

# Neighborhood News Alerts Archive - 2003

## **Update on Rice's University & Main St. Property**

(Posted October 2003)

As reported in a neighborhood advisory posted in [February](#), a recent update of the university's architectural master plan for future decades gave particular attention to the prospects for expanding research collaboration between Rice and the Texas Medical Center(TMC). This will be of particular interest to our Southgate neighbors since the site of the former Tidelands Motel at the corner of Main and University is a natural location for a facility to promote joint research by Rice and TMC institutions. Exploratory discussions about various uses of the property that would include a research center have not yet resulted in any agreement or plans on which to move forward, so there is no other information to report at this time. Should matters progress, Rice will be in touch with its neighbors on additional details.

Please direct any comments or questions to the [Office of Community and Government Relations](#).

## **Veterans Day Observation**

(Posted October 2003)

As part of a celebration of Veterans Day, there will be a flyover of the Rice campus by one or more military helicopters at around noon on Tuesday 11 November.

## **New Tennis Court Construction**

(Posted October 2003)

Beginning in November of 2003, Rice will build eight additional tennis courts behind the existing campus gymnasium for use by university students and employees and fitness center members. Construction should be completed by

February of 2004.

## **Renovations at Baseball Stadium**

(Posted October 2003)

From December of 2003 through May of 2004, workers will be constructing the final section of grandstands at Reckling Park. Then, following the upcoming Owls baseball season, Cameron Field itself will be excavated and improved drainage features will be added before the soil is replaced and the turf regrown. Work on this phase of the project will begin in August of 2004 and be completed in November of the same year.

## **Historic Wiess Estate to Become New President's Residence**

(posted August 2003)

A home in Houston's Shadyside neighborhood, once owned by Humble Oil chairman Harry C. Wiess and donated to the university years ago, will soon have a new look and a new tenant. When Rice's president Malcolm Gillis announced his retirement effective the end of June 2004, renovation of the historic property were quickly initiated as the Rice Board of Trustees has decided it will be the home of the next President of Rice. As part of the renovation, the building's original west-facing orientation and driveway entrances off of Sunset Boulevard will be restored, and a later addition, the awning on the building's Main Street facade, will be removed. Additional landscaping, extensive interior renovations, and the addition of a new residential wing complete the renovations. The home should be ready for the still-unnamed successor to President Gillis by July, 2004. Please direct any questions to the [Office of University Relations](#). Details on this project can be found at <http://www.rice.edu/projects/reno/rn/20030220/wiesshouse.html> and at <http://project.rice.edu>

## **University Master Plan Update Envisions Rice/TMC Connection**

(posted February 2003)

Visitors to Rice have long admired the beauty of the campus, and frequently remark upon the architectural harmony between old and new campus buildings. Such symmetry is no accident. In 1904, Ralph Adams Cram of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson of Boston created the first university master plan, helping to guide successive generations of architects who not only mirrored Cram's unique design vocabulary, but also used his plan as a guide for the placement of new buildings. Since then, every few years, the university retains internationally respected architects to revisit and re-examine the master plan. Most recently, Michael Graves of Michael Graves Design was asked to consider the future of the burgeoning research cooperation between Rice and the institutions of the Texas Medical Center, and the ways in which the campus might respond architecturally to these opportunities. The results of this exercise are discussed in the following article from the [Rice News from January of 2003](#).

Rice University Master Plans  
*(Click Image to Enlarge)*



*Master Plan A*



*Master Plan B*