Time: Sunday November 12, 2023 10:00 AM - 3:00PM

Location: Burnett Bayland Park Community Center
6026 Chimney Rock Rd, Houston, TX 77081

Other Services: Free distemper vaccines and microchips for owned pets

Register at: Please scan the QR code to register

*Limit of 4 owned animals per household/address

Url: <https://forms.gle/GvbkRk8btEiuWnbK6>



FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

FREE ESTIMATES

Brick Crack Repair	New Perimeter
Mortar Match	Brick & Wall Repair
Leaning Walls / Columns	Monument Sign
Fireplace & Chimneys	Water Repellent Treatment
Chimney Leaks	Tuck Pointing
CMU Repair & Installation	Brick Staining
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MICHAEL MARSHALL.. LIVING IN SHARPSTOWN



Our family has traveled to Italy, where my wife is from, virtually every summer from the time our three girls were very young so they could visit their grandparents. Adalgisa has spoken only Italian with them since they were born, so they all speak Italian fluently. In fact, our middle daughter, Rachel, moved to Rome 26 years ago and is raising her own family not far from the Vatican. To my embarrassment, I haven't learned the language in 54 years of marriage to an Italian, but I understand every word of conversation between our girls and my wife.

She has kept her childhood home and we still spend most of the summer there with some trips in the area to visit her friends in some of the most spectacular scenery in the world, the Dolomite Mountains and we try to see other cities around Italy as well, always winding up the last two weeks or so in Rome with Rachel before flying back to Houston. Since summer vacation time has already begun, I would like to offer some travel suggestions if you're thinking of going to Italy. First, although her part of

the country, the northernmost part of Italy on the border with Austria, is very popular with tourists, virtually no American or English speakers go there. Most visitors are German speakers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, mainly because the majority language is German. (It is in Italy. That's another story.) Last year when we got off the train, a young man and his mother asked us, in English for directions. To our great surprise, they were from League City, looking for their Airbnb.

First time visitors want to see Venice, Florence and Rome and I wouldn't discourage anyone who wants to go there, but to avoid the crowds, (The permanent population of Venice is 55,000. On a typical day in July, there can be 120,000 tourists.) try the Hill Towns that people fly over between Venice and Rome. If you fly into Rome, you are an hour and a half from Orvieto, located atop a butte made of soft volcanic rock. Ride the funicolare, a cable lift that takes you over 500 feet to the top, and walk to the centerpiece of Orvieto, the stunning Duomo, or cathedral. It faces west, and when the sun's rays strike it in the late afternoon, the gilded mosaics on the façade make it seem it is ablaze. Other hill towns not so crowded with tourists are Assisi, Perugia, San Gimignano and my favorite, Siena. Our daughter Gabriella spent her junior year of college there. And I can certainly recommend the area where we spend the summer, the South Tyrol. It's a mountainous area, so temperatures are more moderate in summer than in the middle and south of Italy. It's great for hiking and there are miles of biking paths. Cuisine favors more Wienerschnitzel and bratwurst than pasta and pizza, although you'll find plenty of both. Visitors find they can manage in English in most places in Italy. I find many people who work in bars and restaurants prefer to practice their English even if you struggle to ask a question in your best phonetic Italian Made Easy phrase book Italian. "Where is the restroom? DOH-vay Il BAHN-yoh?" Before you get DOH out, the barista will say, "It's downstairs." And, oh, you're expected to buy a cappuccino before you ask where the bagno is.

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IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO SHARPSTOWN GREEN PARK



The new entrance to Sharpstown Green Park.

Several years ago, former Council Member Mike Laster allocated money to make some improvements to Sharpstown Green Park, located at the corner of Hillcroft and Sharpview. Cue COVID, and changes in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Now, under current Council Member Edward Pollard, the Sharpstown Parks Alliance has been able to move forward with this project.

Work has already begun, with the old walking trail being replaced by a new decomposed granite trail, complete with a small bridge to allow for water flow during heavy rain. Excess trees have been removed, leaving a beautiful canopy of mature trees to cover the park, and a four-foot-high fence has been erected, protecting children from running into the street. We are in the process of replacing the current benches with new ones so you can sit and relax in this quiet environment.

The last segment of these improvements is to install a living wall by planting bushes to separate the park from the business behind it. We are waiting for cooler temperatures before completing this portion, as we want to be sure the plants survive Houston weather.

Make plans to enjoy this park as the weather becomes more favorable to spend time outdoors. It will be an ideal place to de-stress after a long day or week.



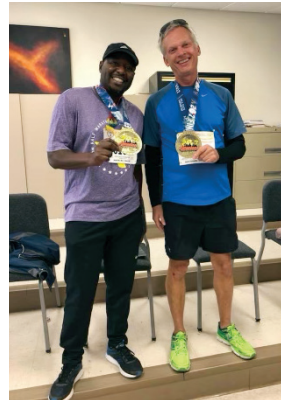
The old brick walkway has been replaced with decomposed granite.

RUNNING FOR FUN(DS)

The annual fundraiser for the Sharpstown Parks Alliance is the Houston Half Marathon and 10K, sponsored by the Houston Striders (houstonhalf.com). With 6,000 runners, the race begins and ends at Sam Houston Park downtown and goes down Allen Parkway to Loop 610 and back. It takes place on the last Sunday in October—this year October 29.

The team representing the SPA is the Sharpstown Parks Runners. Tony Tuckwiller is the team leader, and anyone who wishes may join the team. Our goal this year is to raise \$1,000, and the leading teams and individuals earn extra funds from the Kind Stride Program, the charity of the Houston Striders.

The Sharpstown Parks Alliance focuses on the parks, gardens, and green spaces of Sharpstown, so any donation to the Sharpstown Parks Runners will benefit the entire neighborhood.



<https://raceroster.com/events/2023/65136/houston-half-marathon-and-10k/pledge/team/511418>

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LEGACY TREES PLANTED FOR ARBOR DAY



Under the watchful eye of arborist Laura Medick, students plant the seedlings.

Arbor Day is traditionally celebrated on the last Friday in April, and this year Sharpstown High School, with the help of Harris County Precinct 4, planted two Legacy Trees. The Legacy Trees Project, run by HCP4 arborist Laura Medick, is committed to promoting the benefits of trees, supporting the cultural heritage of Texas, and engaging the public through volunteer and planting opportunities.



HCP4 Community Engagement Coordinator, Victoria Calvillo, reads the proclamation.





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Principal Dan DeLeon (center-left) accepts the proclamation from Certified Arborist Laura Medick (center-right). They are accompanied by HCP4 employees and Plant Science students of teacher Joanna Crumpton (far right).

At Sharpstown High School, students planted a seedling from the Battle Oak tree, three trees that are all that remain of an oak grove that existed during the establishment of the University of Texas. According to legend, these trees survived when Civil War troops built a fortress in 1883 to protect the Texas Capitol. They were again threatened in 1923 when UT planned an expansion, but a faculty member named Dr. William Battle saved them, thus giving the tree his name.

The second Legacy Tree planted at SHS is a seedling from the Century Oak tree from Texas A&M—College Station. Countless marriage proposals and weddings have been held under its canopy, creating an Aggie legend that if you walk underneath the tree with someone you are dating, you will remain together forever.

The trees were planted by students in the Plant Science program at Sharpstown, with the help of Ms. Medick and others from HC Precinct 4. A proclamation was presented to principal Dan DeLeon from the Legacy Trees Project commemorating the Arbor Day planting.

SHARPSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS

The Sharpstown Fine Arts Department is thrilled to welcome you to the start of another exciting school year filled with creativity, talent, and artistic expression! We believe that art has the power to bring people together, and we are eager to share our passion for the arts with you.

Throughout the year, our dedicated team of fine arts teachers and artists will plan performances, and we would like to extend an invitation to you, our valued community members, to attend. These events provide a unique opportunity to connect with our talented students, witness their growth, and immerse yourself in the world of fine arts.

If you wish to contact anyone on this team for your organization, or just to reach out, here is the information. The Fine Arts Department is always available to share the talents of their students.

Mr. Julio Morales - Theatre Director and Fine Arts Dept. Chair	jmorale7@houstonisd.org
Mrs. Erin Lamb - Theatre Director	erin.lamb@houstonisd.org
Mr. Anthony Gonzalez - Head Band Director	anthony.gonzalez@houstonisd.org
Mr. Justice Robinson - Assistant Band Director	justice.robinson@houstonisd.org
Ms. Linda Musollari - Choir and Piano Director	rosa.musollari@houstonisd.org
Mr. Daniel Mabry - Dance Director/Apollo Queens Director	daniel.mabry@houstonisd.org
Ms. Cristin Hlinak - Visual Arts Lead	cristin.hlinak@houstonisd.org
Mr. Mark Curry - Visual Arts	mark.curry@houstonisd.org
Ms. Anyssa Flores - Visual Arts	anyssa.flores@houstonisd.org

JULIO MORALES JR.

SHARPSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL HEAD THEATRE DIRECTOR



- ◆ FINE ARTS DEPT. CHAIR
 - ◆ THESPIAN TROUPE #6511
 - ◆ TXETA K-12 CHAIR
- 713-771-7215 JMORALE7@HOUSTONISD.ORG

SAVE THE DATE

SHARPSTOWN THEATRE PRESENTS

Little Shop of HORRORS

OCTOBER 26
OCTOBER 27
OCTOBER 28

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SHS 1980 CLASS REUNION



Sharpstown High School Apollos Class of 1980 recently had their 43 year Reunion! “43?” you ask. We planned to have our 40 year Reunion in May 2020. Well, we all know how that went... thank you Covid! Needless to say, we persevered and moved forward with our plans to reunite.

April 22, 2023 our class finally got together for a memorable evening together. Over 160 folks met at Toddy Oaks Venue in Katy for dinner, dancing, catching up with each other, and sharing wonderful memories.

Our celebrity for the evening was none other than Coach Bobby Plummer! He was in good spirits, smiling for photos, sharing many hugs and laughs with his former students. Former Apollos football players Brian Landrum and Bobby Stratton posed for photos with Coach Plummer and their respective trophies (see photos) which had been rescued from the old high school building prior to it being demolished.

Much memorabilia were available for classmates to walk down memory lane such as yearbooks, trophies, ‘the Torch’ newspapers, uniforms, etc. Apollo Queens, Drama stars, cheerleaders, ball players, ‘Soloppa Dnab’ members, DECA students, and more shared many fond memories as well as catching up with each other. Some students, such as Wesley Frazier, Jill Wiederhold Rittman, and Elizabeth Bagby Schooler went to school with each other from kindergarten class with

Mrs. Wiles at Sutton Elementary all the way to graduation day!

Our evening could have gone on but we had to end after only 5 hours together. Many classmates have reconnected and are already getting together for more fun times!

Thank you to the Reunion Team of Allison Hudler Frazer, Kris Ludeke Lusebrink, Debbie Cunningham McGrew, Sally Pickering Nelezen, Adam Poncio, Mark Sakowitz, Elizabeth Bagby Schooler, and Tibby Harris Teykl for a spectacular event! See you for the 45th!

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RANCHESTER STOREFRONT	832-394-2780
HPD S GESSNER SUBSTATION	832-394-4700
GULFTON STOREFRONT	832-394-2660
HPD NON-EMERGENCY	713-884-3131

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

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
OCT	9	10	JUNK WASTE ONLY
NOV	13	14	TREE WASTE ONLY
DEC	11	12	JUNK WASTE ONLY

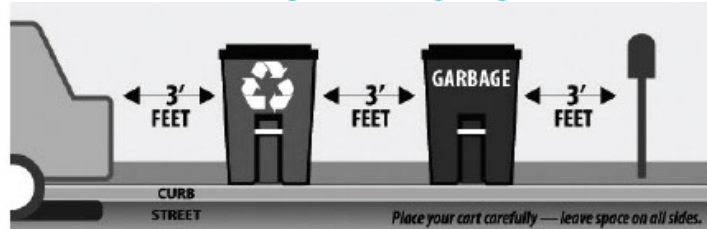
Section 1 & 2 - Heavy Trash on Tuesday
(second Tuesday of every month)

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.

TRASH FACTS



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



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 -
Harris County Precinct 4*
*Greg Degeyter -
Prenatal Disability Help
Sharpstown Parks Alliance*

**YOUR NAME
COULD BE
HERE!**

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Sharpstown Civic Association.

Editor.....Charmaine LeBlanc & Pat Menville



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

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

NOISY NEIGHBORS?

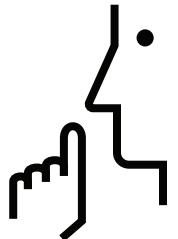
Chapter 30 of the Municipal Code governs Noise and Sound Regulation in the City of Houston.

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/





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MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

Will be in person and Streamed on
Facebook Live.

OCTOBER 26, 2023

SCA Board Candidates Speak:
Get to know who to vote for in November



**NOVEMBER 16,
2023**

SCA Annual
Meeting and
Potluck:

– Board Election –

PLEASE ATTEND

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

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STAY TUNED TO THE SCA WEBSITE
SHARPSTOWNCIVIC.ORG, THE SCA
FACEBOOK PAGE, AND SUBSCRIBE TO
SCA EMAIL FOR SCHEDULE UPDATES,
AND OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS.



YOU MAY JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT SHARPSTOWNCIVIC.ORG

Or Please Return This Form with Your Payment – Thankyou!

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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.

