

# Binglewords

"Keeping the Binglewood Community Informed"

## DECEMBER 2022

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This joyful time of year can also be hectic and stressful if you let it. Try to take some time for yourself and remember what you liked about the holidays when you were young. If you are young, start thinking about making memories. There are so many things to do in Houston, plays to attend, lights to see, decorations to admire. *Visit Houston* has a great site that lists everything there is to do this year by type of celebration---performing arts, markets and

festivals, and family events. Go to: <https://www.visithoustontexas.com/events/holidays-in-houston/> Remember to join your neighbors at our next meeting where we will have a cookie exchange and hot apple cider for everyone after the meeting! See below for details. **I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season!**

### DECEMBER MEETING-COOKIE EXCHANGE

Attendees at our November meeting overwhelmingly agreed that we should have a Holiday Cookie Exchange after our December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Everyone shared their favorite cookies and cookie recipes and then selected cookies to take home. A delicious way to end the meeting! Thank you to everyone who attended!



### HOLIDAY CHARITABLE DONATIONS

As in past years, a local charity that benefits the Spring Branch Community was named for a collection at the December Meeting—the **YWCA Houston Center for Senior Life**. The nearest one to us in Binglewood is located at Lakeview Senior Center, 8950 Hammerly Blvd. The Center for Senior Life program offers a daily nutritional meal, socialization opportunities, exercise, nutrition education, information and assistance, and a variety of other life-enhancing programs.

[Go here](#) to donate.



### CALENDAR

**Next Community Meeting:**  
Saturday, December 10, 2022  
**Elections for 2023 will be held! We will also have a Holiday cookie exchange!**

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Location: St. Jerome Catholic Church, New Activity Center, Room 104

### CIVIC CLUB DUES

**Section 6-** \$50 per year (mandatory)  
**Sections 1-5-** \$50 per year (voluntary)

Donations always welcome!

**Pay online at:**

<https://www.binglewood.com/payment/>

**Or Send check by mail to:**

Binglewood Civic Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 430943

Houston, TX 77243-0943

**Pay in person at any BCC Meeting or Event**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Email : [contact@binglewood.com](mailto:contact@binglewood.com)

Website: [www.binglewood.com](http://www.binglewood.com)

Instagram: [Binglewood\\_Community](https://www.instagram.com/Binglewood_Community)

Twitter: [@BinglewoodComm](https://twitter.com/BinglewoodComm)

Facebook: [Binglewood\\_Community](https://www.facebook.com/Binglewood_Community)

NextDoor: [Binglewood Group](https://www.nextdoor.com/BinglewoodGroup)

Mail: [PO Box 430943,](mailto:PO Box 430943)

[Houston, TX 77243-0943](mailto:Houston, TX 77243-0943)

**REMINDER! If you see something, say something!**  
**Call in ALL crime or suspicious events to our Constable at 281-463-6666!**

*Let's make it difficult to be a criminal in Binglewood!*

## BINGLEWOOD CIVIC CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS

The annual BCC Officer elections were held and the following persons elected:

President – Candidate: Ann Cowper (Incumbent)  
Sergeant At Arms – Candidate: Bridget Macias (Incumbent)  
Vice President – Candidate: Jan Southern

The following positions still need volunteers to serve so the Board can make the appointments per the Bylaws:

Secretary – Candidates: TBD [We need someone to take the meeting minutes.]  
Treasurer – Candidates: TBD [Note that this position will focus on fund-raising activities rather than day-to-day financial and accounting matters.]

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please send an email to [contact@binglewood.com](mailto:contact@binglewood.com).

We are also looking for representatives for each of our six sections. We currently have volunteers for Sections 5, 2 and 4 but can always use more volunteers to work together. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know at [contact@binglewood.com](mailto:contact@binglewood.com). We also need fund-raisers for the Constable Patrol so if you want to handle just your block or other sections of Binglewood, please let us know.

## SALUTE TO VETERANS

Binglewood Civic Club held a “Salute to Veterans” at our November meeting. Avery George presented the Flag and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. A list of known veterans who live in Binglewood was read aloud and the opportunity to share personal stories was offered. Patriotic music was played as the group sang along. Special refreshments were provided as a way of showing our appreciation for their service and sacrifice. Everyone also signed special cards thanking our vets. We hope to make this an annual Binglewood event!

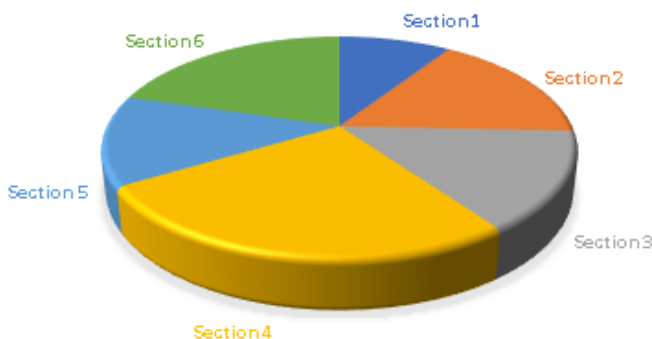
## TREASURER’S REPORT

Dues are used for administrative and overhead costs (i.e., insurance, printing and mailing, beautification projects in Binglewood and costs associated with organizing and executing community events and activities). Proceeds from dues and donations go right back into the community making our neighborhood a better place to live. We can do more as a Civic Club if we have more funds to work with! Be sure to attend our meetings so you can let us know what projects you want to see in Binglewood! You can pay via PayPal at: <https://www.binglewood.com/payment/>.

*Dues (through December 5, 2022):*

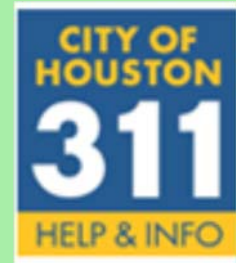
*Thanks to all who have paid or donated!*

BINGLEWOOD-DUES PAID BY SECTION



## YOUR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President, Ann Cowper  
Vice President, Jordan Kahan  
Secretary, Jan Southern  
Treasurer, Karin Sabatini  
Sergeant-at-Arms, Bridgett Macias  
Nick Scott, Board Pos. 1  
Jonathan Vanegas, Board Pos. 2  
Noel Lezama, Board Pos. 3  
Sue Kinnaird, Board Pos. 4



Call 311 if you see something that needs to be fixed. Street sign down? Heavy Trash piled up before monthly pickup? Potholes? Tree limbs down in the street? The City of Houston has a dedicated phone line for non-emergency issues.

**Call 311 or 713-837-0311.**

## NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS OR SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUPS

Do you belong to a club or group within or near our neighborhood? Looking to expand membership or participation? Email us a description of the group and activities. We will feature it in our newsletter and offer to include your activities on our calendar.

Looking to establish a club or social group? Email us a description and contact information and we will help you get the word out by including it in the newsletter.

## TREE TIPS FROM PRECINCT FIVE (Precinct Five provides our Constable Patrol)

‘Tis the season for decorating your Christmas tree. Constable Ted Heap reminds you to keep safety in mind as you’re enjoying the holidays, especially with live Christmas trees.

## Constable Patrol Funds (through December 5, 2022):



### IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Make sure you call Dispatch at **281-463-6666** to report a crime or incident. FOR GUNSHOTS, PLEASE CONTINUE TO CALL 9-1-1 SINCE HPD IS HANDLING THIS PROBLEM DIRECTLY! Do not call HPD Dispatch-Non-Emergency! We have shot spotter technology in Binglewood provided by District A and HPD so you must call 9-1-1.

### HOW TO AVOID PORCH PIRATES

[From the Better Business Bureau and Amazon.com]

Package thieves, also known as “porch pirates,” often take advantage of an opportunity and may frequent a neighborhood or community multiple times before moving on to another. They will often target houses that provide a quick in-and-out route, especially if the porch or area where packages are delivered is within 25 feet of the street and easily visible. Over the past five years, internet searches using the keywords “package stolen” increased significantly during November and December, demonstrating the impact of this crime on households across the nation.



As a crime of opportunity, preventing or discouraging package theft can be accomplished in several ways, depending on the location of your residence, type and community. Consumers can use specific strategies to discourage theft no matter where they live.

The BBB and Amazon.com provided the following tips to prevent package thieves from affecting your holiday plans:

- **Check with neighbors.** Sometimes, your package may not be stolen at all, just simply at the wrong address. Before filing a report or contacting the sender, check with your neighbors and see if the delivery service may have dropped off your package at the wrong address. Many delivery companies will take pictures of your package in the designated location – be sure to check for the photo and verify it is at the right spot.
- **Don't leave unattended packages.** When possible, do not leave delivered packages unattended for long periods. If you are expecting a package, attempt to schedule its delivery when you know you will be home. Ask your neighbors if they would mind holding on to packages delivered if you plan to be gone for an extended time during the holidays.
- **Try Amazon Key Delivery.** Free to Prime Members is Amazon Key In-Garage Delivery which is a really convenient, secure, and easy way to have Amazon packages and groceries delivered inside your garage. It works with Amazon,

They can pose a serious fire risk if you don't take the proper safety precautions.

Here are some basic tree decoration safety tips to make sure your home is safe this Christmas season:

- Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles. Check for fresh, green needles and a sticky trunk.
- Place your tree in a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over. Check the tree daily to make sure it has water in its stand. Dry trees are highly flammable.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source such as fireplaces and radiators. One in four tree fires are started when a tree is too close to a heat source.
- Place the tree near an electrical outlet, so that cords are not running long distances.
- Always use lights that are Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved. Some lights are designed only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Larger tree lights should also have some type of reflector rather than a bare bulb.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights. Do not use strings of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections. One in three tree fires are due to electrical failures.
- Test your smoke alarms. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher available and that everyone in the house knows how to use it.
- Connect no more than three strands of push-in bulbs and a maximum of 50 screw-in bulbs.
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and make sure any lit candles in the room are placed

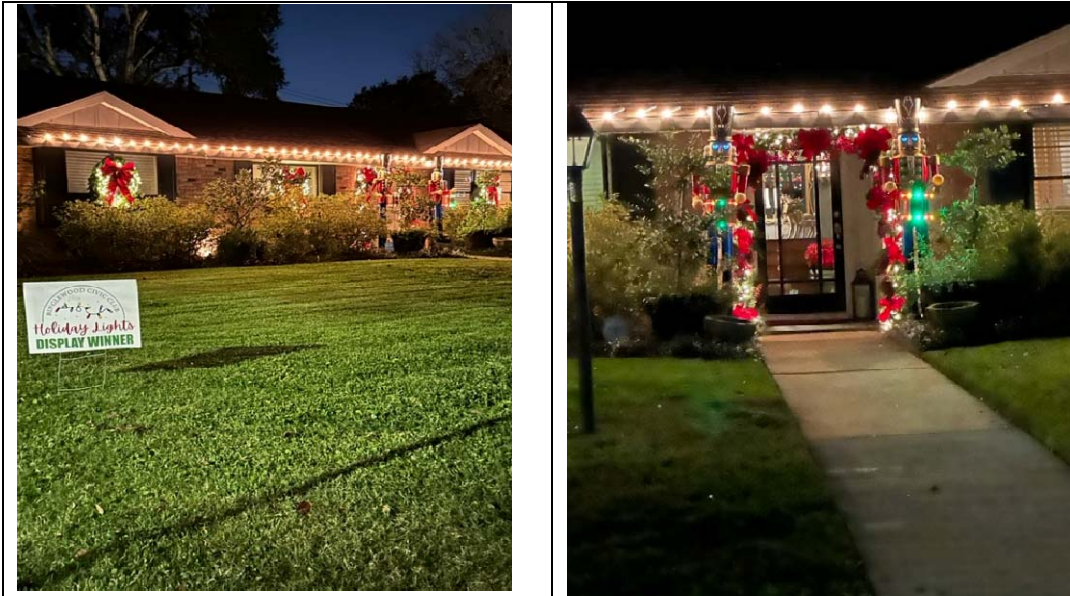


Amazon Fresh, and Whole Foods Market deliveries. All that is required is a garage door app such as MyQ or Ring that allows remote opening and closing of your garage door from your phone. All your packages are left safely inside your garage.

- **Ship to store.** If purchasing an item from a retailer that has a physical location near your home, consider shipping it there instead. Retailers will require proof of purchase or identification before releasing packages they have received, and this is a sure way to avoid porch pirates.
- **Use a security camera.** Installing a home security system with cameras or simply a camera-enabled doorbell is a great way to deter package theft, especially when highly visible. Consider posting a sign that specifically states that your residence is under surveillance. Even if a package is stolen from your porch, the video evidence will help our constable track down the thieves and prevent other thefts.
- **Require a signature.** Many delivery companies include the option to require a signature before leaving a package, letting you take physical possession of the item as soon as it is delivered. While this option works well for those who are often at home, especially for expensive items, it may create difficulties in receiving packages if your schedule and the delivery service are different. Be sure to check with the delivery company on their policy for packages that are not signed for; they may return it to the sender after a certain number of attempts.
- **Consider a package receiving service.** Some major retailers, such as Amazon, offer secure package receiving locations away from your home (Amazon lockers) that you can access with a key or code. Some independent businesses also specialize in this service, allowing you to designate a different delivery location for your packages and the ability to pick them up on your way home. NOTE: Binglewood is located very near an Amazon warehouse off West 43<sup>rd</sup> St. just past Hempstead Road at 4221 Way Out West Drive which accepts returns and deliveries.

**If your package has been stolen, call our Constable Dispatch at 281-463-6666 and file a report** and call the delivery company as well. Depending on which delivery service you use, they may offer insurance or other policies to reimburse you for your losses.

**BEST HOLIDAY DECORATIONS WINNER IN BINGLEWOOD IS...9003 Eldora Drive!**



***Congratulations on a wonderful daytime and nighttime holiday display!***

well away from tree branches and flammable items.

- Children are fascinated by Christmas trees. Keep a watchful eye on them when around the tree, and do not let them play with the wiring or lights. Keep all matches and lighters up high and out of reach.
- Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Do not leave dry trees in a house or garage or placed against the house.

***Our Precinct 5 Constable wishes you a happy and safe Christmas!***



## TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

**Trash (Black Can) & Lawn Clippings (City Bags)**-Every Friday

### Recycle Schedule (Green Can)

Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>  
Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Note:

- Please use City of Houston approved recyclable bags only!
- Do not put plastic store bags, Styrofoam or plastic trash bags in the recycle bin!  
They are not recyclable!



### Tree Waste Schedule (Odd Months)

Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Junk Waste Schedule (Even Months)

Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Place Junk/Tree Waste at the curb-not on the street-in an easily accessible location between 6:00 pm the Friday before and 7:00 am on the scheduled collection day.

**Note: Contact 3-1-1 if Junk Waste or Tree Waste are delayed more than a week.**

### DON'T BE LEFT OUT! PUT YOURSELF ON THE BINGLEWOOD EMAIL LIST!

Be sure to let us know if you have made changes to your email address. We want to make sure that you continue receiving **Binglewords** and notices from the Civic Club. Stay informed by going to the Contact Form at:

<https://www.binglewood.com/contact-us/>

### HAVE A NEW NEIGHBOR?

Let us know and we will drop off a new neighbor packet and invite them to join our email list. Better yet, bring them with you to the next BCC meeting!

## SAFETY PATROL FROM TED HEAP, HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE PRECINCT 5 (Precinct Five provides our Constable Patrol)

This is the busiest shopping time of the year at many Precinct 5 store locations. With that in mind, Constable Ted Heap's deputies are stepping up patrols in the busiest parking lots to help protect you and your cars and trucks this holiday season. You can do a number of things to help make your shopping as safe. Constable Heap has these tips when you're going from store to store:

- Never leave shopping bags or packages in plain sight inside your parked car. Place them in your trunk and do so before arriving in your parking spot.
- Be aware of your surroundings when shopping, both inside and outside of the store or mall. Look around and be aware of any suspicious people who appear to be watching or following you.
- Put your phone away when walking to your car. Take notice of your surroundings and those people in your near vicinity.
- Do not leave your purse in your shopping cart at any time. It only takes a second or two for a thief to steal a purse when you are momentarily distracted.
- Avoid shopping alone when possible. Ask a friend or family member to shop with you. Shopping in pairs is a deterrent to criminals.
- Park in a well-lighted area when possible, close to the store entrance if feasible.
- If you are grocery shopping alone, ask a store employee to walk you out to your car.
- If you have a large number of shopping bags, consider making a trip home to drop them off before making your next shopping trip.
- After entering your vehicle, lock the doors immediately. Do not leave windows down or even slightly cracked when shopping.

We hope these safety tips will help make your holiday season even merrier.

**If you are in need of a deputy, please call the dispatch line at 281-463-6666.**

### BCC DECALS FOR YOUR CAR! HELP DEPUTY WILSON KNOW YOU BELONG!



Be sure to place a Binglewood decal on your car so that Deputy Wilson knows that you are a Binglewood resident! We have inside, outside and magnetic (if your windows are very tinted). This will help Deputy Wilson and all of us living in Binglewood know who lives here and who doesn't! Come to a Civic Club meeting or send a SASE and \$1.00 to PO Box 430943, Houston, TX 77243 to get one for each of your family's cars! You can also request decals at any social event sponsored by the Civic Club.  
***We are asking for just a dollar for each decal to help defray our costs.***

### REMINDER RE PLACING YOUR HEAVY TRASH AND JUNK WASTE OUT TOO EARLY!


You cannot simply place trash at the front or side yard of your property AT ANY TIME during the month. You will receive a notice from the Civic Club and then the City! You are allowed to place trash out beginning on the Friday before the pick-up week but no sooner! And it must fit that month's requirement—tree waste only during tree waste months and junk waste and tree waste on junk waste months!



If you are a new homeowner or a new tenant or landlord, you must make sure your property has BOTH a black garbage bin and a green recycling bin for your use. The green bins are for recycling only and if you place trash in them and put them out on trash pick-up day on Friday, the City will not pick them up! *They will also not pick up random loose trash or trash placed in garbage bags that is not placed in a garbage bin!*

To request a new trash or recycling bin, please call 3-1-1 and have your City of Houston water account number ready as that is the account the City uses to deliver the bins to you which are free of charge! For updates on recycling or trash pick-up for Binglewood, go to the City of Houston Solid Waste Management website at: <https://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/>

**DECEMBER**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Recycle Bin	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 BCC Mtg. 9:30-11:00am St. Jerome PAC <b>OFFICER &amp; DIRECTOR ELECTIONS!</b>
11	12 Best Holiday Decorations Awarded	13	14	15	16 Recycle Bin	17
18	19	20	21	22 Junk Waste Collection	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Recycle Bin	31 

**JANUARY**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 Yard-of-the Month Awarded	3 BCC Board Mtg. Via Zoom 6:30pm-7:30pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 NEW DATE AND TIME! BCC Meeting 6:30pm-7:30 pm	12	13 Recycle Bin	14
15	16 	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Tree Waste Collection	27 Recycle Bin	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2		1 Yard-of-the Month Awarded	2 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Recycle Bin	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21	22	23 Junk Waste Collection	24 Recycle Bin	25
26	27	28				

MARCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Yard-of-the Month Awarded	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Recycle Bin	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Tree Waste Collection	24 Recycle Bin	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



**Binglewood Civic Club**

Binglewood Civic Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 430943  
Houston, Texas 77243-9243

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Yes, I want to pay my Binglewood Civic Club Dues! [\$50 per year]

[ ] Yes, I want to support the Constable on Patrol program in Binglewood! [\$250 per year]

**I WILL SEND A CHECK(s):**

- Enclosed is my check payable to Binglewood Civic Club, Inc. in the amount of \$50 for BCC Dues.
- Enclosed is my check payable to Binglewood Civic Club, Inc. in the amount of \$250 for the Constable Program.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation has been added to my check toward:

- The Binglewood Civic Club
- The Constable on Patrol Program

**NOTE:** BCC Dues and Constable on Patrol contributions are kept in separate bank accounts.

**I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PAYMENT USING MY CREDIT CARD.**

I prefer to make my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ by credit card.



Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (for card purposes only): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (voluntary): \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAYMENT!**







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**a Texas non-profit corporation**  
P.O. Box 430943  
Houston, Texas 77243  
*[www.binglewood.com](http://www.binglewood.com)*