



Greater Mission Bend Area Council On-Line Newsletter

Providing a Voice for the Citizens of Greater Mission Bend

GREATER MISSION BEND AREA COUNCIL UP-DATE

September, 2010



Mike Martin

Comments from the President

Is it just me or does anyone else think that the summer was over before it got started. That was fast! So now school is in session as we swing around the corner and (gulp) get ready for the Holiday Season. I kid you not, I saw Halloween decorations at a store the other day.

For its part, the Greater Mission Bend Area Council just passed the three year mark, counting back to our humble beginnings at a Town Hall Meeting at the Volunteer Fire Department in June of 2007. Those three years went by very fast too. In this time period we have made exceptional strides in our work to make the Greater Mission Bend Area a better place for all of us to live. Some of our work is highly visible; other projects will bear fruit over the next few years. To be sure, we are only getting started and we have so very much more work to do.

In follow-up posts I will review some of the projects in which the GMBAC has played a significant role. But let me first begin by sharing a more personal experience, which affects all of us in the community and on the Council. Three years ago Joyce Nible and I met at Christian Brothers Automotive. It was one of those accidental encounters which leads to fabulous future outcomes. As we sat waiting for our cars to be repaired, we began to talk, as strangers often do. We began talking about the aforementioned meeting at the Fire Station. We were both still excited about the community turn out. Moreover we were amazed and impressed by the dignitaries and officials who came on a hot summer night to address our concerned citizens.

As we sat talking about this experience, we also shared a common concern: what next? It was a great meeting, great community, fellowship and lots of "good feelings" shared by all. But, what was next? As we began to talk about future prospects for our community, Joyce and I decided that "somebody"

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Greater Mission Bend Area Council is to empower residents, businesses and organizations of the Greater Mission Bend Area by collectively addressing our common issues and concerns.

Neighborhood Watch Program

Several HOA's have expressed interest in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program throughout the Greater Mission Bend Area. Consequently, GMBAC has met with Kevin Ellis, who is in charge of Neighborhood Watch Programs in Harris County and plans to do the same with the officer in charge in Ft. Bend County. In the meantime, our Directors voted to approach all of the GMBAC member HOA Boards to determine if the majority are in favor of such an endeavor.

Crime Reports

Harris County crimes outside of the City of Houston are now being reported on:

<http://www.crimereports.com/>

Alerts can be set up so that an email is sent out when a crime has occurred.

A Message From GMBAC Crime Prevention Committee

As We Get Older the Crime Element Gets **BOLDER!!!**

Everyday on the evening news, the Public is hammered with stories regarding **CRIME**.

Unfortunately, the reality is, many of the crimes occur to Seniors and Home Owners.

In many cases in the Greater Mission Bend Area. Home Owners are becoming victims in their own homes. The time is **NOW** to stop this spreading problem and it begins with **YOU!** The Greater Mission Bend Area Council is co-sponsoring a proven program to stave off this criminal element in each of our neighborhoods. But this will require each Home Owners Association's participation. The **GMBAC** will soon be sending out more details concerning the **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM** for our communities.

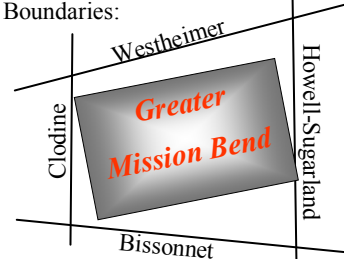
We need to be **PROACTIVE** not **REACTIVE** to **CRIME** and do it **NOW!!!!**

Your respective HOA's will share more about this Program soon.

Stay Tuned and **ALERT!**

GMBAC Crime Prevention Committee

The Greater Mission Bend Area Boundaries:



Newsletter Ideas Welcomed!

Please email pictures & articles to: information@gmbac.com

This will be a monthly newsletter filled with information that relates to the Greater Mission Bend area as well as "News You Can Use!".

GMBAC Contact Information

Email

To receive Newsletters & Up-Dates, please send us your email address to:

information@gmbac.com

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 720692
Houston, Texas 77272

Join the LinkedIn Group

<http://www.linkedin.com/>

Join the Facebook Group

<http://www.facebook.com/>

Fax Number

713-634-2861

Website & Blog

www.GMBAC.com

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needed to do “something”. Ever wonder why “they” don’t do this or that, fix this problem or that problem? Well, that’s pretty much where we were, until that is, we began to consider another question. Why don’t “we”, she and I, do something? Instead of sitting around complaining, why don’t we step up and just see what we could do, or maybe what could be done? I have to tell you, this was not a comfortable question.

We both shared concerns about already being too busy, too tired, not having any free time, yadda, yadda, yadda. You know that conversation. You’ve probably had it a few times yourself. (Come on, be honest now.) I am self-employed. Among other things I provide coaching and consultation services for adults with attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder. Believe me when I tell you this job can absolutely consume you. My weeks are full to overflowing. Then I have significant commitments outside my job. I’m telling you, I was too busy for another project. Before long we actually ran out of excuses and began to talk in terms of what “could” be done if only a few people would step up and lend a hand. That was scary, let me tell you.

So gradually we began to focus our energy on possible paths we might take to build on the success of the Town Hall meeting at the Fire Station. To make a long story short, we decided to contact other interested and invested people in our community to see if we couldn’t get something, anything, going. We, Joyce and I, took that next step and as they say, the rest is history.

I can confide in you that had Joyce not been the person she is, that I would have likely not have gone into this project. I have taken many small businesses through startups. I know the problems they face. I have sat with small business owners as they went about the process of closing the door on what was at one time the dream of their life. I know the reality of a project such as we were considering. I am a dreamer, a planner and something of a motivator. To succeed I work best with someone who can take those dreams and that energy and direct them to the practical, the organized and the planned. I knew based upon over twenty years of experience that Joyce Nible was that person who could work with me. I read her as being practical, grounded, methodical and so very sincere and dedicated. I knew that if she told me she would go down this road with me that I would never have to worry. She would have my back, as they say these days.

So it is with the deepest gratitude and the most profound sense of appreciation that I share with you that after three very (did I say, “very”?) challenging years, Joyce Nible announced that she felt that she had achieved the goals we set out to achieve. Joyce told our board that she was now

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ready to step down from the burden that comes with being on a board such as ours. In retrospect I understand Joyce’s decision. Nothing is forever.

Joyce helped me to launch this organization. Now she is comfortable letting others pick up this burden and carry it on down the road. So, Joyce has passed the baton so to speak. Others will pick it up and carry on. It is interesting that the board had to enlist two people to carry the load that Joyce carried herself. That’s Joyce. From the bottom of my heart I want to stand on the rooftop and tell the world, “Thank you Joyce for all you have done for you community. Thank you, thank you, thank you!” I know with total certainty that we would not be where we are today without all your hard work and dedication. And for all the times you brought me back down to earth with that stern look I want to say again, thank you. You will be missed.

Mike Martin –GMBAC President

mike@gmbac.com

<http://www.gmbac.com/>

Election Information

November 2, 2010

Texas Secretary of State

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/index.shtml>

Fort Bend Republican Party

<http://www.fbcgop.org/>

Fort Bend Democratic Party

<http://www.fbcdp.org/>

Harris County Democratic Party

<http://www.hcdp.org/>

Harris County Republican Party

<http://www.harriscountygop.com/>

Harris County Voting Information

<http://www.tax.co.harris.tx.us/Voter/voterintro.aspx>

Fort Bend County Voting Information

<http://vote.co.fort-bend.tx.us/WebVoter/default.asp>

**The Harris County Sheriff’s Office
Citizen’s Online
Police Reporting System**

If this is an Emergency please call 911. Using this online citizen police reporting system allows you to submit a report immediately and print a copy of the police report for free. Please confirm the following to find out if online citizen police report filing is right for you:

- This is not an Emergency?
- This incident occurred within Harris County but outside the City limits?
- There are No Known suspects?
- This did not occur on a State Freeway?

http://www.hcso.hctx.net/LeadinHtml_TxHarrisCountySo/start-report.html

Fort Bend County

Crime Information Resources

<http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/getsitepage.asp?sitepage=3219>

Fort Bend County Crime Examiner

<http://www.examiner.com/crime-in-houston>

Crime Stoppers

<http://www.crime-stoppers.org/>

**Greater Mission Bend Areas Council
Code of Conduct**

The Greater Mission Bend Area Council is committed to our Homeowner Associations, our homeowners and the community which we serve. This is what we do and why we exist.

We must approach our tasks by remaining honest, ethical and trustworthy. It is critical that we respect everyone at every level of our community and take responsibility for our actions as individuals, as Board Members and as the Greater Mission Bend Area Council. We will be accountable as we work together supporting one another to create a better community.

Words of Wisdom

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crises. The great point is to bring them the real facts. - Abraham Lincoln

GMBAC Board Members

Donna Kinerd

Clayton, Sec. 1, 2

www.ClaytonHOA.com

board@claytonhoa.com

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Chuck Machauer

Clayton Woods

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Veronica Rogers

Great Oaks South

greatoakssouth@ymail.com

Facebook: Great Oaks South Community

*

Michelle Gabel

Keegan's Ridge

*

Wayne Thompson

Kingsbridge Com. Assoc.

*

Kingsbridge Village

Jodie James

www.kbvhoa.org

boardmembers@kbvhoa.org

*

Bob Leitner

Mission Bend Civic

<http://missionbendhouston.com/>

*

Mike Martin

Mission Bend HOA

*

Christine Clark

Mission Bend North, Sec. 3

**Chantel Citizen
Mission Bend South**

missionbendsouth.com

lizm@houcomm.com

*

Kevin Jackson

Parkside @ Clayton Park

*

Wingate HOA

<http://www.wingatehoa.com/>

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At Large Members

Winetta Billings

Bert Garner

**Non-Emergency
Harris Co. Sheriff
713-221-6000**

**Mission Bend Store Front
281-564-5988**

**Fort Bend County Sheriff
281-342-6116**

Emergency 911

Useful Resources

- **Alief ISD**
<http://www.aliefisd.net>
- **Fort Bend ISD**
<http://www.fortbend.k12.tx.us/>
- **SPCA**
<http://hspca.convio.net/site/>
- **The People Lawyer**
<http://www.peopleslawyer.net/>
- **Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services**
<http://www.hcphe.org/>
- **Report Street Lights out (# on Pole)**
<http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage>
- **Texas Department of Public Safety**
<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/>

**Elected Officials Representing
Greater Mission Bend**

Ft. Bend Co. Commissioner Andy Meyers,
Precinct 3 (281/494-1199)

<http://www.andymeyers.com/>

Harris Co. Commissioner Steve Radack,
Precinct 3 (713/755-6306)

<http://www.co.harris.tx.us/Pct3/>

**Fort Bend County Judge
Robert Hebert**
(281-341-8608)

<http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/>

**Harris County Judge
Ed Emmett**
(713/755-4000)

<http://www.judgeemmett.org/>

**State Senator, Dist. 17
Joan Huffman**
(713/662-3821)

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

**State Senator, Dist. 18
Glenn Hegar**
(281/391-8883)

<http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

**State Rep. Dist. 28
John Zerwas**
(512/463-0657)

<http://www.johnzerwas.com/>

**State Rep. Dist. 149
Hubert Vo**
(281/988-0212)

<http://www.hubertvo.com/>

Texas Legislature Online
<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/>

State and Local Government

State of Texas

<http://www.texasonline.com/portal/tol>

Harris County Government
<http://www.co.harris.tx.us/>

Fort Bend County Government
<http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/>

News You Can Use

New Roof Tax Credit Could Net You \$1,500—If You Hurry

Another reason to replace a tired roof before winter hits: You could save 30 percent off the cost of the materials—up to \$1,500—in [federal tax credits](http://blogs.consumerreports.org/home/2010/08/tax-credit-incentives-for-energysaving-reflective-aphalt-roof-certainteel-lammark-tearoff.html) if you do it before December 31, 2010.

<http://blogs.consumerreports.org/home/2010/08/tax-credit-incentives-for-energysaving-reflective-aphalt-roof-certainteel-lammark-tearoff.html>



How & Why is this plant growing on top of a light pole?

By Donna Kinerd

This light pole with a plant growing on the top of it is located on Beechnut, just beyond Sugar-Land Howell on the left when going east.

It has been there for years, even IKE didn't blow it way.

Questions:

- How did it get there?
- Where is it getting water besides when it rains?
- Do the roots go all the way to the ground inside the pole?

I have been amazed since I noticed it about 4 years ago. I have no idea how long it has been there.

Most of us spend a lot of time and money on water, fertilizer, etc. for our yards and don't have plants that look as healthy as this one that gets only what Mother Nature provides naturally.

Learn Sarver Heart Center's Continuous Chest Compression CPR

Every three days, more Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest than the number who died in the 9-11 attacks. You can lessen this recurring loss by learning Continuous Chest Compression CPR, a hands-only CPR method that doubles a person's chance of surviving cardiac arrest. It's easy and does not require mouth-to-mouth contact, making it more likely bystanders will try to help, and it was developed at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

<http://medicine.arizona.edu/spotlight/learn-sarver-heart-centers-continuous-chest-compression-cpr>

FTC Rules Take Aim At Debt-Relief Industry

The Federal Trade Commission issued stringent new rules cracking down on the burgeoning debt-relief industry, saying it too often charges consumers hefty upfront fees but fails to reduce the amount of money they owe creditors.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/29/AR2010072905958.html>

Secrets To Maximizing Social Security

Despite a temporary shortfall, the nation's primary retirement system continues to pay full benefits. We show you how to make the most of yours.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/retirement/article/110266/secrets-to-maximizing-social-security?mod=retire-planning>

How Long Will Negative Information Remain On My Credit Report?

It depends on the type of negative information. Here's the basic breakdown of how long different types of negative information will remain on your credit report.

- Late payments - 7 years
- Bankruptcies - 7 years for completed Chapter 13 and 10 years for Chapter 7 bankruptcies
- Foreclosures - 7 years
- Collections - Generally, about 7 years, depending on the age of the debt being collected.
- Public Record - Generally 7 years, although unpaid tax liens can remain indefinitely.

Keep in mind:

For all of these negative items, the older they are the less impact they are going to have on your FICO Score. A collection that is 5 years old will hurt much less than a collection that is 5 months old.

<http://www.myfico.com/CreditEducation/Questions/Negative-Items-On-Credit-Report.aspx>

Household Products Data Base

What's under your kitchen sink, in your garage, in your bathroom, and on the shelves in your laundry room? Learn more about what's in these products, about potential health effects, and about safety and handling.

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/>

For Information about the Houston Real Estate Market

<http://www.har.com/Newsroom/>

If you are unable to open any of the links in this newsletter, copy and past the website address to your browser.