

Neighborhood News Alerts Archive - 2004

Rice “Citizens Police Academy” Offered to University Neighbors

(posted November 2004)

Assuming the level of expressed interest warrants proceeding, the Rice University Police Department will offer opportunities for Rice neighbors, their contract security service representatives, and members of the campus community to learn more about RUPD through a 13-week Citizens Police Academy. RUPD has been honored in the past as the best private police organization in the state of Texas and coordinates regularly with other area law enforcement organizations to improve the safety and security of the entire University Place area. The proposed academy is a continuation of the department’s long-standing commitment to community engagement. Interested parties may apply online or by contacting Sgt. Jim Baylor at 713-348-4594 or baylor@rice.edu.

Because of the comprehensive nature of the program, interested academy candidates should note that a substantial time commitment is required. The program will be taught by police trainers, executives, staff members, and veteran police officers. Lectures and discussions will cover such topics as community policing, criminal investigations, evidence collection, introduction to firearms training, and police vehicle operations, while demonstrations and interactive exercises will include fingerprinting, telecommunications, traffic stops, use of force decision making with a laser firearms training simulator, building searches, crime scene investigations, patrol ride-a-long, and CPR.

The academy will meet once a week for a three-hour evening session at the Rice University Police Law Enforcement Training Center. At the conclusion, a Citizen’s Police Academy graduation will take place where graduates are presented certificates and mementos of their experiences. There is no charge for attending the Rice University Citizen’s Police Academy, and enrollment is open to all members of the Rice University community, as well as surrounding neighborhoods. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting program, you may apply online at <http://rupd.rice.edu/CPA> or by contacting Sgt. Jim Baylor at

713-348-4594 or baylor@rice.edu

Business Journal Hails Rice/TMC Research Center;

Project Manager Named

(Posted November 2004)

As related in neighborhood advisories from [February](#) and [October](#) of 2003, the latest draft of Rice's master plan calls for a reorientation of future construction toward a new campus axis by which the university would more directly engage research institutions in the Texas Medical Center. As discussed with Southgate and other area civic club leaders at quarterly meetings since that time, anchoring this axis, Rice's provost Eugene Levy has proposed a collaborative research center on the former Tidelands Motel site on Main Street at University Boulevard.

While there still exists no agreement between potential research partners, and hence no construction plans, with the recent hiring of Diana Randall to serve as program director for the envisioned Collaborative Research Center, commitment to the project has become more concrete. In its November 8 editorial "[Unified Research is Long Overdue](#)," the *Houston Business Journal* enthusiastically endorsed the concept of a Rice/Texas Medical Center collaborative research center and offered additional details in a feature story "[Research Hub Unites Rice, TMC](#)". (Please note: the article states that "Rice has already hired a local architect and has selected a consulting construction company for the design phase," which is inaccurate. Rice has hired firms to undertake feasibility and predesign studies, but there are no contracts for design phase work at this time.)

As in the past, Rice will continue to be in touch with its neighbors on additional details as plans progress. Please direct any comments or questions to the Office of Community and Government Relations.

Rice Neighbors Welcome at Presidential Investiture

(Posted September 2004)

Members of the the Houston community are cordially invited to attend the [investiture of David W. Leebron](#) as the seventh president of Rice University on Saturday, October 2 from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the Academic Quadrangle of Rice University (rain site, Autry Gym). Free parking and free campus shuttles will be available in the West Stadium parking lots (accessible via Entrance 8 on University Boulevard and entrances 11 and 12 on Rice Boulevard).

For directions, please see the [inauguration website](#) or download a campus [map](#). The investiture ceremony also will be broadcast live via the Internet and archived for later viewing. Please visit <http://www.rice.edu/webcast/>.

Brown College Wall Construction

(Posted August 2004)

A brick wall adjacent to Brown College (Sunset Boulevard near campus Entrance 19) will be removed and replaced beginning Thursday August 26, 2004 and will be substantially completed by September 30, 2004. During the first two weeks there will be moderate noise and dust associated with the removal and disposal of the existing wall. Entrance 19 on Sunset Boulevard will be used for construction traffic, and intermittent traffic congestion near the entrance may be anticipated.

Post Game Fireworks

(Posted August 2004)

Please note that there will be brief celebratory fireworks displays following the September 18 and October 9 home football games. Both games start at 7:00 PM, and the fireworks will start immediately following the games. Near neighbors are

reminded to watch for door hangers redeemable for two free tickets to the game of your choice. We hope you enjoy the colorful displays.

Sunset Property to be Surveyed, Fenced

(Posted April 2004)

The Rice University property on Sunset near Rice Boulevard will be surveyed in the coming months to reconfirm its precise boundaries. The lot then will be fenced to enhance security and minimize liability. Rice has no current plans for use of the site.

RUPD to enforce “no through traffic” signs at Rice.

(Posted February 2004)

Last fall, “no through traffic” signs were posted on the Rice campus, and Public Affairs was told this was to cut down on visitors who have no actual campus destinations, but instead use the campus roadways simply as short-cuts. We’ve now been informed that the Rice University Police Department (RUPD) has been directed to begin enforcement of these signs, and we wish to bring this to our neighbors’ attention in the hope that no one will have to be ticketed simply because they were unaware. RUPD has a page on its website that provides additional information. That page can be found at http://rupd.rice.edu/thru_traffic.html.

6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005-1827

Update on Campus Gate Closures

(Posted 27 Jan. 04)

In response to NFL security, campus entrances 8 (University at Stockton) and 11 (Rice at Shepherd) will be the only ways to get on and off campus from 5:00 AM,

Friday, January 30 through 10:00 PM, Sunday, February 1. Entrance 13 (Rice at Kent) will be open to inbound traffic only on Friday, January 30 from 5:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

There will be special screening of any vehicles not displaying current Rice parking permit decals at all three open entrances. This will significantly slow down access to campus. The NFL and Rice regret any inconvenience.

Super Bowl Activities at Rice

(Posted January 2004)

As part of Houston's effort to welcome the participants and sponsors of the 2004 Super Bowl, Rice has been asked to provide practice facilities at Rice stadium for one of the competing teams. As a security precaution, exact dates and times are not being released, but the practices will take place during the week immediately preceding the February 1 game date. The practices will be closed to all but the team members themselves, and special NFL security will be employed to prevent unauthorized access to players or staff during these visits. As part of these precautions, the NFL will be selecting vehicle routes to and from the campus, and access to the campus may be restricted, including gate closures and security screening of some vehicles.

In addition to practices, Rice also has agreed to accommodate three Super Bowl sponsored events in the days leading up to the game. Two of these events are by invitation only, including one to be held Saturday night January 31, which will conclude with a small fireworks display at Rice Stadium. The third event is a celebrity flag football game for which admission tickets will be sold to the public (for information or to order tickets, please visit: <http://www.sportsprofilesplus.com/funngames/ffootball04/flagfootball.asp>). For each of these events, all related parking should be self-contained on the campus itself. There will be no park and ride on the Rice campus for the Super Bowl game. Though we are limited in the details we may release, Rice wanted our neighbors to be informed of the part we have been asked to play in Houston's welcome to the sponsors and teams participating in Super Bowl XXXVIII and to assure you

that we do not anticipate any significant impact on surrounding neighborhoods or businesses and minimal inconvenience to those who work and study on campus.

<http://www.sportsprofilesplus.com/funngames/ffootball04/flagfootball.asp>

