

NEIGHBORS *AND* FRIENDS

As the summer is winding down and coming to an end I wanted to bring up a few issues from the Architectural Control Committee – home improvements and home maintenance. Both of these are issues that should have probably been addressed earlier in the summer, but late is better than never.

Some of you may know, but many may not, that the Property Owners Association (POA) has an Architectural Control Committee (ACC) set up for the explicit purpose of enforcing the deed restrictions in the neighborhood. Since I joined the ACC as of late April, I have made my best effort to maintain an open and honest communication between residents and the ACC regarding its decisions.

Deed restrictions are very important in a neighborhood – especially in a city that has no zoning ordinances or design guidelines to fall back on. Ours were written when the neighborhood was first formed, and occasionally over the years they have been amended slightly here and there. You can log onto the briarhills.org to find the latest version of the deed restrictions. One of the things the deed restrictions are very specific on is the need to formally apply to the ACC before undertaking any exterior changes to a property. This includes, but is not limited to, simple items such as changing a fence, repainting, re-pouring a driveway that is different from the original, all the way to major renovations such as garage conversions, second story additions, or new structures on the property. The ACC takes these issues quite seriously. It is important to ensure a fair and consistent review of all improvements to ensure that the deed restrictions are followed and to ensure that the character of the neighborhood is not jeopardized.

It is of utmost importance that, before residents undertake a project, they submit an application. If you are unsure of whether or not your project requires an application, we are only an email or a phone call away. As some residents have already experienced, the ACC strives to respond to questions and comments as soon as possible.

The other key responsibility of the ACC is to send out monthly deed restriction violation notices. We strive to make a consistent and fair assessment of each property before issuing a letter. The ACC encourages everyone to get online and read the deed restrictions to find out what is and is not allowed in the neighborhood. Again, if you are unsure, please feel free to contact us.

One of the big pushes the ACC is making is to ensure our neighborhood remains a vibrant walkable community. We are fortunate to have a great deal of residents who enjoy strolling around the neighborhood with their family or pets. This is a huge asset to the neighborhood. Walkable communities are more vibrant, have less crime, are healthier, and feel more welcoming. To continue to ensure the walkability of the neighborhood the ACC has begun to address property landscaping and sidewalk care. Residents should trim their sidewalk landscaping such that it does not encroach on the sidewalk. This means trimming back bushes or cutting mailbox plantings. Trees should be trimmed to be at least 6'-8" above the sidewalk so as not to obscure the view down the sidewalk and to not hit residents in the face while they pass by. Mud and debris should also be removed from sidewalks so that residents don't slip and fall. When these issues are not addressed people are forced to walk in the roadway – which is much more dangerous, especially when small children are involved.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Briarhills Management office and your questions will be answered as soon as we get them. Remember that our annual meeting will be held in September, so please try to make it out and find out what's going on for the next year.

Happy September!

Alec Luong, AIA

Architectural Control Committee

Vice President, Briarhills Property Owners Association

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

July 2014 Security Report Summary for HOA and POA

Alarm Local.....	6
Alarm/Rep. Site.....	2
Alarm/Sil/Pan/HU.....	1
Animal/Humane.....	2
Check Park	2
Contract Check.....	104
Dist./Fireworks.....	2
Duplicate Call.....	1
Incident Report.....	5
Information Call.....	3
Meet the Citizen.....	5
Neighborhood Chk.....	13
Open Door/Window.....	3
Solicitors.....	1
Special Assign.....	2
Susp Person.....	1
Traf Initiative.....	3
Traffic Hazard.....	1
Traffic Stop.....	8
Unk Med Emerg.....	1
Vacation Watch.....	410
Veh Suspicious.....	4

Total Count for Period : 580



MEET YOUR CONTINUING BRIARHILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

ALEC LUONG

Hello everyone. I hope your summer has been well. I am a 29 year old licensed architect from the City of Houston. I was born and raised in Sugar Land and attended Strake Jesuit (class of 2003 for anyone interstate). I went to Virginia Tech for college where I received my B.Arch and my M.Arch and met my future wife - Emily. I only recently moved back to Texas a few years ago, and have been in Briarhills since 2003. I have a large family in town, some 16 cousins plus aunts and uncles and grandparents, and couldn't think of any other place I wanted to live but here – much to my wife's dismay at first.

I teach Sunday school at St. John Vianney Catholic church around the corner, play soccer with my wife (although 260+ pounds doesn't move very fast, I can make a decent goalie...), enjoy walking with my wife and dog (you can't miss us), and work on my house – constantly. I have only recently been on the board, appointed back in January.

I've managed to rope both my neighbors into joining the board, Matt and George (see below for more about them) and look forward to serving the neighborhood through next September. I think we have a great neighborhood and want to see that kind of success continue on. I encourage everyone reading this to try and make at least one board meeting to see what it is that we do, and even volunteer to help out if you can. Thanks again, and hope to meet more of you as the year goes on.

MATT KEMPER

Howdy!

As Alec mentioned, I am his neighbor Matt Kemper. I moved into Briarhills Spring of 2013 with my wife Brandye.

I am also remodeling my house from its original 1970 décor (wallpaper & popcorn ceilings), and have long term investment in the community. When I am not working on

my house I enjoy a whole host of outdoor activities: softball, kickball, biking, running, swimming, camping, & traveling.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Business from Texas A&M University (WHOOPI!), and Masters of Business from Harding University. Over the last 10 years I have worked in multiple industries (automotive, oil & gas, and food commodities) both domestically and internationally in purchasing and supply chain contracts. My goal is to use my professional experiences to support our neighborhood's long term physical and financial health.

GEORGE NINO

Hello neighbors. I hope you are well. I am the father of four great kids, and I have been lucky enough to be married for 18 years to the love of my life. My family and I moved to Briarhills in 2008, and we have very much enjoyed our time in this wonderful neighborhood. Our children have been members of the Briarhills Dolphins since we moved here, and, when we are not at the pool, we try to go on walks and bike rides in Terry Hershey Park as often as our chaotic schedules permit. I feel truly blessed to have found this community in which to raise my family.

I have been a trial attorney for the last 25 years and have enjoyed representing individuals and business in cases all over the United States, including cases in California, Texas, Oklahoma, and Delaware. Whenever I am away, I cannot wait to come home to my family and my neighborhood. I appreciate the opportunity to serve our community and am eager to pitch in as a member of the POA Board. Most of all, I hope to meet as many of you as I can and hear your thoughts about maintaining and improving our neighborhood. Though I am a proud Texan, I briefly left home to attend school. I am a 1989 graduate of Stanford Law School and a 1986 graduate of Yale University.

YOUR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

Tuesday, September 16th, 7 PM at the clubhouse (14300 Briarhills Parkway)

The agenda will include the election of two directors and a revision to our declaration document (deed restrictions), plus conversations about the future of our facilities and our neighborhood. All Property Owners Association (POA) members (owners) should vote. Election materials are mailed to all owners in the POA.

If you have any questions, or would like to talk to one of the current POA directors, please send an email to briarhills@sbcglobal.net or call 281-558-7422. Please also check our website briarhills.org for any updates/announcements on the meeting and election.

BRIAR HILLS MARKET FAIR HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The BHMF is looking for 5-10 high school volunteers to work the Market Fair on Saturday, October 18th from 8AM to 6PM. This is an excellent way to earn service hours and support your community. Please contact Debra Underwood, Committee Chairwoman, at dju1957@outlook.com.

SAVE OUR FOREST UPDATE

Dear Save Our Forest Supporters:

In an effort to keep you informed about matters important to the Save Our Forest effort, we wanted to bring you this update.

Thanks to recent rains, the forested areas along Buffalo Bayou are lush, green and shady as we head into what is usually the hottest part of the year here in Houston. Birds, butterflies and other wild life are abundant. We want to preserve these areas for our generation and for future generations but, unfortunately, despite all of your efforts and support to date over the last few years, they continue to be threatened by our elected government officials.

Your efforts to save these rare natural areas in our otherwise urbanized environment began back in 2011 and must continue. Not only are the forested areas in Terry Hershey Park still threatened, but there are also now serious threats to forested areas of Buffalo Bayou that run through Memorial Park, one of the crown jewels of the City's park system. (We have been advised that under a proposal targeting that area, about 80% of the existing trees and

vegetation along a stretch of Buffalo Bayou over a mile long would be removed.) So the few remaining, wild, wooded areas of Buffalo Bayou continue to be under assault both in our area of Houston and downstream in an area that passes through Memorial Park and also alongside the Hogg Bird Sanctuary.

Regarding our local stretch of Buffalo Bayou, as we've previously advised you, the Harris County Flood Control District ("HCFCD") appears to have rejected better, but more challenging, detention alternatives we have advocated, like the construction of detention capacity in a Clodine regional detention area, and is continuing to focus on the excavation of detention basins in wooded areas along Buffalo Bayou in Terry Hershey Park.

As we've also previously advised you, HCFCD recently agreed to spend a quarter of a million dollars on an engineering study (the "Terry Hershey Park Surveying Contract") which has specifically targeted the area between Eldridge Parkway and Wilcrest Drive on the south bank of Buffalo Bayou in preparation for possible detention basin work along that stretch. And we believe that if this study results in plans to excavate detention basins in that area,

(Continued on Page 5)



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Save Our Forest Continued from Page 4)

it will be followed by other similar studies in other forested areas along the Bayou, such as the area between Wilcrest and Beltway 8 on the south side of the Bayou.

HCFCF has indicated that following the completion of this Surveying Study, it plans to provide information and gather feedback at one or more community meetings. We wanted to again give you advance notice of this and emphasize how extremely important it will be for you to attend these meetings and voice your opposition to any plans for the removal of the forest for the excavation of detention basins. Not only would trees and vegetation be stripped away along the banks of Buffalo Bayou, but increased traffic congestion will be a natural consequence of dump truck after dump truck removing enormous amounts of earth and vegetation from along the Bayou.

Once the HCFCF schedules these community meetings we will let you know. You can also go to HCFCF's website and sign up to receive updates on the survey activities and to be notified when community meetings are scheduled. The website address is www.hcfcf.org/THPSurveying_Contract/. On August 1,

2014 the HCFCF issued an update regarding the survey which indicated that approximately 50 acres of land between Eldridge and Kirkwood along the southern banks of the Buffalo Bayou have now been surveyed. The update also indicated that the surveying effort was moving into its "next phase" which appears to be the surveying of the area along the southern banks of Buffalo Bayou between Kirkwood and Wilcrest.

It's up to us average citizens to continue to let our governmental officials know how much we value the few forested areas along Buffalo Bayou and therefore want to protect them and the wildlife habitat they provide.

More information regarding the Save Our Forest effort can be found at the website for the Briar Forest Super Neighborhood — BriarForestSN.org.

We sincerely appreciate your continued concern and support for The Forest.

Arnie Azios: aazios@sbcglobal.net

George Crosby: gcrosby@eagleglobal.com

Preston Cunningham: preston@cunninghamtx.com

Michael Huffmaster: michael.huffmaster@att.net

Landrum Wise: 4lwise@comcast.net

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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