BRAYS OAKS
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER VOL. I, 2012
WWW.BRAYSOAKSMD.ORG

Overflowing with Good News!

PROFESSIONALS FIND AFFORDABLE, QUALITY LIVING THROUGH "RELOCATE HOUSTON"

An Interview with Moshe Davis

The Houston region is business-ready; with a sophisticated transportation system, an excellent business climate, pro-business culture, world class workforce and educational institutions to power the industries of tomorrow. The region also offers a low cost of living and an abundance of available land and space. Add to the mix, a well-educated workforce and a can-do spirit, and your business has every opportunity to thrive.

Houston is a global center for the energy industry and is now emerging as a global center for new, exciting, and alternative energy technologies. The region is the most ethnically and culturally diverse in the country, creating a variety of educational, cultural, social and business opportunities and networks. Houston homes prices are more than 25% lower than the national average. Houston also offers the world-renowned Texas Medical Center, with the world's largest concentration of expertise in medical treatment, care, research and technology.

Houston brings world-class culture to residents and visitors alike. From the finest museums, symphonies and operas to its libraries, Houston's cultural scene is well known for its breadth and diversity.

Recognizing the unique opportunities the region has to offer, the Brays Oaks Management District launched a new program called ***"Relocate Houston"***. At the helm is Moshe Davis, of Davis Consulting.

"The cost of living in a lot of major cities and metropolitan areas across the country is outrageous," he said. "The alternative, of course, is the land of opportunity and quality of life that the fourth-largest city presents, and that's where Relocate Houston can assist."

For more info please visit: RelocateHouston.org

"The goal of this program is to move on this already existing momentum and take it up a notch. We help in job placement, in developing job networking, and in identifying communities where people would be comfortable living. We address things such as, 'What kind of job can I get? What's my commute going to look like? Where can I send my kids to school? What kind of cuisine is available in the area?'

"Relocate Houston not only has the support of the management district, but received a boost in February when the Orthodox Jewish Union—the largest national organization for Orthodox Jews—recognized Houston as a city known for affordable living. The union also provides a networking forum for Relocate Houston, with a job board that serves professionals of all faiths.

"They get a wide stream of people. And when they're promoting the move to Houston, it's because there's a strong economy here. That's a message that supersedes religion, ethnicity, race, or gender," Davis said. "They're a powerful partner."

— Moshe Davis

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ETAN MIRWIS

Now in its seventh year of service to the Brays Oaks community, the District and its board of directors is proud of the many accomplishments it has made that contribute to a robust business environment and the quality of life. I would like point out two very specific ways we have made significant headway in the past seven years.

First, our Business and Economic Development Committee has been actively working to implement programs to stimulate investment and job creation in the district. We know that the growth of both new and existing businesses has the effect of generating positive interest in an area and attracting even more development.

Second, we are committed to promoting quality of life within Brays Oaks through the development of new green space and the preservation and maintenance of what we already have.

Recent studies have shown that the proximity of quality public green space has a positive impact on home values. Preserving the "green" aspect of the District is the focus of the Environmental and Urban Design Committee, composed of board members, business owners and community stakeholders.

Green is the color of both a healthy environment and economic prosperity—two of the many goals the Brays Oaks Management District pursues on behalf of the residents and businesses in the area. As always, your involvement in the process is welcomed and encouraged, and the board of directors is eager to hear your input.

Sincerely yours,

Etan Mirwis

Chairman,
Brays Oaks Management District Board of Directors

NEW BOARD MEMBER COMMITS TO
CUTTING CRIME

"Reducing crime takes a commitment to invest in security services, which is a short-term cost. But the long-term dividends of a crime-reduction program are huge, both in quality of life for residents and to the bottom line of businesses in the area."

Steve Moore, **ONE OF THE THREE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE BRAYS OAKS MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAS A KEEN SENSE OF HOW TO REDUCE CRIME AND IMPROVE PROPERTY VALUES IN MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.**

The former engineer and science professor turned property manager already has done so very successfully in Austin and Houston, and wants to keep the momentum going. Moore said he sees his new role on the board as an interface for the apartment community and to help facilitate a win-win relationship with the management district.

Recognizing and rewarding apartment complexes that reduce their crime rate is a good way to start, and that's one of the programs Moore wants Brays Oaks to implement.

Economic Development

The two story office warehouse nearing completion at 9457 West Bellfort near Beltway 8 is being constructed by Budget Construction for a plumbing supply company, identity unknown. Total square footage is estimated to be 12,000. The building is ideally situated near the Beltway with will give the company easy access to customers throughout the Greater Houston area.

The Texas Interfaith Peace Garden at 9301 West Bellfort is also nearing completion. The owner is the Institute of Interfaith Dialog. The purpose of the garden is to create mutual understanding and peaceful relations among diverse faiths and cultures. The facility will function as a museum, a learning center, library, event venue and place for worship and reflection. The garden features three buildings and many symbolic artifacts representing Judaism, Christianity. Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. The project reflects the desire of participating institutions to set an inspiring example of peaceful coexistence among the major faiths of the world during a time of great conflict.

In the interest of ultimately attracting a learning institution to the district, district staff has prepared a list of vacant and redevelopable properties within the district that would lend themselves to this land use and done a preliminary assessment of the ten sites that appear to be the best candidates from the standpoints of location and accessability, particularly from the standpoint of proximity to public transit.

Texas Interfaith Peace Garden Project
To donate or for more information please visit:
InterfaithDialog.org/peace-garden-project

MESSAGE FROM NEW COUNCILMAN

NEW COUNCILMAN GREEN VISIONS FOR HOUSTON

In November, Houstonians elected Councilman Larry Green to represent the citizens of District K, newly defined by 2011 redistricting efforts. The new District K is roughly bounded by Almeda Road, South Braeswood, Gessner and FM 2234 in Fort Bend County, taking in areas previously contained in council Districts C and D. The area, which includes Reliant Stadium, Westbury, Willowbend and Hiram Clark, is now represented by Houston attorney Larry Green. Green is the CEO of HoustonWorks USA, and the former district director for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Green shared his visions for the unique new district in a recent Q&A session.

You've been very much involved with civic activities within your district for some time now. How would you describe the unique characteristics of your district that set it apart from the rest of the city?

Green: I think District K is very diverse, both socioeconomically and racially. You have everything from working class to middle class neighborhoods. The district encompasses neighborhoods that have been around 20, 30 or 40 years, and are very well established.

What are the unique challenges and opportunities you have witnessed?

Green: Challenges will definitely include the infrastructure. We have huge infrastructure issues with regard to drainage and streets—which are also opportunities. With the whole Rebuild Houston effort, I'm looking forward to clearing up some of the problems we have with road repair and flooding. Economic development is also a challenge. In some areas of the district, we have no grocery stores or quality shopping centers. We want to work to afford those opportunities to our residents by working with our management districts, the Greater Houston Partnership and other economic entities. We have very active churches in our area which have economic development arms. From the Hiram Clark area ,you have the Windsor Village effort that extends on down South Post Oak. In Brays Oaks, you have Bethel Chapel spurring development through the chamber of commerce within their church. There's a lot going on, but we need to do more.

What is your vision for the district and goals that you hope to achieve during your term on city council?

Green: One of the things I want to do is make sure our communities understand the process of getting things done, with regard to code violations as well as making sure that, in dealing with City Hall, they know what's available to them. And so, an educational process needs to happen, which we will undertake with all our residents. And secondly, I think we will be able to do something about these streets where we're having problems. With regard to infrastructure issues, Rebuild Houston offers opportunities that come with dollars to repair some of those problems.

Are there some longer-term goals you envision—perhaps 10 or 20 years down the road?

Green: There are certain parts of the area that don't have community centers or police stations. When you look at the CIP (capital improvement plan), they're not on there for the next five years. We want to make sure to the case for the areas that need it and try to get them into the CIP. At least they'll be on track to get those much needed resources, even after I'm gone from city council. District K is a new brand, but a district of established, working class neighborhoods. We're just pleased that now we have a voice at City Hall and that the city will hear our voice.

WILLOW WATERHOLE

MUSIC IN THE PARK

A Big Hit!

Willow Waterhole
Greenspace Conservancy
WWGC.org
facebook/willowwaterhole

"LESS FLOODING, MORE GREEN SPACE"
- Howard Sacks
President - Willow Waterhole Greenway Conservancy

Read what ***Village News*** has to say…

4 Village News / Southwest News ◆ February 14, 2012 GOING OUT

Destinations: Music in the Park at Willow Waterhole on Sunday

Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy will host Sunday Music in the Park at Willow Waterhole on Feb. 19 from 4-5 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Brays Oaks Management District.

Free Music! Free Admission! Free Refreshments!

The event will feature music performed by the acclaimed Parker Elementary School Band and by Parker students in Suzuki Strings. More than 130 students will perform.

This is the second concert in a music series hosted by the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy. Their goal is to offer a truly memorable experience: great music performed in a beautiful setting.

Festivities will take place at the South Gazebo at Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve, 5300 Dryad Drive, behind Westbury High School.

Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy

Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy works in collaboration with the Harris County Flood Control District and the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department to enhance the amenities of the park and develop programs to encourage Houstonians to visit and utilize the park's green spaces.

Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve has been designated as one of only eight City of Houston Signature Parks and when completed will feature six storm water detention lakes and green spaces on 279 acres .

Free parking will be available. Use the Dryad entrance to Willow Waterhole, via Chimney Rock at Dryad Drive, behind Westbury High School. Seating is not provided; bring chairs or blankets. For more information visit www.wwgc.org or www.facebook.com/willowwaterhole.

ON 2.19.2012, PARKER ELEMENTARY PERFORMED FOR A LARGE CROWD AT *SUNDAY MUSIC IN THE PARK* AT THE WILLOW WATERHOLE NATURAL RESERVE HOSTED BY THE WILLOW WATERHOLE GREENSPACE CONSERVANCY AND SPONSORED BY BRAYS OAKS MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.

HOWARD SACKS WITH COUNCILMAN LARRY GREEN

Nowruz

A CELEBRATION THAT FOCUSES ON TRADITIONS OF TURKIC PEOPLE

On the far west side of Brays Oaks Management District, a couple of interesting-looking buildings house an equally interesting community of several cultures.

On Saturday, March 24, the Turquoise Council of Americans and Eurasians celebrated the Nowruz Spring Festival for people whose origins include Eastern and Central Asian, Siberia, Crimea, Anatolia, the Caucasus and the Balkans.

Traditionally, this spring festival that dates back 3,000 years corresponds to the Vernal Equinox and literally means "a new day," said Kemal Oksuz, president of the council for the region that includes Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and the City of Memphis.

Last year, in its inaugural Nowruz celebration, the center in the 9300 block of West Bellfort attracted more than 1,500 people—significantly more than the couple of hundred that were expected, Oksuz admitted. For the 2012 event, expectations were raised and preparations made to host as many as 3,000 to 5,000.

Traditional holiday activities from countries like Azerbaijan, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Turkministan, and Uzbekistan might include singing, folk dancing, story-telling, and horse races.

There was no horse racing scheduled at the Turquoise Cultural Center, but competition still plays a role, Oksuz said. The final game of the Nowruz Soccer Tournament was set to determine the championship, to be followed by an award ceremony. Other scheduled activities included shows and performances, craft shows, multi-cultural cuisines, and games for the children.

"It's a promotion of culture, of neighbors, of diversity in a melting-pot society. It's a way to gather people for a common purpose—to say hello to Spring."

— Kemal Oksuz

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR BRAES INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

Judy England IN CONCERT

5:00 on Sunday, April 29, 2012

Willow Meadows Baptist Church
4300 West Bellfort Church

For tickets ($12) Call: 713-723-2870 or 713-723-2671

Judy England **is a native Houstonian who began her career with the Theatre Under the Stars, and taught at HITS Unicorn Theatre where she wrote and performed musical revues. She has been the guest artist for the Houston POPs Orchestra, the New Orleans Summer POPs Orchestra, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, and the Jimmy Maxwell Orchestra. Ms. England has sung at numerous political events including conventions, inaugurations, and Presidential Galas, and she has shared the stage with Harry Connick, Sr., Chuck Mangioni, Al Hirt, Pearl Bailey, Doc Severinsen, Carol Burnette, the Pointer Sisters, the Platters, the Drifters, and more.**

Braes Interfaith Ministries is a Judeo-Christian ministry composed of twelve congregations representing Protestant, Jewish and Catholic faiths located in southwest Houston, Texas. Their mission is to provide physical, spiritual and emotional assistance to persons in need within selected zip codes in the southwest area of Houston, Texas.*

Their history began twenty five years ago when five area congregations (Salem Evangelical Lutheran, St. George Episcopal, St. John's Presbyterian, Westbury United Methodist and Willow Meadows Baptist) met to discuss the needs of the poor in the community. Based on this meeting the group organized a non-profit corporation in 1986 that is chartered by the State of Texas. Over the years seven more area congregations (Bethany United Methodist, Braeswood Assembly of God, Congregation Beth Israel, Corpus Christi Catholic, St. Philip's United Methodist, Southwest Central Church of Christ and Westbury Baptist) have joined the program and more services have been added. Today Braes Interfaith Ministries is serving more than 16,000 individuals a year and has more than 100 volunteers.

*Visit **BraesInterfaithMinistries.com** for more information.*

TURQUOISE CENTER

9301 W. Bellfort Ave. Houston, TX 77031

The Turquoise Cultural Center's vision is to create a positive social environment in which to build and strengthen the quality of life in Greater Houston – is at the heart of all our programs. The ultimate goal of the educational and social activities held at the Turquoise Center is to build stronger and safer communities through communication and interaction. Fostering diversity, inclusion, and respect for all the community is one of the goals of Center.

Visit **TurquoiseCenter.org** for more information.

overflowing with good news!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BRAYSOAKSMD.ORG

Got Talent?

Come be a part of our Talent Show Contest

Compete for Cash Prizes
Contest to be held In Southwest Houston
Saturday
June 2, 2012
6-9 pm

20

Contest is open to dancers, singers, musicians etc.

Call Susan at 281-935-8331
To register as soon as possible.

Come join the fun!

This fundraiser is for the benefit of POLICE & CLERGY TEAM to carry on their mission of servicing those folks that are victims of disasters in our community.

BRAYS OAKS
Management District
Est. 2003

You're Invited

THE FRIENDS OF WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

20th Anniversary Celebration

"An Evening with Westbury Stars"

14th Annual Scholarship Gala

Saturday, April 28, 2012

BraeBurn Country Club

8101 Bissonnet

HONOREES

Mary Jo Wright – Westbury Class of 1967
Mark Kennedy – Westbury Class of 1982
J. Cheryl Simmons – Westbury Health Science 1997 - Present
Sharon J. Tymniak – Westbury Health Science 2000 - Present
Officer Myron Brady – Westbury HPD Storefront 1997 - Present

TWENTY-FIVE (25) $1,500 SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED TO OUTSTANDING WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

$60/PERSON – RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 14
AFTER APRIL 14 – $70/PERSON
SILENT AUCTION & CASH BAR
COCKTAIL ATTIRE

Table sponsors, reservations, donations and/or information, contact Rita Woodward
(713) 774-5163
rwoodward2@att.net
Website: www.friendswhs.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

health fair

India House Houston

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Health Fair
9:00a.m.—2:00p.m.
Blood Drive
10:00a.m.-4:00 p.m.

8888 West Bellfort
Houston, TX 77031

Need a Check-up??

FREE

- Medical Check-Ups
- Cholesterol, glucose, EKG, blood pressure
- Health Education; have your questions answered by a medical expert
- Immunizations
- Blood Drive hosted by Universal Brotherhood Mission (Sant NirankariMission)
- Yoga Demonstration
- Women's Services

HEALTH FAIR & BLOOD DRIVE

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!!!!

India House Inc. will be hosting a Health Fair and Blood Drive on ***Saturday, April 21, 2012.*** *This community event will provide medical services to those in need, save lives through blood donation and spread awareness about India House Medical Clinic services.*

Please help us get the word out and you are welcome to join us in celebrating health and wellness.

If your organization provides health services, you can contact us at ***713-929-1907*** *for booth space.*

CONTACT:
India House
(713) 929-1900
Tracy Spencer
(713) 929-1907
Sheelu Keswani
(281) 684-8250

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
Commit for Life.

Congratulations to our Seniors! 2012

The Brays Oaks Management District would like to encourage you to continue on in your education and to extend a big congratulations to the graduates of Westbury High School!

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!

Westbury

www.BraysOaksMD.org
Help us Make our Facebook Page at:
www.facebook.com/BraysOaksManagementDistrict

BRAYS OAKS Management District

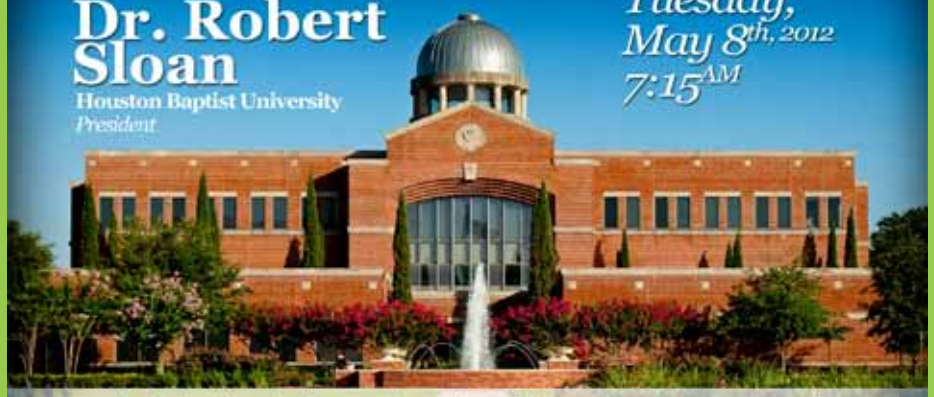
Brays Oaks Management ... Houston Baptist University invite you to our ...

Bi-Monthly Breakfast

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Robert Sloan
Houston Baptist University
President

Tuesday, May 8th, 2012
7:15AM



Dr. Robert Sloan is the current president of Houston Baptist University and has served in that capacity since September 1, 2006. Under Dr. Sloan's visionary leadership, the University is experiencing unprecedented growth as he and his team work to implement the goals, and pillars, in HBU's twelve-year vision, The Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City.

Come hear the University's exciting news ... you don't want to miss this!

Houston Baptist University

MCNAIR HALL - MORRIS CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
7502 Fondren Houston, TX 77074

Seating is Limited!
$10 INDIVIDUAL • $80 SPONSOR TABLE • WALK-UPS $12 AND SEATED LAST
NO-SHOWS WITH RSVP WILL BE INVOICED $10

Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 2nd to Judy Terry at:
judynmike@sbcglobal.net

BRAYS OAKS Management District

HBU HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Southwest Houston 2000, Inc.

Community Calendar

Music in the Park
Sunday, April 29, 4-5 PM
South Gazebo at Willow Waterhole
www.wwgc.org

Brays Bayou Association Meeting
Third Monday of each Month
7:30 PM
The Gathering Place
5310 South Willow

Monday, May 21, 7:30 PM
Daniel Krueger, *Director, Public Works and Engineering*, will discuss the review process for challenging citizen's drainage fees and the priority system for infrastructure improvements.

Monday, June 18, 7:30 PM
Glenn Laird, *Environmental Services Manager,* Harris County Flood Control District will discuss plans for prairie restoration in the unexcavated portion of the Willow Waterhole Greenway.

overflowing with good news!

District Meetings

*** District meetings are held at the District offices**
**unless otherwise noted*

Marketing and Business Development
2nd Wednesday - 12:00 (noon)

Business & Economic Development
1st Thursday – 8:00 a.m.

Public Safety & Security 2nd Wednesday – 10:00 a.m.
S. Gessner Patrol Station at 8605 Westplace Dr.

Landscape and Beautification Committee 2nd Wednesday – 11:00 a.m.

Community Meetings

Super Neighborhood #36 1st Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.
* Braeswood Assembly of God
10611 Fondren Road Houston, TX 77096

Brays Oaks CERT 2nd Monday - 7:00 p.m.
10810 Braesridge Dr.

Apartment Cluster 2nd Tuesday - 11:30 a.m.
10101 Fondren, Suite 100

HPD's Apartment Positive Interaction Program
4th Thursday - 11:00 a.m.
10101 Fondren, Suite 100

Brays Oaks Management District
www.BraysOaksMD.org
10103 Fondren Rd., Ste. 301
Houston, Texas 77096

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BRAYSOAKSMD.ORG TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL

Office & Staff

District offices are located in the Bray Oaks Towers at
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- Director of Marketing & Business Development
GLarson@BraysOaksMD.org | 713.595.1215

Ray Lawrence - *Director of Economic Development*
RLawrence@BraysOaksMD.org | 713.595.1235

Board of Directors

- Position 1 – Ms. Starla Turnbo
- Position 2 – Mr. Steve Moore
- Position 3 – Mr. Charles F. Meyer
- Position 4 – Mr. Mehmet Okumus
- Position 5 – Ms. Cindy Chapman
- Position 6 – Mr. Etan Mirwis
- Position 7 – Mr. Adam Weiss
- Position 8 – Ms. Elaine Gaskamp
- Position 9 – Mr. Cary P. Yates
- Position 10 – Mr. Greg Glenn
- Position 11 – Mr. George O. Nwanguma