



M A R I L Y N
E S T A T E S
G A Z E T T E

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CANCELLED MARILYN ESTATES ASSOCIATION July MEETING

Presidents Message- Elizabeth Santikos

July 7 @ 7 PM. We have scheduled a virtual meeting with David Fields, Chief Transportation Officer for the City of Houston,. Our Council Member Abbie Kamin will also attend. This will be a wonderful opportunity to find out what the city's plans are to make our pedestrians and cyclists safer. (Cars too.)

Zoom Meeting ID: 865 1518 5498. Password: 213717

Hello Neighbors!

I am so disappointed we had to cancel yet another meeting due to COVID-19. I miss seeing all of our neighbors but am hopeful that the October meeting will happen!

Unfortunately, the JCC is not allowing outside groups to hold meetings. Gary Zika from Harris County Flood Control District would have been our guest speaker but they have taken all of their presentations online. If you have not already, please join in on one of their informative presentations.

There are so many new and exciting things happening in our neighborhood! We are starting to consider revisions to our Deed Restrictions, we have elections coming up and my personal favorite is the new Yard of the Month program! There are little "mini articles" below addressing each of these subjects.

Regarding the new Deed Restriction Revisions Committee (DRRC), this is a separate entity from the already existing Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee. Please continue sending concerns to the Enforcement committee and revision suggestions should go to the new Revisions committee.

As always, I'm available through email, text or phone. I can also be reached through Messenger on our FaceBook page

"I Love Marilyn Estates."

Remember to wear your mask and stay healthy!



Elizabeth Santikos Announces a New Yard of The Month Program

We are happy to announce our brand new Yard of the Month program! Our fabulous volunteers are eager to get started! This will be a benefit to our neighborhood for so many reasons.

There will be a “winner” for each month and (with permission) a small “Yard of the Month” will be placed in the yard wherever the homeowner would like. In the Gazette, the three monthly winners for that quarter will be recognized with a photo (again, with permission).

In general, the yards will be judged solely on the total exterior appearance of their property and front yard as viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard and property is paramount. Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness and neatness of the front of the property as evidenced by pruned, trimmed and shaped foliage, edged and defined lawns, borders & flower beds and visually appealing facade.

Let’s have some healthy competition and show others who pass though how much we care about our beautiful neighborhood!



Neighborhood Election of Officers

October is our Election Meeting! Below is the contact information for our Nominating Committee. Both the Vice President and Treasurer are term limited so we need to fill those spots. However, the slate of nominees could include any officer position. If you would like to add your name to the slate or nominate someone else please contact one of the committee members.

Marla Cotton (832) 270-7282 [marlacotten at gmail.com](mailto:marlacotten@gmail.com)

Linda Percell (713) 294-7773 [lindapercell at yahoo.com](mailto:lindapercell@yahoo.com)

Gary Chandler (713) 398-3888 [gary at grcarchitecture.com](mailto:gary_at_grcarchitecture.com)

Block Directors

Block Directors are board members and an important part of our association. You get to meet your neighbors and be the “go to” person when anyone has a question or complaint. If further assistance is needed, the Block Director will contact the appropriate committee. Another important role of the Block Director is to attend the quarterly meetings and relay any important information to their block residents.

We are still in need of Block Directors for the following blocks!

5500 block of Cheena
 5500 block of Valkeith
 5400 block of Queensloch
 Braesmont / Kit / Oasis



Deed Restrictions

Louis William, Chair Deed Restriction Committee

Homeowners,

Since we have all been cooped up in our homes, some homeowners have had ample time to review our community's deed restrictions. Thus, a committee has been formed to analyze the current deed restrictions and determine whether any changes, additions, deletions, or clarifications may need to be incorporated. The Deed Restriction Revision Committee ("DRRC") has found a few areas and topics that may need to be addressed with an amendment to keep our community safe, marketable, and current with Texas law.

One of the topics the DRRC is looking into is short-term rentals such as those renting homes for a few days or weeks. Short-term rentals have recently become more and more popular as technology has advanced. Texas law requires specific restrictions in order to prohibit this type of leasing. This has recently become an issue in Meyerland where many of the homes were being used for AirBnb and vacation rentals. In fact, many homeowner's associations are amending their deed restrictions to keep up with Texas law. Some of the other topics include restrictions related to yard art or other decorative objects, square footage limitations, height restrictions, and potentially clarifying some restrictions related to parking recreational vehicles in driveways.

The DRRC would like to solicit input, comments, and suggestions from the homeowners into these topics. Also, if there are other topics or issues related to potential changes in the deed restrictions, the DRRC wants to hear from you.

The current members of the DRRC are Louis Williams, Elizabeth Rivers, Ed Fastow, Carter Hixon, and Michael Strickland. We are committed to making our community better and hope to work together to achieve that. If you have comments or suggestions related to these issues and potential changes to the deed restrictions, please contact Elizabeth Rivers at elizabeth.h.rivers@gmail.com. In particular, if you have an opinion on the minimum lease length that Marilyn Estates should implement—we are considering anywhere from 30 days to one year—please let us know. We will gather all comments and discuss them at the next DRRC meeting to determine what issues the DRRC will attempt to address.

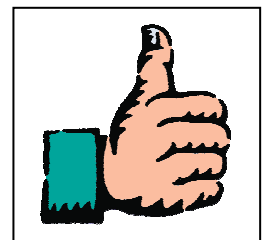
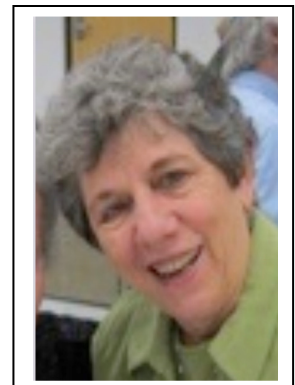
Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community. It is YOUR community, and the DRRC is committed to helping make this the best place to live.

Retiring but Not Leaving

Nancy Hixon

After 9 years of leadership of the Marilyn Estates Association Communication Committee and coordinating the quarterly Gazette, Marge Mayer is retiring from these duties. Under her leadership and diligence, she ushered our transition to the digital age with delivery of the Gazette to homeowners via email. She gracefully herded MEA officers and residents for Gazette articles and ads. Ever the enthusiastic supporter of Marilyn Estates, she highlighted numerous residents that have served our Association and community-at-large. In addition, she was an early organizer and supporter of our Neighborhood Socials as well as securing volunteers for our Yard-of-the-Quarter committee.

Marge, we tip our hats to you for your watchful and cheerful service to Marilyn Estates and a job well done.



Welcome Committee - Susan Gubitz

During the month of June I delivered letters of welcome and copies of the April 2020 Marilyn Estates Gazette to the homes of 1 new owner and 2 new renters all in the 5400 block of Wigton. Thanks to Doug Irr, block captain, for providing me with the information. As soon as these residents contact me, I'll schedule a time to present them with a welcome bag from our HOA. The bags include gifts from Home Depot (11500 Chimney Rock), Avalon Insurance Agency (9660 Hillcroft, Ste. 240), Lowe's Home Improvement (4645 Beechnut), Vogue Cleaners (9150 Chimney Rock), and various merchants from the Farmers' Market (Chimney Rock and South Braeswood).

Security- Maury Sklar

We all need to continue to be aware of our neighborhood activity and report any suspicious people and vehicles in our area by calling Constable Precinct 5 dispatch at 281-463-6666 and providing the location and description. It is also important to provide them any video recordings from your security cameras to help our deputy Constables in capturing the criminal activity. Law enforcement recommends every homeowner to install cameras to record activity to be used as evidence and lead to arrest and conviction, along with installing home alarm systems.

You can call Constable Precinct 5 dispatch to request vacation watch on your home and a deputy will stop by to get your information before your trip.

Here are some additional security tips and reminders from Pct. 5 to always keep in mind:

Keeping Your Home Safe

Residents are asked to do their part in reducing the number of offenses by making sure their doors and windows are locked at all times. Leave lights on outside, and do not leave valuable items in plain sight. If you have bushes near the house, keep them at a height where it is not easy for a potential burglar to hide behind them. If an incident does occur, call Precinct 5 dispatch at (281) 463-6666.

Keeping Your Vehicle Safe

Residents are asked to do their part in reducing the number of offenses by locking their cars at all times, even if you're "just running inside for a second." If someone is watching, the moment you walk inside they could be in your car and gone before you get back. Please remove all valuable items from your vehicle, as well. If an incident does occur, call Precinct 5 dispatch at (281) 463-6666.

Close and lock your garages!

Be sure to program Constable Precinct 5 dispatch phone number 281-463-6666 into your cell phone and notify your alarm company to have this number entered into their system, preferably as first responder.

Thanks for all of your help and awareness in fighting crime.

Beautification & Maintenance Committee *Linda Miner & photos by Michael Strickland*



The Beautification & Maintenance Committee is going along smoothly. LMC has been incredible in providing the best service.

Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee *Linda Miner*

The Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee members are doing a great job in handling complaints. Our Committee (DRC) is comprised of six of us monitoring our designated blocks. We tackle a variety of violations and work with the Block Directors who are our "first line of defense" in solving problems while maintaining peaceful relationships with our neighbors.

PHOTOS OF THE TIMES *Marge Mayer*



Treasurer's Report - by Robert GehringMarilyn Estates Association
Q1 - 2020, Financial Summary

INCOME	2020	
	Q1	Q2
Security - Current Year	\$90,389	\$12,918
Dues - Current Year	\$23,810	\$3,867
Fees - Refinance	\$0	\$350
Fees - Resale Certificate	\$150	\$150
Fees - Transfer	\$500	\$800
Fees - Late Fee	\$200	\$300
Advertising	\$0	\$10
Dividend Income	\$50	\$23
Interest Income	\$1,047	\$503
Credit Card Fees	\$60	\$24
TOTAL INCOME	\$117,233	\$18,622
EXPENSES		
Security	\$27,744	\$28,390
Lawn Service:		
Contractual	\$2,814	\$2,814
Flower Planting	\$0	\$1,000
Maintanance	\$0	\$216
Insurance	\$4,429	\$0
Legal Fees	\$0	\$0
Tax Preparation	\$0	\$0
Admin:		
ACH & CC processing	\$305	\$51
Meeting Expense	\$400	\$0
Office Supplies	\$56	\$0
Postage, PO Box	\$129	\$106
Newsletter	\$36	\$0
Website	\$644	\$0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$36,557	\$41,460
NET INCOME	\$80,677	-\$26,950
BALANCE SHEET		
Chase Operating Acct as of 6/30/2020	\$49,443	
Chase Savings Acct as of 06/30/2019	\$43	
Fidelity Investment Account	\$250,800	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$288,491	

Account Recievable: as of 6/30/20

-41 homeowners owe dues - \$28,615

-13 homeowners are past due more than 1 year

Lina Hidalgo



Harris County Judge

I wish we could say that, because of the COVID crisis, we all get a break from worrying about the potential of a catastrophic storm making landfall this year. Unfortunately, the truth is that hurricane season doesn't give us the courtesy of waiting until the COVID-19 crisis subsides, so the time to be ready is now.

We want you to know that even with the enormous amount of work we have been doing to contain the Coronavirus in Harris County, we have also been hard at work behind the scenes preparing for this hurricane season, which begins this week. We've achieved a lot of progress over the past year, moving full speed ahead on flood mitigation projects, tightening development and detention standards and working with first responder teams from across the region to prepare for and plan for the worst.

But ultimately, preparing for hurricanes is a partnership among all of us. Including you. Here are three actions we urge you to take today to prepare:

- 1. Do an insurance checkup.** Did you know that just 1 inch of water can cause \$25,000 in damage to your home? Standard home insurance policies don't cover flooding, so now is the time to check in with your insurance company and make sure you are covered. Keep in mind that new flood insurance policies take 30 days to take effect, so don't wait.
- 2. Build a kit.** Many of the items you need for a Hurricane Kit you already have at home, such as non-perishable food, batteries, and a radio. Make sure you have a plan to have any medications you need on hand and a plan and supplies for your pets too. Please see our disaster checklist of supplies on ReadyHarris.org.
- 3. Know your zone.** Now is the time to find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, and if you do, plan where you would go and how you would get there. If you need to evacuate, do you know where you would go? A friend or a relative's house, for example? We have evacuation routes and zones on a map right now on ReadyHarris.org.

We all know the sort of damage and loss of human life that a big storm can bring, but it doesn't have to catch us unaware. Please join us in taking the time to prepare for whatever may come this hurricane season.

Abrazos,



Remember to wear your mask and stay healthy!

Council Member Abbie Kamin

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you are all staying safe and taking precautions to protect yourself and those around you during COVID-19. As we continue to see cases rise, I encourage each of you to stay at home whenever possible and when you are out, please wear a mask and practice social distancing. You can get tested for free at any of our City's testing locations <https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing/>. I have been working with our Mayor and our COVID Recovery Czar, Marvin Odum, to have additional testing locations set up closer to the neighborhood. That should be coming soon.

As part of our response to COVID-19, I have been sending out regular email updates, and my office has compiled a comprehensive list of Houston-area resources including food, basic assistance, help for seniors, resources for parents, and volunteer/donation opportunities. Please email district@houston.tx.gov if you would like to sign up for email updates or receive the link to the resource list. The situation continues to evolve rapidly, so I encourage you to stay informed through official sources like the Houston Office of Emergency Management and ReadyHarris. You can also follow updates on Twitter at @abbiekamin and [facebook.com/abbiekaminhouston/](https://www.facebook.com/abbiekaminhouston/).

Project Brays continues to move forward despite COVID-19 related obstacles. Residents are preparing for potential detours and closures. Marilyn Estates will be primarily impacted by construction along the bridges of Brays Bayou at Hillcroft Avenue, Chimney Rock, and South Rice Avenue bridges (collectively called "Segment 4").

Construction may cause headaches and some inconveniences, but it will also decrease the risk of flooding along the bayou. The new bridge designs increase channel capacity, allowing more flood water to flow and drain. This can save homes, businesses, and above all else, lives.

Hillcroft Avenue Bridge will be the first of the three bridges to undergo modifications. The closure of the bridge will begin on June 24, and the bridge will be closed for approximately 90 days. The project redesigns and raises the bridge to accommodate four 11-foot wide lanes. During construction, traffic at the intersections of North and South Braeswood may be impacted as new signal lights and restriped lanes are added. When work commences, the Brays Bayou Greenway trail between Glenfield Court and Queensloch Drive will be detoured to the sidewalk along the south side of South Braeswood Blvd. Traffic on Hillcroft will be routed to Chimney Rock to access Hillcroft on other side of bridge. I have been assured that any trees removed during construction will be replanted, though not necessarily in the exact previous location.

Chimney Rock Bridge construction will not begin until Hillcroft Avenue Bridge is completed and open; *these two bridges will not be closed simultaneously*. Chimney Rock and South Rice construction is expected to begin Winter 2020/2021 and complete in one year. The City of Houston is providing funding for design enhancements including 10-ft sidewalks on both bridges. The redesign includes new intersections at both bridges to accommodate the neighborhood's request. As that approaches we will provide additional details and updates.

Project Brays is a critical component of protecting our neighborhoods from future floods, and you have the opportunity to help your neighborhood as well. Hurricane Season is upon us. By participating in Houston's Adopt-a-Drain program and removing litter and leaves from your street's drain, you can help prevent future flooding and save taxpayer dollars.

Marilyn Estates Association Officers

(Please note that emails are formatted with at instead of the @ sign to prevent spoofing)

President, Elizabeth Santikos

281-788-3220 [esantikos at yahoo.com](mailto:esantikos@yahoo.com)

Vice President, Martin Stalnaker

713-721-2752 [mstalnaker at acumenpc.com](mailto:mstalnaker@acumenpc.com)

Treasurer, Robert Gehring

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Recording Secretary, Susan Sides

713-705-4144 [susansides at earthlink.net](mailto:susansides@earthlink.net)

Corresponding Secretary, Steve Blechman

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Parliamentarian, Ed Fastow

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Steve Blechman 713-723-9884 [sblechman at gmail.com](mailto:sblechman@gmail.com)

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Contact Information

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www.marilynestates.com

Harris County Constable 281-463-6666
For a direct link for Vacation Watch contact: constablepct5.com

Marilyn Estates Association Block Directors

5400 Lymbar - Linda Miner 713-826-8077 [lindaminer999 at att.net](mailto:lindaminer999@att.net)

5500 Lymbar - Rande Smolensky 713-729-9682 [ransmo at aol.com](mailto:ransmo@aol.com)

5400 Cheena – Brandon Mark 713-530-9667 [brandonwaynemark at gmail.com](mailto:brandonwaynemark@gmail.com)

5500 Cheena - **We need a volunteer for this position.**

5400 Wigton - Doug Irr 713-295-0539 [dmi2xjc at att.net](mailto:dmi2xjc@att.net)

5500 Wigton - Michael Bryant 713-504-2700 [mbryant29 at gmail.com](mailto:mbryant29@gmail.com)

5400 Yarwell - Jim Taylor 832-269-1500 [j.stay at hotmail.com](mailto:j.stay@hotmail.com)

5500 Yarwell - Sam Musachia 713-501-5255 [sam.musachia at sbcglobal.net](mailto:sam.musachia@sbcglobal.net)

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5400 Valkeith - Janice Fastow 713-410-0067 [jfastow at sbcglobal.net](mailto:jfastow@sbcglobal.net)

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5400 Queensloch - **We need a volunteer for this position.**

5500 Queensloch – IRA Bleiweiss 713-898-3102 [ira at roamer.net](mailto:ira@roamer.net)

Paisley/Chimney Rock - Maury Sklar 713-248-2257 [masklar at swbell.net](mailto:masklar@swbell.net)

Braesmont/Kit/Oasis - **We need a volunteer for this position.**

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Burdine/Checkerboard - Debbie Gehring 713-927-8934 [Debbie_g7482 at hotmail.com](mailto:Debbie_g7482@hotmail.com)

CANCELLED
MARILYN ESTATES ASSOCIATION JULY MEETING

THE END