

Proud To Be



# Lindale Park

## The Hidden Jewel



Lindale Park Civic Club

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE LINDALE PARK CIVIC CLUB  
CELEBRATING 47 YEARS OF CIVIC PRIDE, 1979 - 2026

LINDALE PARK NEWSLETTER  
WINTER & SPRING ISSUE / FEBRUARY 2026

### Introducing Every Shelter to Lindale Park

*Editor's Note: Longtime Lindale Park resident Diana Lerma Pfeifer recently sat down with neighbor Scott Key, chief executive officer and co-founder of Every Shelter, to learn more about the organization's mission and its new office along the METRO light rail corridor. Below is what she learned from her conversation with Scott.*

Founded in 2011 while Scott was in graduate school at Rice University, Every Shelter grew out of a sobering realization: refugee displacement often lasts decades, not months. After learning of Syrian refugees freezing at night, Scott and his co-founder began asking how thoughtful design could help families survive—and ultimately rebuild—their lives. Their answer combined architecture and material science to improve shelter conditions for displaced families around the world.

The organization's first major project was an insulated, modular flooring system made from expanded polypropylene, a durable foam material that creates a clean, warm surface inside temporary shelters. Over nine years, this solution supported approximately 35,000 Syrian refugees.

Today, Every Shelter's work primarily is focused on Uganda, serving refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many of the families they work alongside—nearly 90 percent women and children—are widows rebuilding their lives after conflict.


Partnering closely with local communities, the organization helps families construct durable homes using locally available materials, such as mud brick and repurposed vinyl for roofing. With the right tools and training, families can build a permanent home in as little as two weeks.

The Lindale Park office serves as the administrative hub for this international work. For Scott, the space represents an opportunity to restore a building that sat vacant for nearly a decade and contribute positively to the neighborhood's ongoing renewal.

A Lindale Park resident since 2014, Scott shared that being able to walk to work in his own neighborhood feels especially meaningful.

To foster connection, Every Shelter will host a community open house at Wolfsmiths from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. March 26, inviting neighbors to learn more about the organization's work, ask questions and meet the team.

- Diana Lerma Pfeifer, Joyce Street



**MEET EVERY SHELTER**


Learn about our work and our new home in Lindale Park.

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 - 6:30 PM  
Wolfsmiths - Cafe,  
Restaurant & Bar  
201 Woodard St,  
Houston, TX 77009

### Kick Off 2026 With Your Neighbors!

 **Q1 Quarterly Meeting**

 Tuesday, February 24

 7 – 8 P.M.

 218 Joyce St. –

Our Community Center

Join Lindale Park Civic Club's **FIRST Quarterly Meeting of 2026** to meet your neighbors, hear important updates, share your ideas and get involved in what's ahead for 2026! It's just one hour, and together, we can make big impacts for the neighborhood we call home! 🎉

## New Method for Heavy Trash Coming Soon

The City of Houston is rolling out a new process for heavy trash pickup with a tentative start date of March 2. The new method would have residents call 311 to request heavy trash collection, instead of scheduled collection days.

This process comes at a time when both heavy trash and yard waste can sit on the streets for months at a time, as the Solid Waste Management Department deals with pickup delays and staff shortages.

According to Solid Waste, the new method starts with residents making a 311 call to request heavy trash collection. This is followed up with a scheduled appointment, set up through a phone call or email. Heavy trash collection would be completed within five working days of the scheduled appointment date.

Residents may request up to four heavy trash collections per calendar year, according to Solid Waste.

**Get your questions answered by a Solid Waste representative and receive the latest updates on the new heavy trash pickup method at Lindale Park's February 24 Quarterly Meeting!**

- Editor Camille Webb, English Street

## Shining the Spotlight on Local Businesses

### Johnny Ritas



Johnny Ritas Cocina y Cantina is the completely new Mexican restaurant at 5602 Fulton St., right at the corner of Fairbanks and Fulton Streets. They tastefully serve a combination of Tex Mex, traditional Mexican dishes from the Oaxaca region and seafood dishes from Baja.

Owner Chico Ramirez has been in the restaurant business in and around Houston his entire professional life. He

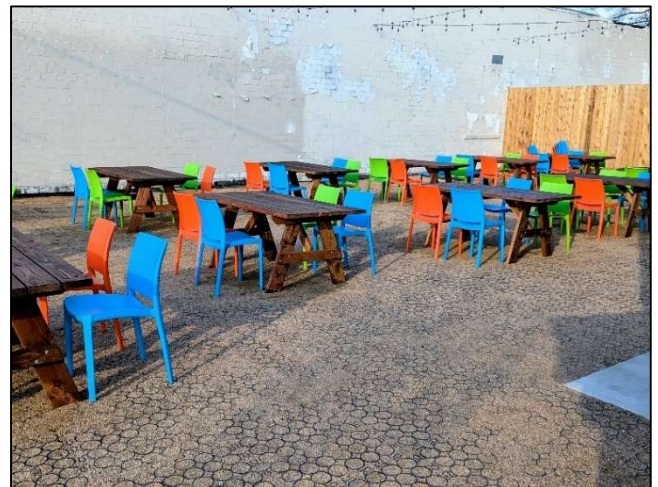
owned restaurants in different parts of Houston and sold a good portion of them to his partners.

He feels very fortunate for the opportunity to build his restaurant from the ground up in Lindale Park. Chico boasts that Johnny Ritas is a family venture as Chico oversaw construction, and his wife, a professional designer, designed the building's interior.

The restaurant seats 62 inside at tables, booths or at the bar. The interior is very well lit, given its large windows.

Although Johnny Rita's is next to the METRO light rail, you can't hear it going by unless someone opens the door.

The outside patios seat about the same number as inside, 60 plus. The front patio is traditional concrete, but the north patio base is comprised of special tiles and stone aggregate that is solid to walk on, but interestingly allows rainwater to penetrate, making it environmentally friendly. Both patios are dog-friendly.



Johnny Ritas was built by a family FOR families. Even the names, "Johnny" and "Rita" are family oriented as they are the owner's grandparents' names. It's a great addition to the Lindale Park area, and I suggest you give it a try! They're open from 3-10 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for brunch and 2-10 p.m. for regular menu, Saturday-Sunday. Find menus here: [www.johnnyritas.com](http://www.johnnyritas.com).

Chico has kindly offered to provide dinner for two on a visit to Johnny Ritas, including non-alcoholic drinks, a \$75 value. To be entered in the February 24 drawing, just before the LPCC Q1 Quarterly Meeting, email your name, address and phone number to [lp.contest@zohomail.com](mailto:lp.contest@zohomail.com).

Writer Mike Bowlin is a Lindale Park resident, regular contributor to the Lindale Park newsletter and broker/owner of Lindale Park Realty. Please call him for all your real estate needs at 713.539.2034 or email [LindaleParkRealty@gmail.com](mailto:LindaleParkRealty@gmail.com).

## Transforming Our Esplanade A Year of Growth and Community



Our neighborhood has been working on something new. Over the past year, volunteers have been planting and caring for native Texas plants along our esplanade. The goal was simple: create a greener space that works with our climate instead of against it.

This matters because Irvington Boulevard is the introduction to Lindale Park for many people. When drivers pass our stone sign, the esplanade is what they see first. A well-maintained, attractive entrance sets the tone for the entire neighborhood. The esplanade project makes that first impression count.

We chose plants that complement the existing dwarf yaupon hollies already established along the esplanade. Pink muhly grasses add soft, feathery texture and those beautiful pink plumes in fall. Lantana brings bright blooms that pollinators love. Purple heart provides ground coverage with its distinctive violet foliage. Creeping rosemary fills edges with fragrant greenery. Together, these plants create layers of color and texture throughout the year.

Native species made sense for several reasons. They need less water once established. They attract local wildlife like butterflies and birds. And, they're designed to handle Houston's unpredictable weather.

Getting the plants in the ground was just the start. The real challenge came during the summer months. When temperatures soared and rain disappeared, volunteers showed up regularly with hoses, watering cans and gloves. They watered thirsty plants, pulled competing weeds, trimmed overgrowth and propagated cuttings to fill in bare spots. Consistent care made a difference. The muhly grasses developed strong root systems, and the lantana kept blooming despite the heat.

It took approximately 100 hours of volunteer work to maintain the plants during this initial establishment period. That dedication paid off in more ways than one. The esplanade looks better, and we've been able to eliminate a monthly civic club landscaping expense of \$2,500 per year. The money saved can now go toward other neighborhood improvements.

Then, winter brought its own test. Those unexpected freezes can damage even established plants. Fortunately, our native species can handle cold temperatures, going dormant when needed and will bounce back when warmer weather returns.

But, maintaining this progress takes ongoing work. That's why we're planning a spring fundraiser, and every contribution will go directly toward materials and plants, along our esplanade.

Keep an eye on your email and our website for more information. Whether you can donate, volunteer to water or simply spread the word, there are ways to help.

- Tom Reeves, Fairbanks Street

### Neighborhood Tree Giveaway!

Join us for our fourth annual neighborhood tree planting and giveaway, courtesy of local nonprofit Trees for Houston from **8-11 a.m. Saturday, April 4 at the Lindale Park Community Center at 218 Joyce St.**

Pick out your native Texas tree to plant in your front yard, providing beneficial shade and beauty for the street and your home. **Trees are first come first served**, so arrive early to get your favorite species. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please send email to [lovelindalepark@gmail.com](mailto:lovelindalepark@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you there!



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## Love Lindale Park Cleanups Return

Love Lindale Park is proud to announce the revival of our community cleanup efforts!



Neighbors gather November 8, 2025, to clean the streets.

Our mission always has been to enhance the appearance, health and overall pride of our great neighborhood. With renewed energy and community support, we are bringing back regular cleanup events focused on litter removal, landscaping improvements and restoring shared spaces, so they can be enjoyed by everyone.

We also are expanding our impact through tree planting initiatives. Planting trees not only beautifies our streets and green spaces, but it also supports environmental sustainability, improves air quality and provides long-term benefits for future generations.

Join us for our **next cleanup at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 28**, as we work together to create a cleaner, greener and more vibrant community.

- Richard Aleman, Woodard Street



### Lindale Park's 2026 Events to Know

Q1 Quarterly Meeting  
**Tuesday, February 24 / 7-8 p.m.**  
 218 Joyce St.

Lindale Park Love Your Neighbor Happy Hour  
**Thursday, February 26 / 5:30 p.m.**  
 Monkey's Tail  
 All the family is invited! (Kids OK until 8 p.m.)

Love Lindale Community Center Cleanup  
**Saturday, February 28 / 9 a.m.**  
 218 Joyce St.

Lindale Park Littles New Mom Stroller Walks  
**Saturday, March 7**

Love Lindale Park Cleanup  
**Saturday, March 21**

Spring into Play  
**Saturday, March 21**  
*A fundraiser playdate to support re-mulching and refreshing the St. Alban's playground!*

Rivers, Lakes, Bays N' Bayous Trash Bash  
**Saturday, March 28 / 8 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
 Moody Park

Neighborhood Tree Planting  
**Saturday, April 4 / 8-11 a.m.**  
 218 Joyce St.

Lindale Park Littles Easter Egg Hunt  
**Late March or Early April (TBD)**

Lemonade and Kid Makers' Market  
**Late April or Early May (TBD)**  
 St. Alban's

Love Lindale Park Cleanup  
**Saturday, May 9**

Q2 Quarterly Meeting  
**Tuesday, May 26 / 7-8 p.m.**  
 218 Joyce St.