

NEIGHBORS *AND* FRIENDS

Alec Luong, AIA, President, Briarhills Property Owners Association

Happy SPRING! Its been a long, wet, and cold winter,
but finally Spring is upon us

It's always difficult to write this monthly article because of the timing of its delivery. I am writing this at the beginning of March, for publication sometime in the middle of April, so please bear with me as some of the things I am writing about are subject to change. The best way to keep yourself informed is to make sure your email is registered with the POA at www.briarhills.org.

This article is a bit of a catch all for what's coming up the next few months, so bear with me. First off, I want to encourage as many parents with children as possible to sign up for the Briarhills Dolphins this summer. For those of you who are new, or don't know, the Dolphins are an institution in the neighborhood being formed many decades ago. Children 5 – 18 are encouraged to sign up and participate. To support the team even more this year, the Board of Directors voted to pick up the tab for the extra chemical fees the team is charged annually – a \$400 item. We on the board want to do everything we can to encourage the children of the neighborhood to take part in this wonderful institution. The Board is also making special provisions in the master plan process to ensure that the Dolphins have the additional storage space they need in a much improved pool house to continue to be part of the Briarhills community. More information can be found at www.briarhillsswinteam.com.

The Board is also continuing the development of the Master Plan for the community. At this time two options have been developed and presented by PGAL - the architects retained

to do the master plan. Both plans have been posted to the website and sent out via email. We have also set up a section of the website for residents to post their comment. The Board is committed to developing a master plan that will address the needs of the neighborhood well into the future and we welcome as much community input as we can get. Please feel free to post your comments, email the office manager (briarhills@sbcglobal.net), or better yet come to the monthly meeting to make sure your voice is heard.

As springtime starts upon us, its home improvement time! Please make sure to fill out the home improvement request form before undertaking any exterior alterations to your home, sidewalk or driveway repair, or any other items that are required by the Deed Restrictions. Its always much easier to send us an email for clarification instead of receiving a letter from the POA after the fact.

And as springtime comes so do the blooms of the flowers and the growth of the trees. Last year the Architectural Control Committee undertook a serious effort to improve the quality of the sidewalks and walkways in our neighborhood. Over 150 letters were sent out to residents asking them to trim their trees and cut their bushes. Remember, bushes, shrubs, flower, or any other type of flora should not encroach into the sidewalk area. Trees should be cut so that they are at least 6'-8" above the sidewalk. A walkable neighborhood is a SAFE neighborhood,

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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

Feb. 2015 Security Report Summary for HOA and POA

Accidental Injur.....	1
Alarm Local.....	1
Alarm/Rep. Site.....	1
Alerts/Crime Tip.....	1
Animal/Humane.....	2
Burglary/Motveh.....	1
Check Park.....	5
Contract Check.....	278
Crim Mischief.....	1
Dist/Family.....	1
Follow Up.....	1
Incident Report.....	3
Information Call.....	7
Meet the Citizen.....	16
Meet the Officer.....	1
Neighborhood Chk.....	14
Open Door/Window.....	5
Solicitors.....	2
Susp Person.....	7
Traf Initiative.....	11
Traffic Stop.....	17
Vacation Watch.....	51
Veh Speeding.....	1
Veh Suspicious.....	7
Welfare Check.....	2
Writ.....	3

Total Count for Period : 440



(Continued from Cover)

so let's have everyone pitch in and make sure we can keep the sidewalks as clear as possible.

As always, please make sure to email the office manager if you have any specific topic you would like to address at the board meetings. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per person so that we can respect everyone's time at the meetings. We have also started to serve coffee and cookies at the meetings to lure more residents to participate. BEANS Coffee, a great local establishment right at the corner of Enclave and Eldridge Parkway, provides coffee.

Also please note that the board meeting will no longer rotate days as they have the past few months. If you remember, the Board voted to rotate the day schedule (Monday – Thursday) in consecutive months to try and improve participation. Unfortunately this hasn't worked, so we have voted to move the meetings back to Monday's.

That about sums it up. I hope everyone has a safe and pleasant April, Spring Break, Easter, or whatever else you participate in.

Alec Luong, AIA

President, Briarhills Property Owners Association

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TRAVEL BARGAINS

Outsmart the airline reservation system. Try shopping for each passenger ticket separately. When you purchase two or more tickets in a single transaction, most airlines require seats be sold at the same price. If shopping for two people, and there is only one seat left at the \$150 promotional price, you will pay a higher amount for each ticket unless you do two transactions.

Price shop hotels online, but then call the front desk. You may get a better deal.





Hot Dog



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REBECQUE'S AND NANCY'S BEAT

Shortly you will receive a Notice of Appraised Value card and the green Notice of Protest form in the mail. Make note of the filing deadline date indicated on the form. Using the iFile number on both the card and form, you can protest online by going to owners.hcad.org. This will be much easier to do than by going to the HCAD building since there will be traffic congestion due to the construction on 290.

HISD has proposed redistricting that will affect the Westside of the district. Though this is being protested by some areas, it will reduce the number of capped grade levels at Barbara Bush Elementary.

Read the information elsewhere in the Briar Beat about the proposed improvements in the amenities in our neighborhood. The POA Board has held several public meeting about this. I have only heard positive comments concerning the prospect

of finally having a functional clubhouse, updated pool and recreational facilities, and shaded play areas.

The Energy Corridor is sponsoring Energy Fest 2015 on April 4 from noon to 5 p.m at the Addicks Park & Ride, 14230 Katy Freeway. Included will be free entertainment, a concession park, merchants' row, kid's arena with rock-climbing wall, video gaming truck, moonwalk, and much more, and the Energy Fest Beer Garden. There will be something for everyone and the admission is free!

Watch for Blue Bonnet flyer with a map of the best bluebonnet trails that Rebecque and I will be mailing to you. A group of friends and I were very happy when we used it last year. If you do not receive the flyer and want it, please call Nancy at 713-865-0500 or Rebecque at 713-252-8899.

Rebecque and Nancy



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"Dependable, energetic, dedicated, organized, great negotiator and always placing her client's needs as a top priority, is how Thea McShay manages to retain new and repeat clients. I bought a listing of hers years ago and when I was ready to downsize, there was no one I would have wanted to list it again, as she had impressed me the first time. She not only lists your property, she guides you through the process with great knowledge and efficiency. I couldn't have chosen a better agent to help me sell my house and buy a new home." - Debbi T.



GET MORE FROM YOUR GARDEN

Raspberries require little care to grow, but can cost a lot at the store. You can even freeze them.

Mixed salad greens, like baby lettuce and arugula are tough and quick growing, even after cutting.

If you cut them correctly they will grow again. Start at one end of your garden and cut plants about an inch from the ground. The plant could grow back 3-4 times in a season.

Flat gardening was popular years ago, but now raised beds are much better. They prevent weeds from taking over, let water drain more efficiently and plants thrive in aerated soil.

A very common error in gardening is over watering and drowning plants. If it rains at least one inch per week, you can probably skip heavy watering. Purchase a rain gauge (under \$10) at garden stores to keep track of how much or how little water your plant is getting and add or subtract from there.



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SUDOKU

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8					7		4	

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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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.

WOW!
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Nancy Scott
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nscott@heritagetexas.com



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Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

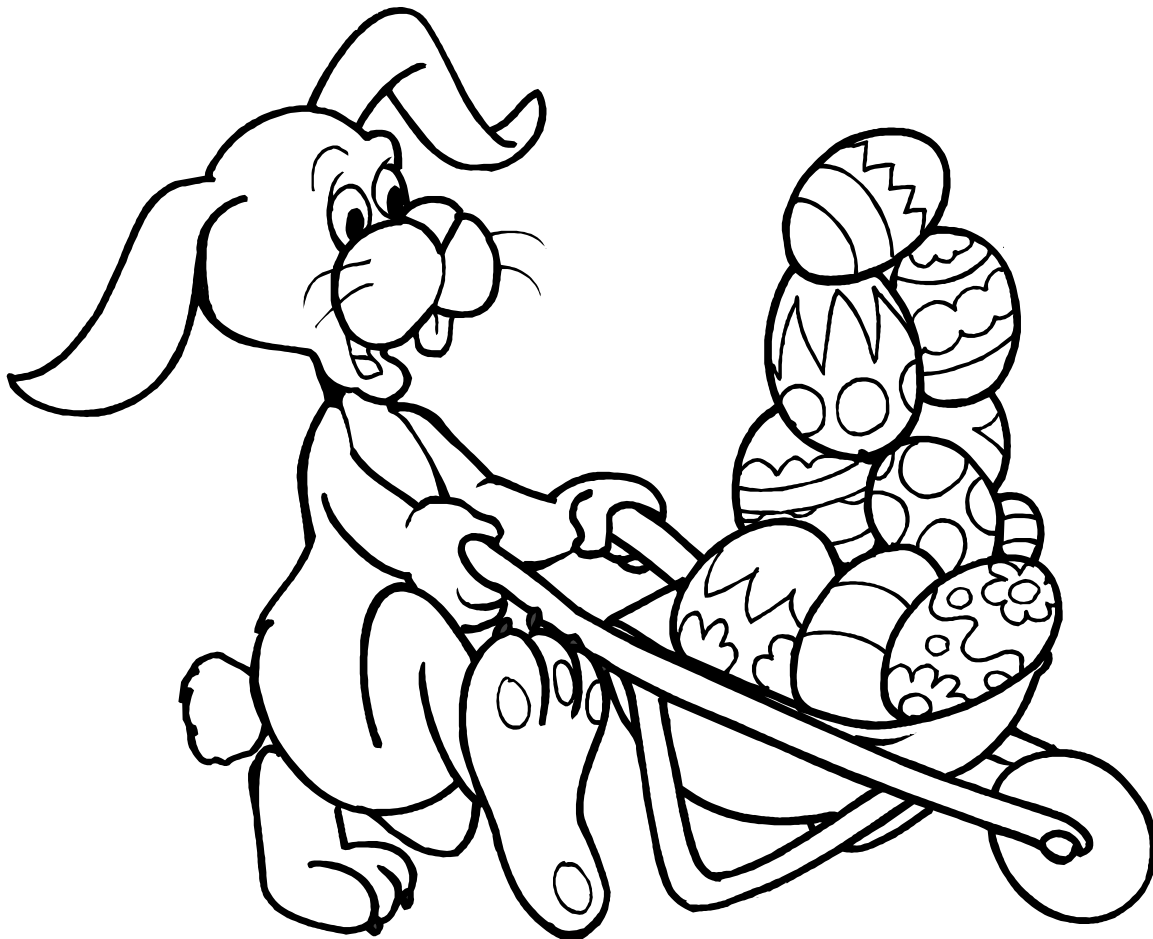
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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.
DUE: April 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

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initial)

Age: _____



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2015 SPRING FESTIVALS & EVENTS

April 10-19 | 48th Houston Int'l Film Festival.....WorldFest.org
April 11 | Art Car Parade.....OrangeShow.org
April 11 | Earth Day Houston, Discovery GreenEarthDayHouston.org
April 11 | 9th 'Art in the Park' at Elizabeth Baldwin Park..... MidtownArtInThePark.com
April 11 & 12 | 20th Bayou City Cajun FestivalTradersVillage.com
April 11 & 12 | 51st Bluebonnet Festival, Chappell Hill.....ChappellHillMuseum.org
April 18-19 | Houston Ultimate Women's Expo.....HoustonWomensExpo.com
April 18-19 | Katy TX Spring Gift MartHomeForTheHolidaysGiftMarket.com
April 23-25 | Freeport Riverfest 2015FreeportRiverFest.com
April 24-26 & May 1-3 | 29th Texas Crawfish & Music Festival ... TexasCrawfishFestival.com
May 2 | 15th Houston Dragon Boat Festival.....HoustonDragonBoat.com
May 3 | 10th Annual Cinco De Mayo.....TradersVillage.com
May 2-3 | Keels-Wheels, Lakewood Yacht Club, Seabrook TX...Keels-Wheels.com
May 15-17 | 42nd Pasadena Strawberry FestivalStrawberryFest.org
May 21-24 | Carnival Houston.....CarnivalHouston.com
June 6-7 | Houston Beer FestivalHoustonBeerFestival.com

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