



Fall, 2019

A publication of the Crestwood Civic Club

WEBSITE

Our website has been updated (<http://crestwoodglencove.org/>). Please take a minute to check it out. Many thanks to Crestwood resident Peggy Burck for her efforts. We are working towards migrating to a more modern platform soon, which will allow us to add Paypal as an option for annual dues and create a more modern look. Do you have neighborhood photos to share?

FACEBOOK

We now have a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2719942918231914/>). Please join if you are a Facebook user. As we get more members, we can use this platform for communication and sharing of questions and concerns in the neighborhood.

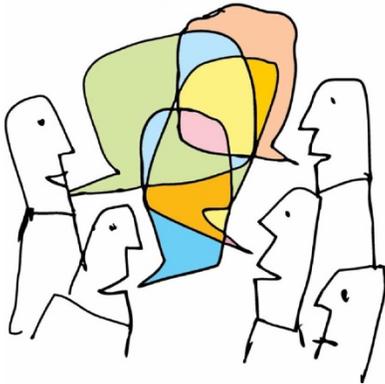
NEXTDOOR

Another good way to stay in touch on what's happening in our neighborhood and surrounding areas is Nextdoor (<https://nextdoor.com/>). You have the option to follow only Crestwood, or perhaps also add Rice Military and Camp Logan.

NEWSLETTER

Please make sure we have your most recent email as this is our main communication channel. We are no longer mailing newsletters, which saves considerable money and time. Stay informed!

**Social Media –
sign up and
stay informed**





**OCTOBER 15, 2019 at 6 PM
St. Theresa's Fellowship Hall**

- ◆ Social hour with food and drinks at 6:00 pm
- ◆ Meet the candidates for District C City Council (replacing Ellen Cohen, who is term-limited so not able to run again)
- ◆ 7:00 pm – short statement from each candidate
- ◆ 7:30 pm – regular meeting

MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GETS AN “A” RATING FROM TEA; PROCESS UNDERWAY TO OBTAIN IB DESIGNATION



On August 15, MES received the highest rating possible from the Texas Education Association with a score of 94 out of 100, as well as 5 out of a possible 6 distinctions. Under the direction of Principal Dr. Maria Garcia, test scores have been on the rise for 3 years at this dual-language school. For more information, <https://txschools.gov/schools/101912204/overview>. Get involved at <https://www.liftmemorial.org/>.

Also, the school has started the 2-year process to earn an International Baccalaureate designation. Teacher training has already begun. Urban Harvest will be back on campus for another year. A music program started last year. After-school care will continue to be offered at all grade levels.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER 28 AT 8 AM!
COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKDAY FOLLOWED BY PICNIC LUNCH AROUND 11 AM!
COME SEE THIS UP-AND-COMING SCHOOL AND HELP PREPARE THE GARDEN FOR
THE FALL PLANTING SEASON. FRUIT TREE PLAQUES HONORING THE DONORS
WILL BE INSTALLED.**

Crestwood Security = Valuable service – not included in Civic Club Membership by Lon Stern

Currently, about 50% of our neighbors are paying for the security service that is a proven crime deterrent for all. As everyone knows, our neighborhood has become essentially crime-free, since Top Gun began patrolling several years ago. Top Gun has been taken over by a larger security company, Garda World, but our overall security program is remaining essentially unchanged. The plan is for our officers' uniforms and patrol car to be rebranded as **GARDAWORLD**. The security officers continue to provide a major deterrence to potential crime in our neighborhood. We are surrounded by neighborhoods with significantly more crime.

The approaching holiday period requires greater security against criminals who are opportunists, eyeing the holiday packages on our doorsteps and appearing to be checking homes for targeting. Crime continues all around our neighborhood and criminal activity is a major concern city-wide. Every single household in our neighborhood benefits from Top Gun/Garda World's neighborhood patrolling and all our home values have been preserved with the patrols (realtors use this point in their sales pitches). If every household would participate in the Security Program, the participant fee could be cut in half to less than \$1000/yr. On the other hand, if the participation rate declines, the Security program will not be sustainable long-term; patrols will have to be decreased and we will all suffer the consequences of more criminal threats.

Participation in the program has many benefits: e.g., 1) on-property checks, 2) security officer assistance, such as responses to security concerns at your home, being escorted to your door when concerned about returning home alone, 3) officer response to security alarms (within minutes), 3) vacation watch monitoring of your home, and 4) monitoring your home for packages, newspapers, etc. that may build up, making the home appear un-occupied, while you are away.

Conversely, for non-participants, the security officers are legally prohibited from accessing their property and therefore from responding to any issues or requests from non-participants.

Our plea is that every neighbor not currently participating will join the Security Program in 2019/2020, so we can all bear the cost of the safe neighborhood we all currently enjoy.

To enroll in the Security program or receive additional program information, please email Security@Crestwoodsecurity.org.

Trash and Recycling Reminder:

- Let's keep our neighborhood looking neat by concealing your bins until it's time to put them on the street (between 6 pm the day before and 7 am the day of collection!

▪ For more information, please click on the link below. Thanks for your cooperation!!

[https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/pdf_files/002_Ccollections_08162016_\(v4\).pdf](https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/pdf_files/002_Ccollections_08162016_(v4).pdf)

RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT AS POPULATION DENSITY INCREASES

By Mike VanDusen

Residential parking permits (RPPs) are available to residential property owners when excessive non-resident parking occurs on neighborhood streets. Crestwood residents may be aware that property owners on Glencove applied for and were granted an RPP designation earlier this year, and Glenwood residents made a similar application more recently which was denied as residents were mixed on support for the RPPs. These designations allow for residential property owners to reserve the street parking in front of their homes for their vehicles and those of their guests.

RPPs will become more important in the future. Houston has off-street parking requirements for all types of development within the city. The downtown business district (CBD) is exempt from these requirements because of available transit options and the commitment of 20% of the area in downtown to off-street pay parking. The city recently approved the expansion of the CBD exemption into the Midtown and East End neighborhoods.

The justifications given were 1) multi-modal transit options, including light rail, Uber/Lyft, bicycling, and walking, 2) high density development, including commercial integrated into high-rise multi-family units and small scale retail development, including food and beverage retail, 3) high land values resulting in excessively expensive parking that may not be fully utilized, and 4) less reliance on personal motor vehicles. This prompted residential property owners to voice concern regarding commercial vehicle parking overflowing into the nearby residential street grid. The city responded by pointing out that RPPs are available to alleviate that problem, should it arise.

High-rise multi-family developers are starting to apply for, and are being granted, variances from the requirements set forth in the city's parking code for the same reasons that justified the CBD exemption expansion. Residents living nearby the abundant bars along Washington Avenue have been using RPPs to control parking in front of their homes and minimize the unruly behavior of some bar patrons. As a result, patrons have begun driving personal vehicles to within a few thousand feet of their favorite bar and using ride-shares to take them the final distance.

The townhome development that has occurred near Crestwood is giving way to high-rise multi-family development. This means we may have a much greater need for residential parking permits in the future.

For more information, check out this information on the City of Houston website:

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

<https://www.houstontx.gov/parking/res-faq.html>

TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SAFETY

Three new sets of speed cushions were recently installed along Crestwood Drive north of Memorial Drive to help slow cut-through traffic. Neighbors have noticed some improvement. One new set of speed cushions were installed on the north end of Glenwood Drive. Our Civic Club contracted with an independent installer and contributed \$2000 for each set of speed cushions and residents contributed the balance.

Speed cushions must adhere to specific City of Houston parameters and be approved in advance by City officials and the Fire Department. This was a lengthy process, but we are happy to report this effort is complete. If residents on other streets would like to apply for speed cushions, please contact the Civic Club Board.

The installation of traffic mirrors at the intersection of Westcott and Camellia, Rose and Floyd as well as Glenwood and Memorial Drives have proven to be more problematic with the City. There is no defined process for installing these mirrors. We now have to hire a professional engineering firm to design not only the size of mirrors needed but also the precise placement. There is concern the mirrors may interfere with driver visibility on Westcott and Memorial Drive. We are still hopeful we will be able to bring this effort to a successful conclusion, but the cost is certainly going up. Stay tuned for more information.



“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.”

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT



Yellow-crested Night Heron nests in our neighborhood and is also regularly seen at Memorial Park

CIVIC CLUB BOARD

TITLE	NAME	EMAIL
President	Tami Hamilton	President@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Vice President	Tom Tynan	VP@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Treasurer	Kathy Bernobich	Treasurer@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Secretary	Mike VanDusen	Secretary@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Member	Liliya Bayer	Board4@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Member	Wally James	Board1@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Member	Christine Kirschner	Board3@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Member	Suneeta Rangwani	Board5@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Member	Lon Stern	Board2@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Architecture Committee	Gail Baxter Lon Stern Alan Svoboda Mike VanDusen	- Architecture@CrestwoodGlenCove.org (713) 864-0221

BLOCK AMBASSADORS

STREET	NAME	EMAIL
Arnot, Byway, Haskell	Carole Lopez	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	Christine LaBorde	ECowan.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
East Cowan, SOB	JoAnn Owens	ECowan.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Feagan	Anne Coles	Feagan@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Floyd	Jennifer Briscoe	Floyd@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Glencove	Katy Emde	Glencove@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Glenwood	Delana Bice	Glenwood@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Memorial	Jon Halverson	Memorial@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Rose	Ofelia Mayo	Rose@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Terrace, NOB	Suzie Williams	Terrace.North@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
Terrace, SOB	Mary Christ	Terrace.South@CrestwoodGlenCove.org
West Cowan	Rebecca Marvil	WCowan@CrestwoodGlenCove.org