



Spotlight on our STARS

STARS—Seniors who Take A Role—volunteers and residents make a world of difference to our children.

Crossing to Safety



SBISD Crossing Guards Lee Roye and Evelyn Schuster

Lee Roye Schuster found a great second career as an SBISD crossing guard after retiring from Southern Pacific Transport freight. He's not alone in this special calling. His wife, Evelyn, has been an SBISD crossing guard since 1973.

Lee Roye, a youthful-looking 85 years old, is one of Hollibrook Elementary's best loved staff members. In August, he began his 25th year as a crossing guard there. At this point, the part-time pay is a small motivation.

"For me, being around children makes life a little easier. The little ones treat me just like a father and I just love being around them," he says. "They love you just like family."

He doesn't have the top claim on longtime service inside his family, though. Evelyn does.

She began at Spring Shadows Elementary and is celebrating 34 years this year at Frostwood Elementary. She patrols a four-lane crosswalk along busy South Gessner at Beauregard.

Her biggest complaint? "There's more traffic than ever, and many people today don't slow down for the School Zone signs," she says. SBISD's school zone speed limit is 20 mph during daily drop off and pick up periods.

The Schusters reside in Spring Shadows. Their adult daughter, Brenda, is a graduate of Spring Woods High and is now a speech therapist in Michigan. The Schusters visit Brenda and her daughters each summer.

The Schusters are one of four couples who work as SBISD crossing guards. They are Jean and Walter Dyches at Housman Elementary; Liz and James Elsner at Rummel Creek Elementary; and Claudia and Alejo Rozo, who patrol Spring Branch Middle and Spring Woods High schools, respectively.

SBISD often has part-time job openings for crossing guards, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, substitute teachers and substitute teaching assistants. For details, please call SBISD Human Resources at 713-464-1511 or visit our job openings online at www.springbranchisd.com.

More news about SBISD on back page

Bonds won't raise taxes

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Spring Branch voters will be asked to consider a \$597.1 million bond issue to rebuild district schools, build new classrooms, and provide districtwide improvements to all SBISD campuses.

The SBISD Board of Trustees unanimously approved calling a bond election during a special Sept. 5 meeting. The proposed bond package will address these major areas:

- Upgrade safety, security and technology
- Rebuild 12 older elementary campuses
- Upgrade and maintain existing systems
- Upgrade transportation and athletic facilities

The Board's 7-0 vote followed an extensive review of recommendations made by a 65-member Bond Advisory Committee, headed by two district parents. Business representatives, retirees, teachers and other patrons from every attendance zone in the district served on the advisory group.

The Committee met regularly for five months. It reviewed current and future facility needs, including a two-year study of the district's 5.6 million square feet of buildings. Most of the district's campuses were built more than 40 years ago.

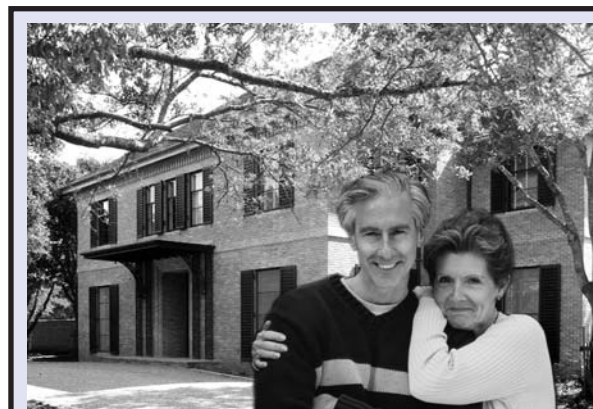
The bond issue will not affect the school taxes of homeowners 65 years or older or the disabled who qualify for homestead exemption. For these homeowners, school taxes will be lowered this fall due to the passage of a Texas constitutional amendment giving them the same tax relief as other homeowners.

Taxes for senior residents will remain frozen at the lower level and will not increase as a result of this bond measure regardless of its approval or denial by voters.

Unlike most of SBISD's budget, bond funds are not subject to the state's current Chapter 41, or "Robin Hood," funding formula.

Millions of Spring Branch tax dollars have been sent elsewhere due to this ongoing state legislation, but 100 percent of any bond funds approved by district voters will remain in SBISD to directly benefit students.

To learn more about the SBISD bond proposal, or the work of the Bond Advisory Committee, please visit www.springbranchisd.com.



Most seniors will see school tax reduction

2005-2006: \$2,625

2007-2008: \$1,863

Example: The owner of a \$200,000 home whose taxes were frozen for the first time in 2005-2006 paid \$2,625 in taxes. This fall, the same homeowner will pay a reduced school tax of \$1,863. School taxes will stay frozen at this lower level for seniors.

Passage of the bond issue will not affect the school taxes of anyone 65 or older or disabled with homestead exemption.

For qualifying seniors or disabled homeowners, school taxes will be lowered this fall as a result of a constitutional amendment approved by Texas voters in May. Taxes will remain frozen at the lower level and will not be increased regardless of the bond election.

Early voting

Early voting for the bond issue will be held Oct. 22 through Nov. 2 at any Harris County early voting polling location. In Spring Branch, two locations are:

Harris County Courthouse Annex
1721 Pech Road

Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum
901 Yorkchester (N.W. corner of Westchester Academy campus)

For early voting hours and information visit www.harrisvotes.com or call 713-755-6965.

Save the date: Oct. 23

Annual Senior Prom wears a mask



You are cordially invited to the 2007 Masquerade "Senior" Prom, which will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 23, at Northbrook High School, located at #1 Raider Circle. Your STAR (Seniors Take a Role) Card is your personal ticket to this eighth annual event, where you never know who you may or may not see. The award-winning Memorial High School Jazz Band will perform. A complimentary catered dinner and dessert will be served.

High school students will serve as "chaperones" and hosts. Many of our

young people love to dance, too.

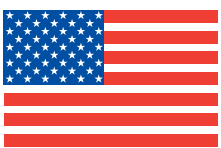
"Our students join with all of us in saying that we really do appreciate all that you have done to make Spring Branch such a great place to live and to learn," Superintendent of Schools Duncan Klussmann says. "Thanks so much for supporting and being a part of a great school district."

STARCards will be issued at the door and are available to all district residents 65 years of age or older. Space is limited, however, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

To confirm your party reservations, call 713-464-1511, ext. 2272. We hope to see you or guess who's behind that sequined mask at this year's STAR "Senior" Prom!

Tee Time! Spring Branch Education Foundation will sponsor its 11th annual Golf Classic on Sunday, Oct. 28, at River Ridge Golf Course in Sealy. For details, call Spring Branch Education Foundation's Cece Thompson at 713-365-4781.

STARNews is produced by the Communications Department of Spring Branch ISD. Its purpose is to keep retired residents informed about the school district they helped build.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

October			
3	SBISD Band Extravaganza	Tully Stadium	7 pm
4-8	<i>The Servant of Two Masters</i>	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm
5	<i>The Servant of Two Masters</i>	Spring Woods High School	3:15 pm
5	Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre	Memorial High School	7 pm
5	Battle of the Bands	Memorial High School	7 pm
5	Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre	Memorial High School	9 pm
6	<i>The Servant of Two Masters</i>	Spring Woods High School	2:30 pm
9	Concert	Northbrook Middle School	7 pm
11	<i>The Women of Lockerbie</i>	Memorial HS	7 pm
11	Orchestra Fall Concert	Memorial High School	7:30 pm
11-13	<i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i>	Stratford Playhouse	7:30 pm
13	SBISD Parent U	Spring Woods High School	8 am
13	<i>The Women of Lockerbie</i>	Memorial HS	7:30 pm
15	<i>The Women of Lockerbie</i>	Memorial HS	7 pm
16	Fall Choir Concert	Memorial HS	7 pm
16	Fall Combined Concert	Spring Woods High School	7:30 pm
18-20	<i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i>	Stratford Playhouse	7:30 pm
20	<i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i>	Stratford Playhouse	2:30 pm
23	Masquerade "Senior" Prom	Northbrook High School	5:30 pm
23	Spring Forest MS Orchestra	Stratford High School	6:30 pm
23	Choir & Middle Schools Concert	Northbrook High	7 pm
23	Stratford High Orchestra	Stratford High School	6:30 pm
25	Fall Fine Arts Concert	Spring Woods Middle School	6 pm
25	Hauncert Orchestra Concert	Memorial Middle School	7:30 pm
25-26	<i>The Anatomy of Gray</i>	Memorial High School	7:30 pm
28	SBEF 11th Annual Golf Classic	River Ridge Golf in Sealy	1 pm

November			
6	SBISD Bond Election	Harris County Poll Precincts	7am7pm
9-10	<i>Dateline: Rock and Roll</i>	Cornerstone Academy	7:30 pm
10	<i>Dateline: Rock and Roll</i>	Cornerstone Academy	1 pm
15	Band Winter Concert	Spring Forest Middle School	7:30 pm
28	Winter Concert	Memorial Middle School	7:30 pm
29	Medieval Feast/Awards Event	School of Choice	6 pm
30	Blood Drive	School of Choice at SBEC	12-4 pm

December			
4	Winter Concert	Spring Woods Middle School	6 pm
4	MHS's A Ceremony of Carols	Memorial Drive Presbyterian	7 pm
4	Winter Concert	Spring Woods High School	7 pm
6	Winter Concert	Spring Forest Middle School	7:30 pm
11	Choir Winter Concert	Spring Woods Middle School	6:30 pm
11	Band Winter Concert	Stratford High School	7 pm
12	Fine Arts Concert	Stratford High School	7 pm
13	Fine Arts Winter Concert	Cornerstone Academy	6:30 pm
13	Winter Extravaganza	Northbrook High School	7 pm
13	Winter Concert	Northbrook Middle School	7 pm
13	Winter Concert	Spring Oaks Middle School	7:30 pm
14	Winter Concert	Memorial High School	7:30 pm
20	Graduation	School of Choice at SBEC	4 pm

Note: Special reservation and pricing policies may apply for some events or those with special options. Check ahead to obtain STARCard discounts for events listed above.

Early voting reminder

Early voting for the bond issue will be held Oct. 22 through Nov. 2 at any Harris County early voting polling location. In Spring Branch, two locations are: Harris County Courthouse Annex, 1721 Pech Road, and Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum, 901 Yorkchester, on the Westchester Academy campus.



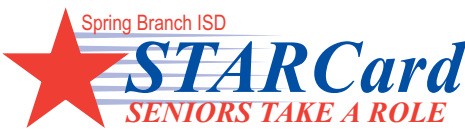
Board of Trustees: Photographed top row, left to right, are Superintendent of Schools Duncan Klussmann and Trustees Wayne Schaper Sr., Mike Falick and Dave Converse; seated, left to right, are Trustees Susan Mathews, Mary Grace Landrum, Susan Kellner and Theresa Kosmoski.

Spring Branch Board is best

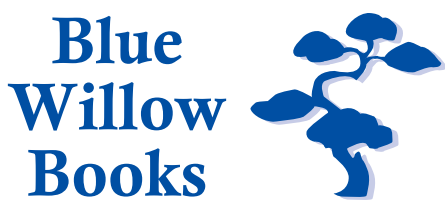
The Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees was named one of only five 2007 Honor School Boards of Texas in September, and remained in the running as of this newsletter's press time to be honored as Outstanding School Board of Texas. The Texas Association of School Administrators' (TASA) School Board Awards Committee announced the prestigious honor Sept. 7. Earning the state-level award along with SBISD were the school boards of Brenham, Mesquite, Stephenville and Clint ISDs.

After interviews, one of these five boards was expected to be designated the Outstanding School Board of Texas during a joint Sept. 30 convention session of the Texas Association of School Boards/TASA in Dallas. In July, the SBISD Board had been selected as the program's regional winner.

The Spring Branch Board last won Outstanding Texas School Board honors in 1983. The Board is composed of seven citizens elected at-large to serve overlapping terms of three years.



STARCard
SENIORS TAKE A ROLE



STARCards are distributed free of charge to citizens, 65 or older, who reside in SBISD. It's our way of saying thanks for all you've done, and continue to do, to support our district. Benefits include:

- ★ 20% discounts on SBISD continuing education classes
- ★ Free admission to SBISD regular season "home game" athletic events (playoffs not included)
- ★ Free admission to student performances (some seats are limited and advance ticket pick-up may be required)

★ 10% off on Wednesdays (14532 Memorial Dr.)

To receive your free STARCard and earn these discounts, please contact the Communications Department at 713-464-1511, ext. 2272.