

What happened with Briarhills sanitary sewers?

By Tom Mikus

On June 11, a big sinkhole appeared in the sewage facility at the east end of Trailville. A manhole and the surrounding ground fell in. A sanitary sewer at the corner of Briarhills Parkway and Arrow Hill was overflowing into the storm sewer. A work crew there stated that was related to the sinkhole. A call to 311 found no reported problems. We notified registered Briarhills.org users by email that it seemed prudent to minimize sanitary sewage.

On June 12, the city installed a pump to bypass the damaged equipment associated with the sinkhole. The sanitary sewer at the corner of Briarhills Parkway and Arrow Hill was no longer overflowing into the storm sewer. City workers told us that sanitary sewers in Briarhills would operate properly then, and while they made permanent repairs. We notified registered Briarhills.org users by email about this temporary fix.

Permanent repairs began with digging a bigger, deeper hole. More than three weeks after a big sinkhole appeared at the Briarhills sanitary sewer facility, the City of Houston finished repairing the system and it now operates normally.



POA Meeting

By Tom Mikus

There will be a meeting of the Property Owners Association on Tuesday, August 20th at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse at 14300 Briarhills Parkway. The meeting begins with the constable's security report, then an open forum for residents, followed by the regular monthly directors' meeting. The agenda for the directors' meeting will be posted on Briarhills.org by August 17th. All Briarhills residents are welcome to attend.



Recycling Update

By Tom Mikus

More than one third of POA residents have already paid the optional recycling fee and are enjoying curbside pickup now. If you would like to participate, just pay the \$24 annual fee by August 13th to join the program in September. You can bring your payment to the POA office at 14300 Briarhills Parkway, or mail it to Fleetwood Box 940548, Houston, TX 77094-7548. For more information visit Briarhills.org.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Emergency	911
Constable (<i>Closest Law Enforcement</i>).....	281-463-6666
Poison Help	1-800-222-1222
Library and Community Center.....	832-393-1880
City Services.....	Call 311
Citizens' Assistance.....	713-247-1888
Public Works.....	713-837-0600
Neighborhood Protection.....	713-525-2525
Animal Control.....	713-229-7300
Wild animal problem	713-861-9453
Hazardous waste.....	713-551-7355

OTHER UTILITY SERVICES

Street light problem.....	713-207-2222
.....	(then 1 then 4)
Power out/emergency	713-207-2222
Gas leak suspected.....	713-659-2111
Before you dig.....	Call 811

BRIARHILLS SERVICES

Trash collection	713-733-1600
Amenity tags	281-558-7422
Tennis courts.....	281-558-7422
Pool parties.....	281-558-7422
Clubhouse rental	281-558-7422
Marquee messages	281-558-7422

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Briar Hills Beat. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Briar Hills residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Article Submission.....
briarhills@sbcglobal.net
Advertising.....
advertising@PEELinc.com

Hurricane Preparedness

By Nancy Scott

We want you to be safe! Here are our tips – based on real experience. There are 18 named storms including 9 hurricanes, predicted for the Atlantic basin this year. There is a 47% chance of landfall of any of these storms from Florida to Brownsville.

Preparations make enduring hurricanes less traumatic. We recommend that you have the following:

WATER

- 1 gallon per person per day for drinking
- Water for toilets – you can fill the bathtub

FOOD

- Ready to eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables.
- High-energy foods including peanut butter, crackers, granola bars, and trail mix.
- Comfort food including cookies, hard candy, instant coffee, tea bags.

SUPPLIES

- Battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries – LED lights last a very long time
- Cash – ATMs will not work without power
- Non-electric can opener
- Fully charged cell phone and laptop
- Toilet paper, paper towels, towelettes, soap, plastic garbage bags
- Personal hygiene items
- Medications and first aid kit
- Baby formula, diapers, bottles, powdered milk
- Entertainment – games (non electronic) and books
- Family records in waterproof container including copy of home insurance policy.
- Clean up in the event of damage
- Camera (photo any damage first), fans, dehumidifier, bleach, chainsaw, and tarps.
- Fill up all vehicles with gas – gas pumps do not work without power
- Bring in objects such as garbage cans, garden tools, toys, and lawn furniture. They easily
- fly around in the wind and cause damage.
- Clear clogged rain gutters, downspout, and drainage systems. Lower level of water in pool.
- Torrential rains can overflow a pool very quickly.

Installing a natural gas generator system prior to a storm is the best option to save cold foods and keep you cool. This works as long as the gas lines are not storm damaged.

If you are interested in tracking the hurricanes, they will be named:

Andrea, Barry, Chantal, Dorian, Erin, Fernand, Gabrielle, Humberto, Ingrid, Jerry, Karen, Lorenzo, Melissa, Nestor, Olga, Pablo, Rebekah, Sebastien, Tanya, Van, and Wendy.

Visit the following websites www.weather.gov, www.nhc.noaa.gov, www.redcross.org, or www.fema.gov for more information.

Rebecque Demark & Nancy Scott
Heritage Texas Properties
281-493-3880

★ JULY 4TH CELEBRATION EVENT ★

By James Gilmer

Thank you to everyone in our community for participating in our Annual 4th of July celebration. The POA Board of Directors hopes that you enjoyed each of the elements that were executed on that day. We hope that you and your family enjoyed the Chili Cheese Dogs, the Face Painting, Tap Snap and the Water Slide. The reactions on the kids' faces that I noticed were priceless and that is what we are here to do as volunteers of the Property Owner Association.

Thank you to our sponsors for the Water, Fire Truck and Face Painter. Nancy Scott and Maria Galitos we could not have done this without you two. We really appreciated your donation and support.

Our next event will take place in October and we are hoping for the same amount of participation. Please visit our website www.briarhills.org to stay abreast of all upcoming activities and important announcements.

If you have any ideas or recommendations on a community event please send me an e-mail at jgilmer@briarhills.org.



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DEAR NEIGHBOR,

SN17 is a chartered group formed to communicate and bring focus on issues that affect our 23 Home Owners Associations on the West Side of Houston. The purpose of this letter is to alert you to a growing blight on our neighborhoods that impacts public safety, our businesses and property values.

The Panhandlers who station themselves at intersections to ask for money are not what they seem to be. They are rarely homeless and do not want food; they want cash, many times for alcohol or drugs. The average panhandler makes upwards of \$200 per day, sometimes more, and they come from as far as Dallas and New Orleans. Our Homeless Committee is directing those who want and need genuine help to places that offer a path to restoration.

Panhandlers expose themselves to danger while walking around intersections. The distractions they present to motorists have caused accidents and fatalities in the area of Hwy 6 and

Westheimer. They also intimidate motorists at gas stations. We want the panhandlers to leave, yet the number of persons at the intersections continues to grow.

To stop this danger to our neighborhoods we have one strong recommendation; do not give panhandlers money. We are working with the Westside Command of HPD to clear the intersections; their recommendation is to refrain from giving the panhandlers anything. Your help in this matter is vital in eradicating this problem. Please alert your friends and neighbors to this problem. We can use everyone's help.

Sincerely,

Jack O'Connor - Chairman of the Homeless Committee
Doug Parrish - President SN 17

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Briarhills Dolphins Swim Team

By Billy Wright

The 2013 Briarhills Dolphins Swim Team enjoyed another successful season. Competing in the West Houston Aquatic League (WHAle) for the 22nd year, the Dolphins participated in Division 4 for the first time. With a solid 3 and 1 finish in the dual meets, Briarhills claimed 2nd place. Also, as is our custom, the Dolphins were once again awarded the Sportsmanship Award!

The Dolphins were led by our own home grown coaches Maddie Wright, Dominic Gillan, Nicole Carrabba, and Tina Fries who have all been a part of the team since they were very young swimmers themselves. Their positive influence on the swimmers resulted in a lot of improvement, tons of team spirit, and a tremendous amount of fun!

A third place finish at the Division Meet of Champs concluded the season for most of the team. Those exceptional swimmers that qualified for the All Star Meet were: Colin Hageney, Charlie Payne, Helen Gordon, Lucy Payne, Illies Dolliazal, Tommy Dowdy, Nicholas Olinger, Claudia Kuck, Colin Lowe, Luke Vrijland, Thomas Suess and Alex Kuck.

A year end team party was enjoyed by all swimmers and their families and the swimmers were awarded trophies and medals for all their hard work, competition, and team spirit they have shown throughout the season.

We gratefully appreciate the support of our team sponsors: Briarhills HOA & POA, Sordelli Orthodontics & Periodontics, Scandrill, Inc., Febres Dentistry for Children, Southwest Galvanizing, Nancy Scott & Rebecque Demark of Heritage Texas Properties, Rioja Tapas Restaurant, Auto Check #2, Memorial Athletic & Aquatic Club, and A-Gleam Swimwear. Their generous support helps with needed purchases for equipment and needs for the team.

A big thank you goes out to team president Janna Wright, who puts in many hours overseeing the operations of the team and organizing parents. Also, special thanks goes out to all the parents who volunteer their time at swim meets and help them run smoothly and efficiently. Summer league swimming is a wonderful family activity for our neighborhood. Thanks again for everyone's support.

Way to go Dolphins!!

DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE



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2013

August
Calendar

Ongoing: Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets, info@colinshope.org

August 19: Got2Skate for Colin's Hope Fundraiser, 6:30-8:30pm at Playland Skate Center

August 29: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 10K/10 miler, <http://www.tinych.org/got2swim>

September 8: 5th Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon, <http://www.tinych.org/KidsTri>

October 19: Sharkfest Austin Swim benefitting Colin's Hope, www.sharkfestswim.com



ALERT: 36 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year.
 Many more have survived non-fatal drowning incidents.
 Be a Water Guardian and Watch Kids around Water.
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US
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Update to the Update from the Board article

By Lawton Park

In the July 2013 Briar Beat, the Official Publication of The Briarhills POA there was a statement that "All of the monies for the tree project came from donations from residents". This certainly was an error of misrepresentation, and do apologize, and bring to the Association's attention the corrected facts;

- Trees for Houston donated 100% of the trees to the POA Association.
- The Board of Directors approved \$1000. to repair the existing irrigation system, and agreed to spend \$595. for mulch, materials, tools for the project.
- Carolyn Klein, West Side High School teacher along with 15+ HS students, plus with equal numbers of volunteers, Cub Scouts etc. planted Trees February 23rd.
- Individual and Family financial support totaling \$1895. enabled us to have Nalesnik's Landscaping, Inc. install an

essential Drip Water System to each tree for a good start.

A very special thanks to all volunteers along with recognition of "gift contributors" who helped make the 2013 POA Tree beautification initiative become a reality are as follow; Anderson, Anthony & Maria Murphy • Le, Catherine • Ashy, Steve • McLean, Mathew & Leslie • Barr, Eugene & Shalina • Mehdizadeh, Fariba • Daenekas, Rudy & Maria • Mikus, Tom • Davis, Clovis & Lois • Monte, Rock & Julie • England, Chad & Ashley • Park, Lawton & Christina • Farmer, Dale & Terri • Pendyala, Divakar & Kala • Felton, Janet • Scott, Nancy • Garcia-Rameau, Eddy & Pam • Shanahan, Timothy & Caroline • Harris, Doris O. • Shih, Pen Yuan & Sue • Klein, Bob & Carolyn • Thai, Le

Hopefully 2014 will bring another great opportunity to support Briarhills Trees and thanks!



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Summer Service Opportunities in the Cypress Area

By: Aranka Barbe

Cypress Woods Key Club Junior Representative

Summer: that time of year every high school student looks forward to the most. For Cy Woods High School Key Club members, however, it means having copious amounts of time to volunteer and serve the community.

Because wildlife flourishes in summer's plentiful sunlight, neighborhood parks need a lot of maintenance. To make their neighborhoods look their best, students can call their Home Owner's Association and offer to trim or mow these parks, or even build a bench or picnic table to make them more people-friendly.

For those who would rather stay indoors, nursing homes are always looking for extra hands. Seniors who need assistance doing everyday tasks often don't have many visitors and spend much of their time without company. Spending time with them can teach teens compassion as well as brighten the day of the community's elderly. Food banks also need helpers. Organizing food drives and distributing the items donated is a great way for Key Club members to volunteer during the summer because it supports the lives of those in need.

Over the course of the year everyone accumulates old paraphernalia that isn't used, but is still in usable condition. An efficient way to get rid of this "junk" is to host a yard sale and donate the proceeds to charities, reducing trash and giving back to the community simultaneously. The items that were not sold can also be donated to organizations like Cypress Assistance Ministries or Goodwill.

Everyone loves animals, and a fun way to turn this love into community service is by volunteering in animal care at the Cypress Science Resource Center. During the school year, volunteers visit elementary schools throughout the district to teach kids about various animals and animal behavior by exhibiting live critters. These furry teachers need to be cared for year-round, and summer is an especially fun time to help because the more time you spend with the animals, the better you get to know them. Animal shelters also look for animal-friendly volunteers, but unfortunately often have an age limit for applicants. For those who are eligible, caring for rescue animals is a fulfilling way to spend the summer.

Although most teens spend their summer relaxing, not all members of the community have this luxury. Troops overseas are in constant need of personal care items and means of amusement. Donating extra (unopened) containers of shampoo, toothpaste, magazines, books, etc. to organizations like Cypress Cares supports our forces abroad.

Cypress has lots of volunteering opportunities during the summer, and for any Key Club member looking to catch up, keep up, or get ahead on their hours, they don't have to look far to find service opportunities that fit them.

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