Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said "Good morning, how are you?" or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory - he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachutes.
From the Board of Directors ...

It’s Spring Fever.... you don’t quite know what it is you DO want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!

- Mark Twain

Springtime, to me, is a lot like New Years, where we celebrate anticipation of new beginnings, putting the past behind us and looking towards our future with renewed hope and vigor.

Springtime, however, is the evidence of new beginnings and hope! Seeing the tangible transformations of new growth blooming around us makes the soul soar and makes the heart believe it is all possible after all.

I hope you’ll put the winter times behind and embrace all the new growth and new beginnings that come in Spring Time.

- Anne Stevens, President

Spring Time is ...

my favorite of the year in Houston. All two minutes of it!

- Marva

...the beautiful sight of blue bonnets spread across the fields. Rebirth of flowers and birds sitting on the window sill chirping.

- Richard

...daily trips to Home Depot for fertilizer, plants, bug killer and stuff!

- Anne

...itchy eyes, a runny nose and a dirty car.

- Donna

...the best time of the year for birds and squirrels ......and hawks love it too!

- Manny

...for cleaning from the winter mess and reconnection with the outdoors without the constant mosquito battles

- Tracy

...finally here. And now we can all thaw out.

Yea!

- Cynthia

Thank You Directors for all you do for Tower Oaks!
Check Our Website!
www.toweroaks.org

We have united many happy families and pets!

Mark Your Calendars!
Annual Meeting: May 13, 2014

Nominees for Board Director will be accepted until April 15th. If interested in running, contact Donna Deyo: donnadeyo@att.net

“Can you solve this riddle???”

A man worked at a high security institution. The man tried to log into his computer and the computer denied the password. He then remembered that the passwords to the computers were reset every month for security reasons. He called his boss for his new password.

The man said, “Boss, my old password is out of date.”

The boss said, “Yes, it is. The new password is different, but if you listen closely you will be able to figure out the new one. Your new password has the same amount of letters as the old one, and four of the letters are the same.”

The man then logged into his computer with no trouble. What was the new password? What was his old?

old password was "out of date" - new password was "different.

“Stupid computer keeps saying "you got mail""

“My room is not messy; it is an obstacle course designed to keep me fit.”

Outdoor Burning In Texas

Many residents suffer respiratory conditions due to burning in Tower Oaks. Please be sensitive to serious health issues & work with a neighbor who may be affected. Extending the courtesy to give them advance notice of your plans to burn will be greatly appreciated.

Some Rules from TX Commission on Environmental Quality

Keep fires downwind of, or at least 300’ away from any neighboring structure, as residence, etc.

Begin burning no earlier than one hour after sunrise, end it the same day and not later than one hour before sunset.

** Don’t start burning unless weather conditions are such that the smoke will dissipate (winds of at least 6 miles per hour) but winds no faster than 23 miles per hour.

Comedy Corner

“You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago.”

Lost or Found Pets?

Check Our Website!
www.toweroaks.org

We have united many happy families and pets!
Who ‘ya gonna call??  
*Rumor Busters!*

**TOPIC:** Cypress N Houston Property  
**proposed Deed Restriction Amendment**

(R) **Rumors vs Facts**

(R) **Anybody can sue & turn their property into commercial too**
- The only lots in Tower Oaks that have lost benefit of residential only restrictions are located on Cypress N. Houston. All other lots are clearly residential.
- It would never be acceptable to create a commercial area where none already exists, as it does on Cypress N. Houston.
- The Cypress N Houston lawsuit has been withdrawn.

(R) **All the Board needs to do is enforce residential restrictions on Cypress N. Houston**
- Our Deed Restrictions give any property owner the right to seek a Deed Restriction Amendment. The property owners are exercising their right.
- Past Boards spent tens of thousands of dollars over the last 30 years repeatedly trying to enforce residential restrictions on these unique properties, with no long-term results or solutions.
- Past Boards have recommended changing residential only restrictions on these (9) lots. **Record Examples:**
  
  **1984 Board letter to Civic Club Lawyer** (excerpts)
*With increased development ...and widening of CNH .. we are faced with possibility that properties fronting CNH will be sold to commercial interests. We are willing to work with them and potential buyers, but want to maintain some control... to protect the rest of the subdivision.*

**1995 Board Minutes** (excerpts)
*It was discussed that the board start working on amending to declare the SW corner of Eldridge and CNH as commercial. This would allow the homeowners to sell their homes.... and if done by the Civic Club would allow the property to remain in Tower Oaks....with restrictions as per the order entered by the court for the NW corner (Finch Settlement - CNH)*

(R) **The property owners adjacent to CNH were not consulted**
- The adjacent W. Morgan owners were invited & attended a private Board Committee meeting immediately following the initial lawsuit announcement, before the suit was withdrawn.
- The Committee offered a copy of a DR Amendment draft to review and give input & suggestions. They declined both offers.

(R) **Thoroughfares like Mile & Foxburo can become commercial**
- Residential thoroughfares exist in all subdivisions. All Tower Oaks lots and thoroughfares, with the exception of Cypress N Houston are clearly residential only.
- The small businesses on Mile, west of Eldridge are not located in Tower Oaks and are “unrestricted” properties.

*Always Seek the FACTS....
they are RUMOR BUSTERS!*

---

**Did You Know?**

7,000 new insect species are discovered every year.

9 out of 10 lightning strike victims survive!

An airplane mechanic invented Slinky while he was playing with engine parts and realized the possible secondary use for the springs.

Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, was an ophthalmologist by profession!

Coconuts kill more people in the world than sharks do. Approximately 150 people are killed each year by coconuts.

Crayola is a French word that means ‘Oily chalk.’

Every Alaskan citizen over the age of 6 months receives an oil dividend check of about $1000 per year!

Jumbo jets use 4,000 gallons of fuel to take off.

Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a ‘Friday the 13th’.

Most of the world’s people must walk at least 3 hours to fetch water!

The electric chair was invented by a dentist!
Architectural-Deed Restrictions

Congratulations !
Manny Leal, Chairman

Manny has been working diligently resolving deed restriction issues occurring on his watch while also pouring over stacks of architectural drawings for approval. On top of all that, he also serves as Board Director and Executive Vice President!

Manny is thorough and professional and works tirelessly for the benefit of us all. He is resourceful and patient in finding solutions. He is even handed and fair in all situations.

Because he does his job quietly and discreetly, without fanfare or drama, we want to publicly recognize his many years of outstanding voluntary service and say Thank You!!

The next time you see Manny, please join with us in congratulating him for going above and beyond in his service of keeping Tower Oaks a wonderful place for us all to call home.

Quarterly Treasury Report

Nov ‘13 - Jan ‘14

Income
Member Dues 525.00
Commercial Dues 300.00
Advertising 900.00

Total: 1725.00

Expenses
NW Pest 550.48
Street Lights 678.44
Deed Restrict. legal consult. 982.11
Communications 552.64
Newsletter, supplies
Meeting Room 130.00
Donation Refund 250.00
P.O. Box Rental 118.76

Total: -3262.43

Jan. Checking Balance 10,223.03
Jan. Savings Balance 16,003.41
Jan. CD Balance 20,059.89

Jan. Total Assets 46,286.33

There are no salaries paid to officers of the club and no standing consulting fees paid. Fiscal Year: June 1 through May 31

Crime Watch

#1 Remember to Report to:
• Harris County Sheriff @ 713-221-6000
• Contact page @ www.toweroaks.org

#2 Check the website & email for updates
• Crime Reports are posted on the web and sent by email as soon as they are reported to us

Special Thanks Harris County Constables!

Our neighborhood is being kept safe by our Constables, alert neighbors contacting Harris County, looking out for one another and sending reports to our website. Suspicious people, cars and activity are being reported and promptly responded to by our Constables. Great work everyone!!

Spring is nature’s way of saying, "Let’s party!!"

- Robin Williams
Lawsuit Withdrawn

As reported in the last newsletter, a lawsuit was filed against the Tower Oaks Civic Club by property owners of W. Cypress N Houston lots. They were seeking relief from residential only restrictions on their (9) lots, citing commercial encroachment.

Background:
The W. Cypress N Houston property owners circulated a Deed Restriction Amendment in 2010 to change their residential restrictions to restricted light commercial. They report spending six months going door-to-door obtaining required signatures from lot owners who approved. They exceeded the required 51% approval. As reported, the previous Board asked them to make changes to their amendment after the signatures were already gathered. After legal consultation, the property owners felt the previous Board raised questionable & unreasonable obstacles. Consequently, they filed a lawsuit, as was done by the property owners of E. Cypress N Houston in 1987. That lawsuit settlement (Finch Agreement) changed the E. Cypress N Houston lots to restricted light commercial usage.

Current Update:
The W. Cypress N Houston owners have decided to withdraw their lawsuit to focus their time and effort on getting approval directly from lot owners for a Deed Restriction amendment to allow restricted, light commercial usage for their lots.

They will mail the proposed Deed Restriction amendment to all lot owners to review. They will then be contacting everyone directly in order to collect signatures of approval.

To our Neighbors,
The Board expressed to the CNH owners from the beginning that our primary concern was that any proposed DR Amendment be worded in the best possible interest of all Tower Oaks Property Owners. We wanted to make sure the properties would not be "unrestricted" allowing all types of business. We felt it should be worded to allow only restricted, light commercial use, such as offices, retail, etc. They shared our concerns and were receptive to our input.

Remember, it is Tower Oaks property owners who will vote on the proposed Deed Restrictions Amendment and is not a Board decision. Passage requires approval from 51% of lot owners.

Please extend a cordial welcome when contacted.

Best Regards,

Your Tower Oaks Civic Club Board of Directors

Note: A map has been provided for your information. As indicated in the shaded area, properties behind W. Morgan and along Mile, W. of Eldridge are "unrestricted" and not a part of Tower Oaks Subdivision.
Month of APRIL

- The **Monarch butterflies** are migrating through now! Give them a place to land and a bite to eat by planting red, yellow, orange, pink or purple flowering plants such as zinnias, marigolds, buddleia, milkweed, and verbena.

- Though it’s not quite the busiest time for **hummingbirds** yet, but you might catch a couple swinging by if you know how to attract them! **Hummingbirds look for red flowering plants**, so you can plant Autumn Sage, Trumpet Vine, or Turk’s Cap. Even though the multi-colored hummingbird feeders are really neat for us to look at, a plain red feeder or clear feeder with red nectar will attract many more hummingbirds to your yard.

- **Plant summer/fall perennials** such as cannas, gladiolus, mums and asters.

---

**Selling Tower Oaks**

Cynthia Ruhlig, Realtor

281-816-4649

As Board Director, I spearheaded posting all Treasury Reports on our website, insuring fiscal transparency.

FREE Market Analysis

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---

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