

Crestwood / Glen Cove Neighborhood News



A Publication of Crestwood Civic Club

Volume 13, Issue 1

City council approved the much heralded Memorial Park Master Plan on April 1. This plan, when implemented, will make the most sweeping changes to the land immediately west of our neighborhood since the Camp Logan training camp was built in 1917. Please see the accompanying article to learn more detail.

Many of you who have lived in the neighborhood for more than ten years may notice that we have an abundance

of something, second only to new homes: children! The article, written by a resident and former school administrator, should be helpful to current or future parents when making decisions about child education.

Speaker

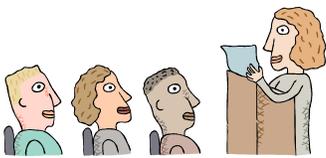
Council member and mayoral candidate Oliver Pennington will speak to neighborhood meeting attendees about the city we have chosen to call home.

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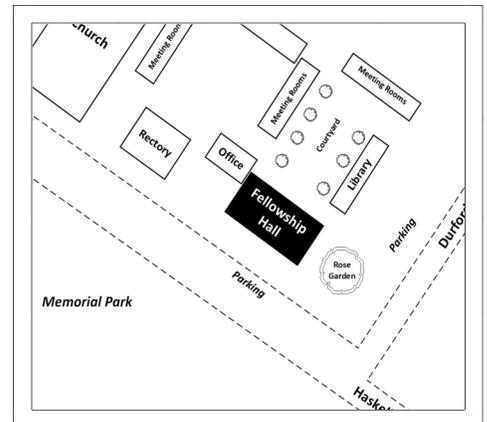
All-Neighborhood Meeting is April 14th, 7pm !



Residents are invited to our next All-Neighborhood Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 14 at the Fellowship Hall at St Theresa Catholic Church.

The meeting will begin at 7pm. We are meeting a week later than normal because of a scheduling conflict.

The Fellowship Hall is on the corner of Haskell and Durford, and parking is accessible from either street.



The Future of Memorial Park

by Mike VanDusen

Residents in the Crestwood and Camp Logan neighborhoods have been engaged in the master planning process for almost two years. The biggest sentiment expressed in the public input meetings, held in late 2013 and early 2014, was restoration of greenspace devastated by the 2011 drought.

The plan unveiled in late 2014 and earlier this year shows that the focus on greenspace is south of Memorial Drive, which will have an expanded trail system making it less suitable as animal habitat. The land north of Memorial will be reshaped as prairie and tree savannah. This landscape was advertised as being more drought resistant and sustainable.

The feature of the plan that most alarms Crestwood and Camp Logan residents is the location of recreational amenities, parking lots, and roads in close proximity of the neighborhoods. Noise and light pollution, coupled with traffic and neighborhood parking, and the safety issues these bring for pedestrians, bicyclists, and students at two elementary schools are undesirable side effects.

When safety issues were raised with the Memorial Park Conserv-

ancy and the Uptown TIRZ in January, they quickly had a traffic study performed.

At the recent traffic study meeting held at St Theresa, residents learned that the study was preliminary and incomplete. The location of the traffic sensors was within the park boundaries, and did not measure traffic in the neighborhoods.

It was learned that the scope of the master plan has always been limited to the boundaries of the park, and that the requirements of park users were paramount in the planning process.

This limited scope is why the master plan places a golf clubhouse, driving range, a natatorium, fitness center, tennis courts, 5 ball fields, the Lieberman trail, an outer trail, the east Memorial Loop road, the IH-10 north entrance road, and more than 1000 parking spaces within less than 800 feet of homes, schools, and a church!

Another topic not addressed in the plan presentations is the destruction of existing forestation to make way for recreational amenities, parking lots, and new roads.

Council Action

City Council met March 31 to hear public comments on the proposed plan. As expected, most support came from people in-

involved with the development of the plan, and opposition came from residents of Camp Logan and Crestwood.

Council met the following day and voted to approve the plan. The discussion amongst members before the vote was about the 100's of millions of dollars that will be spent in Memorial Park, and how this planning process might become a template for improving parks in other Council districts.

Chapter 42 Status

The neighborhood has filed 7 special minimum lot size applications with the City, beginning in late 2013. Five have been signed into law by Council for Glenwood, Terrace south of Blossom, and most recently, Memorial between Westcott and Glenwood.

There are 2 area applications pending Council approval and affecting 229 properties, that should go into effect this year.

Finally, two applications are currently be processed for the 500 block of Crestwood, and another for the north side of Memorial, between Terrace and Glenwood. If you live on an affected property, please call **(713) 203-5746** to discuss how this designation can help protect your property value.

Knowing Your Child Schooling Options

by Suneeta Rangwani

One of the wonderful things about living in a centrally located neighborhood, is that we have many schools from which to choose. In fact, there are so many choices that it can be difficult to narrow down the list of schools which offer programs of instruction suited to your child. It is important to look at the information available to prospective parents on each school's website, talk to current parents and students about the school if possible, tour the campus, and apply to the ones that seem to be the best fit.

With a booming economy, Houston's private schools are in great demand. Likewise, many public options exist, including magnet programs that encompass science, arts, math, business, and International Baccalaureate (IB) to name a few. Many of these public schools have an application process within deadlines similar to their private counterparts. Unlike private schools, admission to some of the public magnet programs is based on a two step process: qualification for program based on test scores, transcripts, and teacher recommendation, as well as a lottery selection from the qualified pool of candidates.

The nearby public school options available include:

- Memorial Elementary, our neighborhood school, serves the kindergarten through grade 5 population.
- Hogg Middle School, which has recently introduced the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and also offers a STEM (Sciences, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Magnet Program.
- Lamar High School which offers a continuation of the IB MYP for 9th and 10th grade as well as the IB Diploma Programme for grades 11 and 12. Lamar also offers the Texas High School Diploma, has a partnership with Houston Community College for a Dual Credit Program, and offers Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

The following require a magnet program application:

- River Oaks Elementary is a public school with a magnet program that offers the IB Primary Years Programme, which is the foundation for the IB studies at Hogg MS and Lamar HS.
- The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts is a magnet program for students with exceptional talent in the arts.
- The Carnegie Vanguard High School is another magnet high school designed to meet the needs of students identified as gifted and talented.
- The DeBakey High School for Health Professions caters to students with exceptional aptitude for Health Sciences and Professions.

When looking at private schools in the area, one sees that there are a variety of parochial and secular options. Some of the schools are co-educational, while others are single gender. This article summarizes some nearby schools.

Parochial schools have a faith-based affiliation and religious instruction as part of the curriculum. Given the diversity represented in Houston, most parochial schools offer admission regardless of a family's religious affiliation. Additionally, the mission statements of these schools tend to reflect a desire to instill core values along with respect for other cultures, faiths, and traditions within the framework of religious beliefs. Most of these campuses are populated with students from all backgrounds who seek rigorous academics alongside extracurricular programs.

Catholic schools within a close proximity include:

- St. Theresa Catholic School, a co-educational, PK3 through 8th grade school.
- St. Anne Catholic School offers a co-educational academic program for PK3 through 8th grade.
- St. Thomas High School is an all-boys, college preparatory high school.
- St Agnes is an all-girls, college-preparatory high school.
- Dushesne Academy of the Sacred Heart is an

Knowing Your Child Schooling Options, continued

all-girls, college-preparatory school with students in PK3 through 12th grade.

- The Regis School of the Sacred Heart is an all-boys school for students in PK3 through 8th grade.
- Strake Jesuit College Preparatory is an all-boys high school.

Several Baptist schools are also close by, and include:

- River Oaks Baptist, a co-educational school for students in PK3 through 8th grade.
- First Baptist Academy is co-educational, and enrolls students in PK3 through 8th grade.
- Second Baptist is a college-preparatory program for students PK3 through 12th grade.

Schools affiliated with the Episcopal Church most notably include:

- The St. John's School, with offers a rigorous K through 12 college preparatory co-educational program.
- St. Stephens is a co-educational school that offers an American Montessori Association education for PK through 5th grade, and the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programme for 6th through 12th grades.
- Episcopal High School is a co-educational high school.

Several Jewish schools are a little further away, and close to the congregations with which they are affiliated:

- Beth Yeshurun is a co-education school with a PK3 through 5th grade program.
- The Shlenker School offers a nursery program through 5th grade.
- Emory/Weiner is a co-educational college preparatory school for 6th through 12 grades.

Independent, or secular schools, provide a nurturing education environment for students. Class sizes are below the public school norms, and offer niche programs, like multiple languages, Montessori instruction, rigorous academics, and sport teams. They have mission statements that reflect the diversity of

the student body, and a desire to educate students to be well-rounded, critical thinkers with integrity.

Next, we can look at some secular options:

- The Fay School is a co-educational, PK3 - 5th grade program that focuses on social and academic development during the elementary years.
- The Awty International School is a PK3 through 12th grade co-educational college preparatory school, that offers two tracks with multiple 2nd language options, culminating in either the IB Diploma or French Baccalaureat.
- The British School of Houston offers a program of study for PK3 - 12th grades, based on a British curriculum, but also offers a Dutch program. Note that the school will relocate to Katy in 2016.
- The Post Oak School is an Association Montessori Internationale school for PK - 12th grade. Students graduate with an IB Diploma.
- The School of the Woods is an American Montessori Association school with also offers PK - 12th grades of study.
- And the Kinkaid School is a rigorous college preparatory school for boys and girls from PK - 12th grade.

Now that you are armed with a framework of schools with which to begin your search, there are a few important guidelines to keep in mind. First, remember that the "best" school is the school that is **best** for your child; not the school to which "everyone" applies. Create a list that meets the needs of your child. Apply early and well within the deadlines. For PK, this might be during infancy or toddler years. But for admission into most grades, the application process starts in fall of the previous year, completes in January, and notifications are mailed by mid-March. Keep a calendar so you are prepared for open house tours, testing, school visits, and deadlines.

Most importantly, relax and take time to breathe! Parental stress can have a negative impact on your child, and his/her ability to demonstrate their full abilities and potential.

Board Members

President	Mike VanDusen	(713) 864-0221	president@crestwoodglencove.org
Treasurer	Kathy Bernobich		treasurer@crestwoodglencove.org
Secretary	Allison West		secretary@crestwoodglencove.org
Board Member	Lon Stern		board2@crestwoodglencove.org
Board Member	Pete Pavluk		board4@crestwoodglencove.org
Board Member	Suneeta Ranjwani		board5@crestwoodglencove.org
Architecture Committee Liaisons	Gail Baxter Mike VanDusen Alan Slvoboda Lon Stern	(713) 203-5746	architecture@crestwoodglencove.org

Looking for Blockheads!

Blockheads serve an important role in our neighborhood...they are the neighborhood ambassador for the street where they live.

They meet new residents, handout welcome flyers that make residents aware of the Civic Club, neighborhood meetings, the security patrol, and answer questions that new residents might have.

There is one unfilled position on Floyd. If you live on that street and want to get involved in your neighborhood, please contact Mike VanDusen by emailing president@crestwoodglencove.org to discuss becoming a blockhead.

Blockheads

Street	Blockhead	Email Address
Annot, Byway, Haskell	Charles Bingham	Annot.Byway.Haskell@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Blossom	Pilar Schneider	Blossom@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Camellia	Sharon Choens	Camellia@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Crestwood, NOM	Marilyn Ho	Crestwood.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Crestwood, SOM	Joni Landon	Crestwood.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
East Cowan, NOB	Cherrill Farnsworth	ECowan.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
East Cowan, SOB	JoAnn Owens	ECowan.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Feagan	Anne Coles	Feagan@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Floyd	- Open Position -	Floyd@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Glencove	Katy Emde	Glencove@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Glenwood	Delana Bice	Glenwood@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Memorial	Hande Castiglione	Memorial@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Rose	Ofelia Mayo	Rose@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Terrace, NOB	Nancy Leveille	Terrace.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Terrace, SOB	Mary Christ	Terrace.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
West Cowan	Rebecca Marvil	WCowan@CrestwoodGlenCove.org

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