

FLEETWOOD WEST COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

www.FleetwoodWestpoa.org

November 2014

EDITOR RICHARD GOLDEN

President's Message

Neighbors, as we near the end of 2014, I am pleased to report that we will finish the year **within budget**, and that we **do not need to raise our annual assessment** for 2015 for the fourth year in a row. Assessment invoices will be emailed soon and are due Jan. 31, 2015.

Our **security efforts** continue to be directed at deterrence of crime through the video surveillance system at our entrances and the results are encouraging, both crime-wise and cost-wise. The Board thanks Fleetwood West Security Director Chris Culberson for the time he spends monitoring the system. Please see his report on the next page.

Our optional **recycling program** is popular with about 1/3 of our owners participating. Recycling Coordinator Carol Culver has done a great job managing it. Details and deadlines for enrolling for 2015 are included on page 3. Look for the recycling icon:



Our largest single expense for improvements this past year - \$9,840 - went for **street and alley repairs**. Not all of our streets and alleys are public and we reserve funds for those repairs.

We are aware of the dead pine tree on Memorial and are in discussions with CenterPoint to remove it at their expense. They have approached us with a plan to revamp our landscape along Memorial to keep tree limbs from causing power failures. More on that soon.

A **new Fleetwood West POA website** is up and running and includes information you may need about our association. The new web address is www.FleetwoodWestpoa.org. See the article on page 3.

The Texas Legislature passed laws related to 8 areas of home owner **association governance and Architectural Control**, requiring your board to pass and record new policies that apply to all members. See the article below regarding four policies that you should be familiar with related to Architectural Control.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held Jan. 27, 2015. Details of the meeting, the agenda, proxies, projected year-end financials and budget will be emailed in January with my year-end report.

The Board welcomes your input and suggestions. Contact me at kreed131@comcast.net or 713-412-7050. **Have a happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season.**

Sincerely,
Keith Reed



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SECURITY UPDATE

Hello Neighbors,

I am pleased to report Houston Police Department crime statistics for Fleetwood West and Fleetwood continue to reflect one of the lowest crime rates in West Houston. However, with the holidays fast approaching, I expect criminal activity to increase.

Six new signs alerting passers-by of our video surveillance system cameras have been posted in Fleetwood West. These signs are intended to reinforce deterrence of crime.

Please remember the best criminal deterrence starts with good home security practices such as installing a monitored alarm system, keeping your doors locked, garage closed, etc. The Houston Police Department has some great crime prevention tips online at this link:

http://www.houstontx.gov/police/crime_prevention.



If you are interested in a professional assessment of your home's security, I recommend contacting Sergeant Mitch Hutter of the Harris Count Precinct 5 Constable's office at: mitchell.hutter@cn5.hctx.net.

Should criminal activity occur on your property, please remember to tell the police officer taking your report to contact me directly and I will provide them with any relevant video evidence that may have been recorded. It would also be helpful if you can provide the officer with as many details as possible, such as the time frame of the event, vehicle description, etc. Having this information will expedite the historical video search effort, plus significantly improve validity of the evidence.

If you do not have your Fleetwood ID sticker on the rear window of your vehicles, please contact me. This sticker is important because it allows all of us to determine at a glance if a vehicle belongs in Fleetwood.

Should you observe suspicious activity in our neighborhood, please call the Houston Police Department Emergency number: **911**; **for non-emergencies** (such as to file a crime report), **call HPD at 713-884-3131**.

Best Regards,

Chris Culberson
Fleetwood West Security
fwsec@comcast.net

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NEW ASSOCIATION WEBSITE: www.FleetwoodWestpoa.org

Fleetwood West POA has a new website! Make a note of our new web address, www.FleetwoodWestpoa.org, and link directly to a resource of important information about our neighborhood association. Website highlights include:

- ⇒ Email addresses for our Board of Directors and Officers
- ⇒ Association Covenants and Bylaws
- ⇒ Architectural Control Guidelines and Application Form
- ⇒ Security Information, including Video Camera Surveillance System & Vehicle Decal Program
- ⇒ Trash and Recycling Collection Schedules and Guidelines
- ⇒ Association Newsletters
- ⇒ Association Board Meeting Minutes
- ⇒ Power Up! Program Details

This website is meant to be an informational resource - let us know if you have a suggestion!



SIGN UP NOW FOR 2015 RECYCLING!

Payment Due December 15

Registration is now open for the 2015 Fleetwood West Recycling Program. You should have received a sign-up form and online payment information via email this month.

This year's program has been a big success, with about 30 homeowners participating. Recycling is an optional neighborhood service and costs \$50 per household per year, or **less than \$1 a week**. For those new to the program, a list of frequently-asked-questions is on the website.

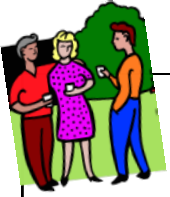
If you would like to participate in 2015 recycling, your payment must be received **no later than December 15, 2014**. If you are mailing in your registration, please return your completed form and your check for \$50, made payable to Fleetwood West POA, to:

Fleetwood West
P.O. Box 940072
Houston, Texas 77094-7072

Remember, in order to start receiving recycling services in January 2015, your payment must be received no later than December 15. If you miss this deadline, you won't be able to add this service until April 2015. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact **Fleetwood West Recycling Coordinator Carol Culver** at carolc3@me.com, or 281-757-4041.

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A 2015 Win-Win for You and Your Neighborhood



Looking for an easy and enjoyable way to **meet more of your neighbors?**

Sizing up ideas for yourself or your high school student to **earn community service credit?**

Help make Fleetwood West the best neighborhood it can be by volunteering for one of our committees. Our volunteers are all busy people who include our neighborhood as one of the **worthwhile efforts** to which they contribute their time and talent. Join us in 2015!

Interesting opportunities are open for the New Year, including some for high school juniors and seniors:

Grounds & Landscape Committee

Supervise our contract landscaper on Fleetwood West common areas, Memorial Drive and Addicks-Howell.

Help monitor the common area irrigation system.

Help identify trees that need trimming.

Help monitor the lighting in common areas and along Memorial Drive.

Work with contractors as needed on street, sidewalk and alley repairs.

Help with holiday decorations & American flag displays at our entrances. *Student Opportunity*

Architectural Control Committee

Review requests for architectural changes to homes and ensure they are aligned with our covenants.

Communications Committee

Website - help keep information up-to-date. *Student Opportunity*

Newsletter – help write and publish our newsletters. *Student Opportunity*

Recycling Committee

Work with Recycling Coordinator and waste management/recycling vendor on new and renewed enrollments.

FLEETWOOD FALL FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS!



Joy was had by all who attended the Greatest Block Party in Houston. The committee put together a delicious, fun, entertaining festival. Kudos to the committee and generous donors, you all made it happen! If you attended our 10th anniversary festival, you know what I mean. If you did not attend, you missed a festival second to none. The families of Fleetwood and Fleetwood West all enjoyed a great fun day of free food and ice cream, Dixieland music, games, door prizes, free photos, and of course the kids and pet Wing Ding Parade. Having fun and visiting with your neighbors is the purpose of this yearly event. Please consider helping the festival next year. E-mail Judith Bruni at jbruni@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in volunteering!

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Support Video Surveillance System via Power Up! *Minimize Your Energy Rates - Maximize Your Impact*

Fleetwood West POA has partnered with Stream Energy through its Power Up! Program to help raise funds for our neighborhood video surveillance system. To date, the program has added **\$165** to our video surveillance budget for upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

How does it work? When homeowners or tenants enroll in the Power Up! Program for their electricity service through the Fleetwood West POA Power Up! Website, Stream Energy pays the Association a monthly commission. That's it - **there's no extra out-of-pocket cost to you!** The Association receives a monthly commission for the duration of your relationship with Stream Energy.

If you find the rates competitive with your current provider, please consider signing up at <http://fwpoasecurity.streampowerup.biz>. And remember, all funds raised will be used for upgrades and ongoing maintenance of our video surveillance system.

Questions? Contact Fleetwood West POA volunteer treasurer Mike Melchiorre at mrmtrm@aol.com or 713-816-9942. **Thanks for your support!**

Have Newsworthy Neighborhood Information to Share?

If so, please contact Fleetwood West Newsletter Editor Dick Golden at goldierg01@yahoo.com. We're also recruiting others to work on the newsletter for 2015.



Have You Joined Nextdoor Fleetwood Network Yet?

Nextdoor Fleetwood Network is a great way to keep in touch with what's happening in Fleetwood West, Fleetwood and surrounding neighborhoods. If you need to find a contractor, share an experience, announce an event or post something in the classifieds, this private and free social network is for you! **To join, go to** <https://fleetwoodneighborhood.nextdoor.com/join>.

Don't Forget!

Any speed over 20 MPH puts our residents, visitors and pets in danger. And please keep your pets on their leashes and pick up after them!

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Association Policy Changes Resulting from Legislation by the State of Texas

In 2011 the State of Texas passed laws pertaining to home owner associations that required us to formalize policies related to assessments, governance, resale certificates and documents, transfer fees, and the use of solar energy devices, flags and flag poles, rainwater harvesting and the display of certain religious items.

We have accomplished that and have made those policies available for you to review on our new website, www.FleetwoodWestpoa.org, under Association Documents. Our approach was to meet the state requirements and mirror the policies of nearby associations such as Fleetwood, Barkers Landing and Memorial Thicket.

The policies related to the use of solar energy devices, display of flags and flag poles, use of rainwater harvesting, and display of certain religious items are the four most relevant to review. Understand please that we did not seek to formalize these on our own volition - we responded to comply with State law. We expect that these policies will not be onerous.



FLEETWOOD WEST POA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keith Reed	President	Michael Melchiorre	Treasurer
Kreed131@comcast.net	713-412-7050	mrmtrm@aol.com	713-816-9942
Richard Golden	1st V. P.	Sue Reed	Secretary
goldierg01@yahoo.com	281-920-0203	suereed01@comcast.net	281-686-8514
Chris Culberson	Security Director	Carol Culver	Recycling Coordinator
fwsec@comcast.net	713-899-8698	carolc3@me.com	281-757-4041
Eddie Brown	ACC Chair		
edandloribrown@yahoo.com	281-584-9868		