

Crestwood / Glen Cove Neighborhood News



A Publication of Crestwood Civic Club

Volume 12, Issue 1

It is probably obvious to everyone in Crestwood that building is continuing at a brisk pace; both in the neighborhood and around us. The focus of this newsletter and the Spring All-Neighborhood Meeting is the residential character of the Crestwood/Glen Cove neighborhood, and the steps being taken by residents to keep our neighborhood the desirable place we have chosen to live.

There are activities taking place around us that are likely to have a significant impact on our neighborhood. The city's promotion of high-density residential building is resulting in larger

and taller apartment building near, and some cases, adjacent to our neighborhood. The other activity is the annexation of Memorial Park by the Uptown TIRZ is providing a level of funding for park development that will transform Memorial Park from what it is today.

Camp Logan History

Please see the article in the newsletter by noted historian, Louis Aulbach. He writes about a soldier's life while training in Camp Logan, where our neighborhood is today.

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All-Neighborhood Meeting is April 8th, 7pm !



Residents are invited to our next All-Neighborhood Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 8 at the United Way building at 50 Waugh Drive. The meeting begins at 7pm.

We are having to meet a week later than normal because the fellowship hall at St. Theresa Church is reserved Tuesday evenings during the week of April because of church activities related to Lent. And the United Way facility was booked on April 1 by the University of Texas.

There is free parking in the garage adjacent to the United Way building on Feagan. The facility has a security patrol.



Protecting Our Neighborhood

Residents in the Crestwood, Glencove II, and Glencove III subdivisions have started making applications with the City of Houston to have a minimum lot size designated on their streets. This designation prohibits the division of a lot, if the replat results in any lot less than the minimum lot size established for the block.



This effectively precludes townhome development in the designated area, since townhomes are typically placed on lots much smaller than the typical lot in our neighborhood.

The City provides two methods for requesting a minimum lot size designation. The first is by block, and the second is by a area comprised of five or more block faces.

The block application requires that 51% of the property owners on a block sign an application for the application to be accepted by the City. A resident on Glenwood contacted the civic club in late October for assistance in making a block application.

Forms required by the City were filled out. Applications for each

side of Glenwood were submitted on December 13, with 87% of the residents having signed.

An area application differs from the block application, requiring 10% of the property owners in the area to be designated sign the application. Once submitted, the City schedules a public meeting, inviting all property owners in the area to hear about the application process, and ask questions.

After the meeting, the City mails ballots to all property owners in the area. If 55% of the residents return affirmative responses, the application is forwarded to the Planning Commission, then City Council for final approval.

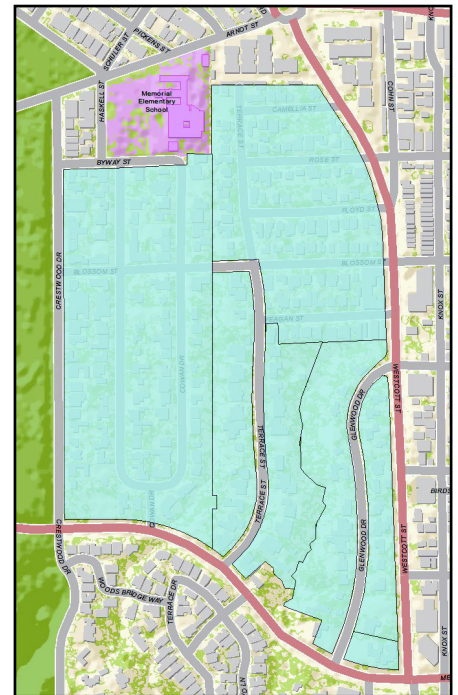
On January 27, an area application for all of Glencove III and a northern portion of Glencove II was submitted to the City, with 15% of the 108 property owners in the area having signed the application.

Work was next begun on block applications for Terrace, south of Blossom, and a block on Memorial. Signatures were also collected on an area application for all of Crestwood, exclusive of block 1.

On March 4, a block application for Memorial with signatures from all property owners was submitted to the City. Applications for Terrace were submitted with 64% of residents signing.

Finally, an area application for 120 homes in Crestwood was submitted with 25% of the owners signing.

These activities have resulted in most of the neighborhood, north of Memorial having applications being processed by the City Planning Department. See the shaded area in the map below.



There are residents continuing to work on the remaining areas of our neighborhood.

The goal is to preserve the character of the neighborhood we have chosen to live, and protect our property values. If you have questions, please email info@crestwoodglencove.org.



Construction Around Us

The City of Houston has been promoting high density development in and around the central urban area for some time. This is an effort to urbanize Houston, and bring tax dollars back into the City from the suburbs.

Several projects, near or adjacent to our neighborhood, are a result of that effort.

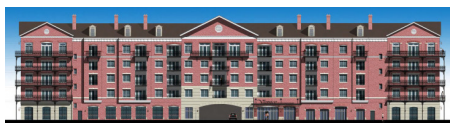
Further Away

The closest project that is furthest along is the Sunrise Birdsall Apartments behind the Valero station on Memorial.



Currently under construction, this is a 180-unit complex on about 1.5 acres.

Immediately to the east of the Sunrise project, the 57 Off Memorial apartments are to be replaced by new mid-rise units that have not yet started construction.



This is to be 280-units on 2.3 acres, spanning two block faces on Venice. It will be behind MW Cleaners and Wells Fargo Bank.

Closer to Home

The Memorial Club Apartments at the Washington-Westcott traffic circle are to be replaced by

mid-rise units on each side of Westcott. Construction should start this year on the east property, with completion scheduled for 2015.

This is to be a mixed-use facility, with retail on the ground floor, and 297 apartment units on five floors above ground.



The Trader-Joe's, originally slated for the property, is being replaced by other retail businesses, such as cafes and shops.

Currently, there are no firm plans for the west property, consisting of 2.8 acres. But the owners, Greystar, have mentioned that they foresee this to be a luxury apartment complex with 2-3 floors of parking, topped with about 8 residential floors.

6017 Memorial

Many residents see that the property is now devoid of trees. The previous owner, Visconti Properties, replatted the land for 10 lots in February 2013.

Visconti sold the property in July 2013, and the current owner is replatting the property for 17 lots. The survey, filed with the Planning Commission in conjunction with the replat request, specifies that single-family residential townhome units are to be built.

Memorial Park

The Memorial Park Conservancy has hosted three public meetings and several targeted meetings to get public input for the new Master Plan being drafted. The input phase is now closed, and drafting of the plan should have started. The common theme expressed in these meetings has been *preservation*.

The Conservancy held a meeting in November where it exhibited several plans for the refurbishment of the Lieberman Trail. This project is not part of the Master Plan, but is being done in concert with it.

Construction is underway on the Running Center in the southwest part of the Park. Completion is expected by this Summer.

The biggest impact to our neighborhood will likely be the connection between Memorial Park and Buffalo Bayou Park. City officials have been grappling with installing a multi-use trail between the parks for several years.

The Bayou Greenways Initiative supports using bayou rights-of-way for trails, but the City favors using Memorial for connecting these two parks. The question is: ***How much of which side of Memorial Drive will be needed to connect Memorial and Buffalo Bayou Parks?***

Work and Play at Camp Logan

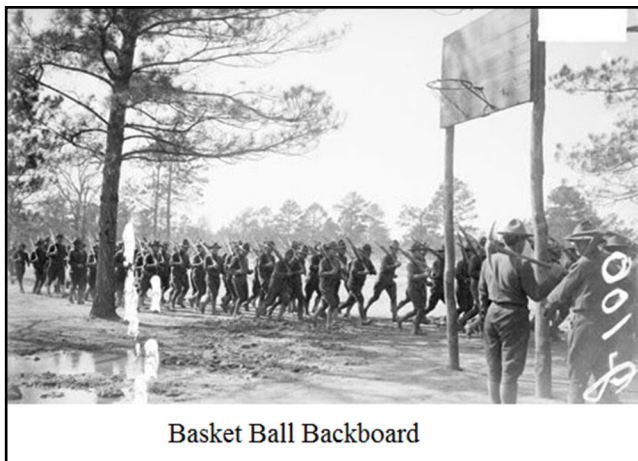
by Louis F. Aulbach

When the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, the War Department established thirty-two emergency training camps for the Army in communities around the country. One of those camps was established on the western outskirts of Houston, and the main camp of this facility called Camp Logan was located on the tract of land that is Memorial Park today.

In September, 1917, troops began to arrive at Camp Logan and by December, the camp was home to over 34,000 soldiers. The city of Houston had a population at that time of only about 130,000 people. With such a large influx of men to the area, there was some concern on the part of the military about how to manage the men in their off duty hours. One means of entertainment seemed natural for these young men -- sports and athletics.

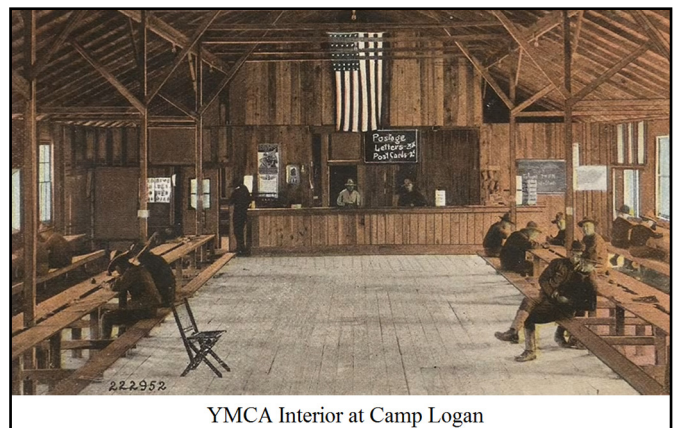
On January 20, 1918, Clark Bruster, a soldier in the Military Police unit of the 78th Field Artillery regiment, wrote to his father back home in Waverly, New York about the "pick up" games in his regiment:

"Last night I played basket ball for a while and, gee, today I am lame all over. Nearly every battery has a court fixed up between the tents and the bath house, and we have fun playing."



Basket Ball Backboard

It was not only these casual games at Camp Logan. The War Department actually believed that athletics were an important aspect of the training program. Along with the intensive instruction in military skills, such as marksmanship, drill practice, artillery exercises, trench warfare and gas masks training, the soldiers were asked to participate in a number of organized athletic events and programs. Athletics and team sports augmented the type of physical training and team building that would be necessary on the battlefield.



YMCA Interior at Camp Logan

When the 122nd Field Artillery set up camp in October, 1917, the munitions detail of the regiment used dynamite to clear ground for a baseball diamond for the regiment's games. How much better could they mix work and play?

The individual units did form their own sports games, but the Army desired a more organized program of athletics. To implement this program, the War Department enlisted the YMCA to oversee the athletic programs at camps throughout the US. At Camp Logan, the YMCA hired a prominent professional baseball player and former college football star of the day, Leslie Mann, to be the Athletic Director at Camp Logan.

As soon as Leslie Mann joined the YMCA staff in October, 1917, he began to develop an event that would inaugurate the Y's extensive sports program.

Work and Play at Camp Logan, continued

A full day of track and field events and an equestrian program were planned for Thanksgiving Day, 1917. Competitions in basketball, volleyball, hand ball, boxing and wrestling pitted teams from every regiment at camp in contests that would determine the regimental champions in each sport. Trophies were provided to the champions. The equestrian events included races, jumping, fancy riding and trick riding. Each event was designed to exhibit the high levels of horsemanship found in the Army. The feature event of the "Athletic Carnival," as it was called, was a modified marathon from Rice Institute, down Main Street to the Rice Hotel, then out the San Felipe Road to the parade ground at Camp Logan where all of the events were held.

In December, 1917, YMCA camp athletic director Leslie Mann laid out his plan for the ongoing sports events at the camp. The plans included the establishment of sports leagues in baseball, basketball and soccer. There were two baseball leagues, one consisting of eight teams from the infantry regiments, and another consisting of eight teams from the artillery regiments. The winners of each league played a three game series for the baseball championship of Camp Logan.

Basketball leagues were established at the YMCA buildings that had basketball courts. One of the new basketball leagues was composed of teams from the various machine gun companies.

A track and field meet was organized by the YMCA athletic director Leslie Mann, as well. The meet was held on the field of the 370th Infantry with races to include 50, 100, 220, 440 yard, half mile, and one mile races. Field events were to include shot put contests, high and low broad jumps, the hop, skip and jump event, and a half mile relay race. A loving cup was awarded to the company that compiled the greatest number of points. Individual winners in each event received blue, red, green and white ribbons in recognition of their achievements.

Leslie Mann's organizational efforts in December paid off. During January, 1918, the YMCA athletic program was in full swing. The attendance at the

organized and the informal athletic events put on by the YMCA totaled 122,347 soldiers. With a wealth of athletic skill and coaching talent, Mann was the right man for the job at Camp Logan. Leslie Mann was the head basketball coach at Rice Institute for the 1919-1920 season. After the war, he continued his illustrious career in sports until his death on January 14, 1962.

As much as the soldiers enjoyed the sports at Camp Logan, the seriousness of their training was understood when the units were deployed to France to fight on the front lines. Between March and May of 1918, the first wave of soldiers who trained at Camp Logan was sent overseas to fight on the battlefield until the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

There must have been a method to the athletics training for the men at Camp Logan because they performed very well in battle. Nine soldiers from the 33rd Division received the United States Medal of Honor for bravery and valor in battle. Members of the 370th Infantry, the African-American regiment from Camp Logan which was assigned to fight with the French Army, were awarded twenty-one Distinguished Service Medals by the U. S. Army and seventy-one Croix de Guerre medals from the French government. The units from Camp Logan were among the most decorated soldiers of the American Expeditionary Force.



Board Members

President	Mike VanDusen	(713)864-0221	president@crestwoodglencove.org
Treasurer	Kathy Bernobich		treasurer@crestwoodglencove.org
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Board Member	Suneeta Ranjwani		board5@crestwoodglencove.org
Board Member	Robert Hamlin		board3@crestwoodglencove.org
Architecture Committee Liaisons	Bill Owens Mike VanDusen	(713)861-0995	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 are three empty positions; one on Floyd, one on Terrace north of Blossom, and the last on Haskell. If you live on those streets 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
Arnot, Byway, Haskell	- Open Position -	Arnot.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	- Open Position -	Terrace.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Terrace, SOB	Mary Christ	Terrace.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
West Cowan	Rebecca Marvil	WCowan@CrestwoodGlenCove.org

Crestwood Civic Club

P.O. Box 131594
Houston, Texas 77219-1594

email: info@crestwoodglencove.org

www.crestwoodglencove.org

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