



## January 2022

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### President's Message

Howdy Neighbors! Hope all of y'all had a satisfying holiday season.

Is it just me, or does 2022 look and sound more futuristic than 2021? Weren't we supposed to have orbiting luxury hotels and flying cars by now? Robot housekeepers? The only Jetson's tech we use are the video phones and telecommuting. Sigh. (When our lives moved onto Zoom, I made my wife a Jane Jetson mask to hold up at the start of her meetings, may as well try to have some fun during these stressful times.)

What we don't need in 2022 are robots to maintain and operate an HOA that represents our homeowners and responds to their wishes. Before I got involved with our Marilyn Estates Association it was all a bit of a mystery, especially the 'Who are these people who run our meetings?' part. Also like other homeowners, I wasn't always comfortable with what I was hearing from our HOA, so I got involved. Who are these people who seem to be running our HOA? They're the volunteers who stepped up to make a difference, aka your neighbors. You too, can help us make a difference.

Don't like what your HOA is doing? The best way to change any organization is from the inside by getting

involved. Y'all know by now that I want to hear different points of view, I want to see things from a perspective not my own. What I don't want to see is our HOA having to pay an outsider to do things we can do ourselves.

Let's put more focus on getting more homeowners involved with our Marilyn Estates Association. There's so much more we can do to build a sense of community and we could do it with a few more volunteers. Do you have experience with party planning? There's a place for you. (I may plan an MEA car show.) Do you have skills in marketing, advertising, writing? There's a place for you. Do you have ideas for projects that would benefit our neighborhood? Is there an existing committee you think you can help? We want to hear from you. Even if you think our MEA doesn't do anything right, we want to hear from you. Have a neighbor who you think could enhance our HOA? Let them know. (Continued on Page 3)

## Talking Security

We all need to continue to be the eyes and ears of our neighborhood. Report any suspicious people and vehicles in our area by calling Constable Precinct 5 dispatch at 281-463-6666. When calling provide the location, description, and license plate number if you can.

Law enforcement recommends that every homeowner install cameras to record activity that may be used as evidence leading to apprehension and conviction. It is strongly recommended that a monitored alarm system also be installed. 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.

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

Please lock your cars with no visible valuables and also keep garages closed and locked to avoid theft.

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

With warmest regards,

Maury Sklar  
Security Director, Marilyn Estates Association  
(713) 248-2257 cell  
[masklar@swbell.net](mailto:masklar@swbell.net)



## HELP WANTED!



A few outgoing "people persons" to serve as block directors. Do you enjoy meeting your neighbors? Take a look at the listing of block directors on page 12 and see if your block has an open position. It's an opportunity to get involved with your Marilyn Estates community. If you are interested, or for more information, contact our president, Ira Bleiweiss at:

[President.MarilynEstates@gmail.com](mailto:President.MarilynEstates@gmail.com).

# Architectural Control Committee

Reported by Elizabeth Frankowski

The following projects were approved by the Committee during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2021:

Fencing: 5  
Painting: 3  
Roofing: 3  
Shutters: 2  
Stucco: 1



There were two submissions for proposed improvements that required additional information before full consideration of the application.

The Committee is waiting for the submission of a request for a variance from one homeowner.

One homeowner completed improvements prior to the submission of an application to the Committee, and approval thereof. The Committee notified the homeowner on numerous occasions to cease and desist continued construction. The Executive Board referred the matter to our attorney. This matter has now been resolved with the homeowner modifying the improvements to meet the requests of the Committee.

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

## Architectural Control Committee: Protecting Your Investment



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### President's Message, Continued from Page 1

Don't forget that we are revising our Deed Restrictions. If you think we have restrictions that don't belong, don't work, aren't enforceable, or aren't there but should be...let us know.

As always, you are all welcome to contact me with your questions, comments, or concerns.

Ira Bleiweiss  
President  
[president.marilynestates@gmail.com](mailto:president.marilynestates@gmail.com)

**Marilyn Estates Association - Q4, 2021 Financial Summary**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>vs Budget</b>
<b>Assessment - Security</b>			
<i>current year</i>	\$112,591	\$113,570	-\$979
<i>paid in advance</i>	\$530	\$500	\$30
<i>prior years</i>	\$4,042	\$2,000	\$2,042
<b>Total Assessment - Security</b>	<b>\$117,164</b>	<b>\$116,070</b>	<b>\$1,094</b>
<b>Dues</b>			
<i>current year</i>	\$29,744	\$29,250	\$494
<i>Late Fee</i>	\$725	\$1,225	-\$500
<i>paid in advance</i>	\$140	\$200	-\$60
<i>prior years</i>	\$1,143	\$500	\$643
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>\$31,751</b>	<b>\$31,175</b>	<b>\$576</b>
<b>Fees</b>			
Credit Card	\$0	\$70	-\$70
Refinance	\$700	\$350	\$350
Resale Certificate	\$900	\$375	\$525
Transfer	\$5,590	\$2,500	\$3,090
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>\$7,190</b>	<b>\$3,295</b>	<b>\$3,895</b>
<b>Other Income</b>			
Advertising	\$0	\$40	-\$40
Interest Income	\$1,679	\$600	\$1,079
NSF Check Charge	\$12	\$3,750	-\$3,738
Uncategorized Income	\$702	\$0	\$702
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$2,393</b>	<b>\$12</b>	<b>\$2,381</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$158,498</b>	<b>\$150,552</b>	<b>\$7,946</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Administrative</b>			
<i>ACH &amp; CC processing</i>	\$84	\$300	\$216
<i>Bank Service Charges</i>	\$36	\$12	-\$24
<i>Insurance</i>	\$4,484	\$4,500	\$16
<i>Legal Fees</i>	\$1,054	\$10,000	\$8,946
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$408	\$375	-\$33
<i>Postage, PO Box</i>	\$248	\$250	\$2
<i>Misc Expenses</i>	\$40	\$0	-\$40
<b>Total Administrative</b>	<b>\$6,355</b>	<b>\$15,437</b>	<b>\$9,082</b>



Communications			
Email Marketing	\$218	\$425	\$207
Meeting Expense	\$291	\$400	\$109
Newsletter	\$0	\$75	\$75
Website	\$594	\$950	\$356
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>\$1,103</b>	<b>\$1,850</b>	<b>\$747</b>
Maintenance			
Flag Service / Replacement	\$0	\$200	\$200
Flower Planting	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Landscaping & Irrigation	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Lawn Service Contractual	\$11,256	\$11,600	\$344
<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<b>\$11,256</b>	<b>\$16,600</b>	<b>\$5,544</b>
Constable Patrol - Security			
Security Services	\$169,631	\$169,982	\$351
Reimburse from Barley Sq	-\$53,578	-\$53,544	\$34
<b>Total Security</b>	<b>\$116,053</b>	<b>\$116,438</b>	<b>\$385</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$134,767</b>	<b>\$150,325</b>	<b>\$15,558</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$23,731</b>	<b>\$227</b>	<b>\$23,504</b>

BALANCE SHEET	
Chase Operating Acct as of 12/31/21	\$49,083
Chase Savings Acct as of 12/31/21	\$43
Fidelity Investment Account	\$213,283
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$262,408</b>

Account Receivable: as of 12/31/2021  
-26 homeowners past due - \$19,564  
-11 homeowners are past due more than 1 year

Home sales Data  
2021 - Homes Sold = 56, Refinance = 14  
2020 - Homes Sold = 28, Refinance = 15  
2019 - Homes Sold = 28, Refinance = 8  
2018 - Homes Sold = 27, Refinance = 6  
2017 - Homes Sold = 14, Refinance = 8  
2016 - Homes Sold = 20, Refinance = 10

*Respectfully submitted, Robert Gehring, Treasurer*



## Communications Committee

Great news!! We now have an updated website thanks to the generous efforts of Lori Sullivan and Jeffrey Tacy. Their work created a new product in which both present and future Marilyn Estates residents can take pride.

On another note, our newsletter editorial staff has changed. Kudos to Elizabeth Frankowski for her dedication and her excellent work. We welcome Laurie Tamber as the new editor of the Gazette. She brings prior experience as you can see in the Meet the Editor article below. She will definitely bring new ideas.

Steve Blechman

832-603-0958 [sblechman@gmail.com](mailto:sblechman@gmail.com)

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### Meet the Editor



I am Laurie Tamber. My husband Steve and I moved to Marilyn Estates from Florida in September of 2020 to provide “low cost” and reliable childcare for our two granddaughters while their parents fulfill their professorial duties at the University of Houston. I am a retired physical science professor from New York with a background in writing and editing. In addition to writing promotional material for my department, in recent years I have edited newsletters, designed event flyers, composed weekly eblasts, and worked on websites for a variety of clubs and community organizations. Steve, a retired attorney, serves as my co-editor and designated critic.



### This page could be yours!

Do you have a fascinating job, hobby, travel story, interesting adventure, no-fail recipe for cheesecake, or eye for nature photography that you would like to share with members of your Marilyn Estates community? If you would like to see your ideas or creations on this page, or you have some other thoughts as to what you would like to see here, contact the editor at: [Tamber.Laurie@gmail.com](mailto:Tamber.Laurie@gmail.com).



## Go Girl Go: Leveling the Playing Field

By Seth Silverman

Gail Greenberg, a 29 year resident of Marilyn Estates, completed her fourth Half Marathon on Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>. Three races were in Houston and one in the Woodlands. Gail has retinitis pigmentosa and is completely blind. She was guided with the use of an elastic tether. She ran along with her very supportive guides from the Catapult organization, a non-profit that assists athletes with various types of disabilities. Catapult's mission is to turn disabilities into capabilities. She could not have done this event without the weekly support and training practice of her guides, Katie Sementelli and Dr. Kylie Johnson. Due to pandemic concerns, she ran the 13.1 mile virtual race in Memorial Park and finished up at the Golf Course entrance sign. Gail started training for this race at Memorial Park during hot September Wednesday evenings and early Saturday mornings. Prior to the race, thanks to the support of Saucony shoes and Fleet Feet, each disabled runner was given a pair of new running shoes at the Fleet Feet store in Rice Village. Lululemon in the Galleria provided running shorts.



Center: Gail Greenberg, Left: Katie Sementelli, Right: Dr. Kylie Johnson



## Yard of the Month



**October 2021: 5434 Queensloch**



**November 2021: 5502  
Valkeith**



**December 2021: 5446  
Queensloch**





## Celebrating our Volunteers

We have Yard of the Month, but it's time that we also recognize our volunteers.

### 2021 Q4 Volunteers of the Quarter

Lori Sullivan and Jeffrey Tacy deserve recognition for the huge effort they put into rescuing our Marilyn Estates website from a hijack. Malicious code had been inserted into our website that redirected search engines from our MEA website to a European online pharmacy. Lori is our Social Communications Chair who also maintains our website, manages our email list, and sends our email notifications. Jeff is an experienced IT professional. When he heard during about the web hijack at our annual meeting, he immediately stepped up to volunteer to work with Lori and implement a fix. They are continuing to work together to improve our website. Well done Lori and Jeff! And a big Marilyn Estates Association THANK YOU!!! from all of your neighbors.



### 2022 Q1 Volunteer of the Quarter

After four years as MEA Treasurer Robert Gehring was term limited and took a well deserved leave from this most challenging role. After one year we again needed someone to fill the position. Leadership abhors a vacuum and Robert agreed to again serve as Treasurer. He hit the ground running and has been doing an excellent and thorough job. If you want an example of a person who feels responsibility to his neighborhood, wants to do his part to make Marilyn Estates an excellent place to live, raise a family, and understands loyalty and leadership, look no farther than Robert Gehring. On behalf of the entire Marilyn Estates Association, THANK YOU, ROBERT!!!



**VOLUNTEERS DON'T GET PAID,  
NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE  
WORTHLESS, BUT BECAUSE  
THEY'RE PRICELESS.**

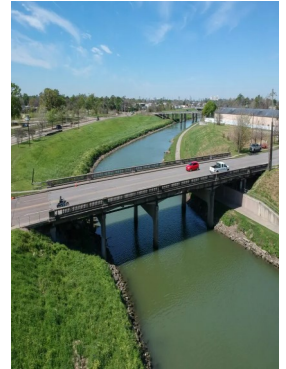
Sherry Anderson

## Beautification & Maintenance

The Chimney Rock Bridge Construction project should be completed, weather permitting, by May or June 2022. The project will finalize with elevating the area at the intersection at Chimney Rock and S. Braeswood. This process could very well impact our irrigation system on the esplanade as well as our limestone sign.



Since the HOA has to absorb any expenses for restoration of our landscaping and signage, we can take comfort in knowing that we have saved up to \$5,000 over the course of this project by not planting flowers. By spring 2023 things should be back to normal and our esplanades will be prettier than ever!



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

## Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee

The five members of the Deed Restriction Enforcement Committee and Block Directors in our subdivision are all working to keep Marilyn Estates the great neighborhood that it has been for over sixty years. The majority of complaints that we receive involve tall grass, bins not removed from curbside after collection and houses that need rotted wood replaced or a fresh coat of paint. Rain gutters tend to frequently need attention. The house and landscape can be gorgeous but if the gutters need replacement, cleaning, or painting, their shabby state detracts from curb appeal. As spring approaches let's all take a good look from the curb at the condition of our homes. It's surprising how so little can make such a big difference.



Our Deed Restrictions are undergoing an overhaul and changes will be made eventually. In the meantime, access our restrictions at [MarilynEstates.com](http://MarilynEstates.com) to review our rules. Most of the complaints that come in are for homeowners who did not know they were in violation. Your Block Directors and our committee members are here to help. If you have any questions, please let me know at 713-826-8077.

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

## Love your orchids, by Derek Lowenstein



Your best friend has bought you an orchid. It's beautiful! Now what? Don't despair. Your house is a great place to grow orchids, and you don't need a greenhouse. Your windowsill will do just fine. Your orchid is likely to be one that is commonly found in supermarkets and florists. Houston is blessed with plenty of sunshine and humidity necessary for your orchid's happiness.

Are you intimidated by the thought of growing an orchid or have sent one to an early death? Most people treat orchids with benign neglect, like they do to their other houseplants that are often headed to a quick ride to the garbage. Orchids are one of the toughest plants to kill, provided you don't expose them to extremes of temperature and overwatering.

Orchids are found everywhere on Earth, except for Antarctica. Fifty-four orchid species are found in Texas. They are one of the largest, if not the largest family of flowering plants.

Warning! Owning your first orchid and having it survive and rebloom can lead to an addiction. Growing orchids is a socially and legally accepted addiction. One success leads to another and then another and so on. And then you are hooked. What started off with one plant growing on a windowsill, leads to more until there is no more space to put them onto. Then your choices are to move to a bigger house, remodel the house for the orchids, build a greenhouse or move to South Florida where you can grow them outdoors the year around. Houston winters, especially as we endured in February 2021, are not conducive for growing them outside. Make sure you have your partner agree to put up with your botanical craving or find a divorce lawyer.

Here is what you need to know to successfully grow your first orchid. Orchids do not want to stand in water. This will rot their roots. Water with room temperature water until it runs out through the bottom of the pot. Avoid letting water remain standing in the crown of the plant. Do NOT use ice cubes, which is often touted on the internet. Let the plant dry out before watering again. Once per week is a good start. If the potting medium feels damp, wait another day before watering. If it feels dry, shorten the cycle time to water. Orchids need a little food every 2 to 4 weeks. You can add orchid fertilizer to your water at 25% of the manufacturer's recommended dosage. Don't put them in the direct sun unless you want them to burn to a crisp.



Learning about orchids is as simple as a mouse click. Start by joining the Houston Orchid Society (HOS). The HOS meets monthly, the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd, Houston 77705. The HOS website is [www.houstonorchidsociety.org](http://www.houstonorchidsociety.org). Whether you are a neophyte or an experienced grower, the HOS should be one of your stops to get your questions answered, listen to great talks, a place to purchase plants from national and international growers and meet folks who speak orchids. Finally, the HOS is a place where you can see and purchase orchids that you have only read about, such as the "black" orchid. Visit us and learn to grow these beautiful plants. The American Orchid Society (AOS) is another source of invaluable information and support. They can be found at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).

*Derek Lowenstein, PhD, a resident of MEA is a retired physicist, and has been growing orchids for over 30 years on windowsill, under-lights and in greenhouse environments. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Houston judging center, past vice-president of the Suffolk Orchid Society (NY) and past president of the Houston Orchid Society.*

## **Marilyn Estates Association Officers**

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

**President,** Ira Bleiweiss

713-898 3102 [President.MarilynEstates@gmail.com](mailto:President.MarilynEstates@gmail.com)

**Vice President,** Dikla Ronen

281-300-1871 [diklasternberg@gmail.com](mailto:diklasternberg@gmail.com)

**Treasurer,** Robert Gehring

281-773-7135 [treasurymea@outlook.com](mailto:treasurymea@outlook.com)

**Recording Secretary,** Susan Sides

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

**Corresponding Secretary,** Steve Blechman

832-603-0958 [sblechman@gmail.com](mailto:sblechman@gmail.com)

**Parliamentarian,** Ed Fastow

713-553-7399 [efastow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:efastow@sbcglobal.net)

## **Marilyn Estates Association Committees**

### **Architectural Control**

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

Elizabeth Frankowski 713-305-6372 [elizabethfrankowski@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethfrankowski@gmail.com)

Dustin Nicholson 281-871-9623 [dustin \(at\) ida-design.org](mailto:dustin@ida-design.org)

Mark Santikos 713-628-6292 [mark.santikos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mark.santikos@sbcglobal.net)

### **Deed Restriction Enforcement**

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

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

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

Linda Maraldo 832-264-3546 [lmaldo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmaldo@sbcglobal.net)

Scott Fertak 713-818-1675 [sfertak@gmail.com](mailto:sfertak@gmail.com)

Lindsey Rockoff 713-304-9537 [lindsey.rockoff12@atgmail.com](mailto:lindsey.rockoff12@atgmail.com)

### **Maintenance and Beautification**

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

Jonathan Shear 832-689-4274 [shearhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:shearhouse@hotmail.com)

### **Security**

Maury Sklar 713-248-2257 [masklar@swbell.net](mailto:masklar@swbell.net)

Sheryl Sklar 713-248-2257 [sherylwsklar@swbell.net](mailto:sherylwsklar@swbell.net)

Steve Blechman 832-603-0958 [sblechman@gmail.com](mailto:sblechman@gmail.com)

### **Welcoming Committee**

Susan Gubitza 281-630-0642 [steve.gubitza@att.net](mailto:steve.gubitza@att.net)

Susan Schanzer 713-628-6443 [susan\\_schanzer@swbell.net](mailto:susan_schanzer@swbell.net)

### **Communications**

Steve Belchman 832-603-0958 [sblechman@gmail.com](mailto:sblechman@gmail.com)

Lynn Busch 713-410-6910 [lynncarol8236@aol.com](mailto:lynncarol8236@aol.com)

Nancy Hixon 713-728-9386 [nshixon@att.net](mailto:nshixon@att.net)



Debra Suhl 713-724-3137 [dlsuhl at comcast.net](mailto:dlsuhl@comcast.net)  
Curt Taylor 303-722-3352 [curtant at Hotmail.com](mailto:curtant@Hotmail.com)

### **Gazette Coordinator**

Steve Blechman 832-603-0958 [sblechman at gmail.com](mailto:sblechman@gmail.com)

### **Gazette Editor**

Laurie Tamber 832-649-7717 [tamber.laurie at gmail.com](mailto:tamber.laurie@gmail.com)  
Steve Tamber, asst. editor 832-649-7717 [sitamberfl at gmail.com](mailto:sitamberfl@gmail.com)

### **Social Communications**

Lori Sullivan 713-412-7022 [lorisullivan at mac.com](mailto:lorisullivan@mac.com)

### **Community Service Award**

Becky Flechsig [beckyflechsig at gmail.com](mailto:beckyflechsig@gmail.com)

## **Contact Information**

Marilyn Estates  
P.O. Box 35144, Houston, TX 77235  
[www.marilynestates.com](http://www.marilynestates.com)

Harris County Constable 281-463-6666  
For a direct link for Vacation Watch contact: [constablepct5.com](http://constablepct5.com)

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## **Marilyn Estates Association Block Directors**

5400 Lymbar - Linda Miner 713-826-8077 [lindaminer999 at att.net](mailto:lindaminer999@att.net)  
5500 Lymbar - **We need a volunteer for this position**  
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 sbcgloba.net](mailto:sam.musachia@sbcglobal.net)  
5400 Dumfries - **We need a volunteer for this position**  
5500 Dumfries - Linda Maraldo 713-729-7086 [lmaldo at sbcgloba.net](mailto:lmaldo@sbcglobal.net)  
5400 Valkeith - Janice Fastow 713-410-0067 [jfastow at sbcgloba.net](mailto:jfastow@sbcglobal.net)  
5500 Valkeith - Julie Fordes 832-969-8349 [fordes.julie at gmail.com](mailto:fordes.julie@gmail.com)  
5400 Rutherglenn - **We need a volunteer for this position**  
5500 Rutherglenn - David Karesh 832-562-5519 [kareshjunk at gmail.com](mailto:kareshjunk@gmail.com)  
5400 Queensloch - Laura Gee 713-204-3151 [lauragee77 at gmail.com](mailto:lauragee77@gmail.com)  
5500 Queensloch - Rebecca Lindenbaum - 913-549-7577 [rjoylindy at gmail.com](mailto:rjoylindy@gmail.com)  
Paisley/Chimney Rock - Maury Sklar 713-248-2257 [masklar at swbell.net](mailto:masklar@swbell.net)  
Braesmont/Kit/Oasis - Seth Silverman 713-201-4049 [mr,seth.silverman at gmail.com](mailto:mr,seth.silverman@gmail.com)  
Atwell /South Braeswood - **Seeking a volunteer for this position**  
Burdine/Checkerboard - Debbie Gehring 713-927-8934 [Debbie\\_g7482 at hotmail.com](mailto:Debbie_g7482@hotmail.com)