

UNIVERSITY OAKS



Artist Credit: Mary Jenewein

January 2021 Edition

Mission Statement

The mission of the UOCC Newsletter is to connect the people of our community, provide access to resources, support each other, and share important or exciting news about our University Oaks community.

Check out the UOCC Website!

www.universityoaks.org

and visit Facebook:

 University Oaks Houston



To submit a photo for the newsletter, please email to vnddesign@gmail.com

YARD OF THE MONTH AWARD

FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS GOES TO:

ALEX ARVMENDARIZ



4839 Rockwood Dr.

The YOTM Committee had a tough time this month. It was clear to us that many of our neighbors had gone to considerable effort to decorate their homes. We debated having categories – family decorations; classic all white decorations; multi-colored; blow-ups, most yard area covered. But alas, we only have one sign. All in all, we decided that Alex’s house, with it’s brightly colored lights on posts, roof lines with changing colors and flashing patterns complemented the beautiful all-white lit tree showing in the window. It was tasteful, colorful, and welcoming... like our neighborhood! **Congratulations Alex!**

Starting in January we are back to focusing specifically on yards and will return to the decorating theme for holiday season 2021.

2020-2021 Street Directors

Faculty Lane
Janine Cashin

Fiesta
Robyn Webb
Jacqueline Couti

Graduate Circle
Louise Alexander

Harvest Lane
Ninfa Barrera
Vicki Eaker

North MacGregor
Kathryn Marrero
Herschel Cashin

Rockwood Drive
Blair Brogan
Christopher Wycliff

Varsity Lane
Janette and David Coym
Antoinette Riley

University Oaks Association Dues

At the December meeting the Board followed a community recommendation and voted not to increase annual University Oaks Association Dues. The dues will remain the same for 2021 as they were in 2020- \$200 per home.

A NEW LITTERING TREND

HAS REARED IT'S UGLY HEAD

A disturbing new mask littering trend is happening in the University Oaks neighborhood, U of H campus, Metrorail station, and on the bayou. A rising tide of disposable surgical masks are cluttering the streets and grounds. Thank you to all our neighbors and friends for masking up, but proper disposal is necessary as well. When throwing away a face mask, always snip the ear loops in half with a pair of scissors. This lessens the chance that if the mask does wind up as litter (blows out of a trash can, landfill, or garbage truck) it can get tangled around an animal or bird causing them harm. Surgical masks are considered medical waste so please ensure they are discarded properly in the trash. When not wearing your mask, please place securely in your purse or pocket. Thank you again neighbors for proper masking and disposal! - SUSAN WEGNER



TAKING CARE OF THE CAREGIVER

Are you a Caregiver to anyone in your life or do you know a caregiver personally? If not yet, you will very likely become a caregiver to a loved one or know someone who is a caregiver. There is one statement we all have heard that is germane to all caregivers. When you board an airplane the flight

attendant says, "Put YOUR mask on first then help the other person." That statement is truly applicable to all of us regardless of our position in this world. My focus is on caregivers. To say it's stressful to be a caregiver is an understatement. Regardless of who you are, it is very challenging to take care of another person and may at times feel like a drain on your life. However, it is always necessary that you prioritize your own health. Seven specific areas to consider when making lifestyle choices are: Exercise, Nutrition, Sleep, Medical Needs, Cognitive and Mental Health, Social Connections, and Spirituality. Bottom line: *care of self* should be a priority to us all. For more information on caregiving refer to the website www.amazingplacehouston.org.

Source: Brain Health Matters, www.amazingplacehouston.org

Happy New Year! - KATHRYN MARRERO

The Q1 2021 UO Book Club Reading List is out!

The 2021 UO Book Club reading schedule is as follows:

January 20 we will discuss
Fangirl
by Rainbow Rowell,

February 17 we will discuss
When We Believed in Mermaids
by Barbara O'Neal,

March 17 we will discuss
Women of the Castle
by Jessica Shattuck.

If there is anyone who would like to join the book club, please send a note to robynwebb@swbell.net.

In December the book club always watches a movie together and has a cookie exchange. It is a wonderful way to end the year. But this year, we were determined to continue this tradition, so we had to come up with some creative ideas. We had a drive-by cookie exchange in the late afternoon and that evening we all watched a movie streamed to everyone's computer through Zoom. It wasn't like everyone being together but it seemed to work. Here's hoping that next December we can celebrate again face to face!

Happy New Year, everyone!

PARKING PERMITS ARE DUE!

Hello neighbors! Don't forget, it's time to get your parking permits! As of January 1, be careful not to park on the street until you have obtained your new 2021 permits! You can find the information at www.houstontx.gov > Parking Permits > Residential Parking - City of Houston or visit the links below:

<https://www.houstontx.gov/parking/resparkingpermits.html>

<https://www.houstontx.gov/parking/permitapplications/residentialpermit.pdf>

A POEM FOR THE NEWSLETTER BY WILBERT TAYLOR

LUMINARIES

They adorned the curbs of our streets rhythmically since midday for us, our neighbors and passerbyers to see.

They were lit early evening to illuminate our community in a traditional celebration on the eve of the holiday season, Christmas Day.

Even now, at the beginning of the morn, the light flickers, in celebration of one of our neighborhood's traditions so dear.

Thank you Committee, for your dedication to what was truly a focused, committed and successful accomplishment in carrying on this treasured tradition of the University Oaks Subdivision. - WILBERT TAYLOR

Thank You Team Erwing!



KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GREAT!

It is a joy to stroll through our neighborhood and see the eclectic style of houses that synergize to make our home, University Oaks. I live here not just because of the location but more importantly it is a historic neighborhood with the diversity of people to make it one of the show-pieces of 3rd Ward, Houston, Texas. Don Whitaker writes in a 2013 Houston History Magazine piece: "...my childhood was made special by the place my family lived: University Oaks, a small neighborhood separated from the University of Houston campus by Wheeler Street. The houses were well-seasoned, some a bit run down, a few luxurious, the majority comfortably middle class" <https://houstonhistorymagazine.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/University-Oaks.pdf>. I certainly can add to the Whitaker piece by recalling the numerous dinner parties and social events Tracy and I have hosted for fellow faculty, colleagues, international guests and friends. No doubt upon having a lovely evening while walking to their car to say our final good-byes a guest would say: "I had no idea such a peaceful and beautiful neighborhood existed in 3rd Ward." I would take it as a compliment but think to myself: "What image of 3rd Ward did they have before tonight?" Perhaps the most common regret from guests "unable to attend" the events in our home provided the answer: "Oh, that is near UH? That is going to be too far for us to travel back home at night."

Whatever the thoughts of others, we call University Oaks our home. Deed Restrictions allow us to have a standard to maintain and even improve the neighborhood we purchased the first day we became residents. I will lead the Deed Restrictions Committee and am looking for dedicated volunteers to be a part of one of the most rewarding parts of neighborhood management. This month please review the Deed Restrictions available on our University Oaks webpage at: https://universityoaks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/UOCC_Deed_Restrictions.pdf and let me know if this community enhancement activity interests you. Each month the committee will post Deed Restriction Reminders via email and/or the newsletter to help us keep University Oaks one of the most desired neighborhoods of Houston.

It is truly a pleasure serving as your University Oaks President,

EVERETTE

UNIVERSITY OAKS

DID NOT LET THE GRINCH STEAL OUR 2020 HOLIDAY EVENT.

A wonderful time was had by the adults and children in the neighborhood. Thanks to all who participated!



Jennifer Gwyn and Stewart F Gwyn.



Photo Credit: Jennifer Erwing