



Remember the drive to the city recycling center on Westpark hauling sacks and boxes of stuff? Then, the curbside small green crates and now, our PDCC neighbors are part of only 40,000 Houston residents with City Recycling service.

Is recycling just an exercise or does it do any real good? In honor of Earth Day, April 22, I'd like to share the good news/bad news about recycling found in the latest Costco magazine.

**The good news:**

- more than 65% of the paper that we use is made from recycled paper.
- 60% of our aluminum was recycled
- 80% of our recycled glass is made into new bottles and
- 4.6 billion pounds of our recycled plastic is used to become something else.

**The bad news:**

- Not enough people recycle
- We still toss out 2/3 of our glass and 87% of our plastic.
- 38 billion #1 plastic water bottles (the easiest to recycle) still end up in landfills!
- And of everything that we throw away, more than 20% is paper that could have been recycled.

**What else can we keep out of landfills?**

- Crayons, (I found a site on line and mailed a good-size box of them).
- Clothing (Goodwill has multiple centers nearby; Purple Heart & St. Vincent de Paul send trucks).
- Tires (100 million used tires are recovered and used to make things like playground surfaces & roofing tiles).

Recycling saves energy, conserves resources, and reduces pollution It is simple to make a difference:



Winnie Honeywell

**SPEED BUMP APPLICATION PROJECT BEGINS**



The PDCC Board will be joining with the community within the borders of South MacGregor to Old Spanish Trail and Scott Street to SH 288 to apply for the installation of speed bumps (speed cushions) on appropriate streets. Seven or eight years ago an attempt was thwarted due to "lack of available funds".

The City of Houston Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) now manages speed bump applications as a part of its mission to "improve neighborhood quality of life" by implementing "Traffic Calming" measures such as speed cushions, traffic circles, and median islands.

The application process requires active participation from the community of affected residents. The community selects a "Neighborhood Traffic Committee" (NTC) to work with the City of Houston. Planning includes a traffic study to gather traffic data which determines eligibility.

Eligibility is based on:

- 1) percentage of cut-through traffic;
- 2) observed vehicular speeds; and
- 3) percentage of daily large truck traffic.

Community support for the plan must be demonstrated by signed petitions and at least one public meeting. Once complete, the plan must be approved by the City with final approval from City Council. As might be expected, this planning and approval process can be lengthy. Currently the process is lasting several years for the more than 50 proposals under review by the City.

PDCC is looking forward to this opportunity for inter-civic club cooperation and will seek the assistance of our neighboring South MacGregor Civic Club. We look forward to the positive benefits to our entire area.

Wally Honeywell

**Civic Club Website**

By Jide Ayangade



**A WINDOW...**

A website is more than a tool (IT tool). It offers a rare glimpse to an organization, a business or even a community of neighbors. A website is the: which captures the essence of a neighborhood which captures the history of a neighborhood which captures the culture and diversity of a neighborhood which captures the anticipation and yearnings of a neighborhood



The saying goes " you do not eulogize the past until you have given the future its turn". It is time to give the future its turn and turn the next page in the beautiful chapter our neighborhood is writing. It is time to turn the page to provide a beautiful window, which captures the past and prepares the future. It is time to provide a website which is more than a tool but a window which provides a rare glimpse of our community of neighbors.

The publicity committee hereby appeals for your feedback and or assistance with this project. For comments or information on how to participate please contact us at: (713) 741-0084

**PDCC Good Deeds by Jamie Aycock**



Houston is famous for being the only major U.S. city without formal zoning. Why don't we use zoning? And what does it matter anyway?

Here, we prefer not to have a central regulator telling us the best use for our property. Instead, we actually believe that property owners themselves are best able to pursue their own interests. That means that property owners in a particular neighborhood can use **Deed Restrictions**—which are just another type of contract—to restrict the use of their property in a way that they all agree advances their interests. Deed restrictions can be used to ensure predictable property use and to preserve the character of a neighborhood.

Among other things, in our neighborhood deed restrictions ensure development is limited to single-family houses that are set back far enough from the road, aren't too high, and are on lots that can't be subdivided.

Just like any other contract, though, the terms of deed restrictions must be enforced by the parties, here the residents. It is important to understand that if we allow violations, the deed restrictions will become invalid. That would allow developers to ignore the deed restrictions entirely and to build whatever will profit them the most,

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	May	16	Picnic & Semi-Annual Meeting	
	October	6	Neighborhood Night Out	
	November	18	Annual Meeting 7 - 9 pm (The Forge for Families)	