

The Official Publication of The Briarhills POA

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7

NEIGHBORS FRIENDS

I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that we do not yet have the required 60% approval to move forward with the Master Plan B project. Now that isn't to say its because people are rejecting the petition. Quite the contrary, of all of the homes we have gone to, a resounding 76% have signed – we just have not been able to reach out to everyone yet. There are still large portions of the neighborhood where we just have not had the time to canvass. At this time we only need 87 more signatures to go, and we still have 257 more houses to get to.

There is still time though! I encourage everyone reading this to go to the website (www.briarhills.org) and read through the master plan documents posted to the home page. If you want to support this project, which will ultimately save the POA money and increase our property values, please contact the office manager at briarhills@ sbcglobal.net to sign the petition.

If you have already signed the petition you can still help us by reaching out to your friends and neighbors in the community. Talk with them, tell them why you signed it, and help them get in touch with the office manager to sign up!

We have had a wonderful group of volunteers that have gone out and canvassed with the Board of Directors. Without them we wouldn't be anywhere near as close as we are. I want to thank them (and their families) for putting in all the hard work they have so far to help this community.

We had a great turn out to the pool season kickoff and Memorial Day movie night. Well over 100+ people turned out to the park to watch Big Hero 6. These movie nights have been a great success and we want to continue to do them.

The pool season also opened that Saturday. This year again we have PMG managing our pool. We had a great set of lifeguards last year, and we have been fortunate to keep our two managers with considerable experience from last year to this year. Unfortunately though, I have to report that we have had two incidents so far this year of residents verbally abusing the lifeguards for enforcing the pool tag policy.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to get your pool tags updated every year. I know some of our residents have been in this neighborhood since before I was born, and that is great. But in order to enforce a policy that only allows our residents to use our facilities, and keep out those who have either moved away, or in some cases gave their pool tags to another non-resident, we must have this policy in place. The office is open every Saturday and Monday, and recently has been open more after hours to hand out pool tags.

Any abuse of the lifeguards will not be tolerated. These college and high school students are working to be productive members of society, and are learning valuable lessons in responsibility and leadership. They have the final say in all matters concerning safety and well being at the pool during the course of the pool season. They are also enforcing policies that have been discussed and approved by the Board of Directors. If any resident takes issue with that, they should come to the Board meetings and voice that concern. They should not use their residency or age to intimidate and harass the young lifeguards and disregard the policies that have been put in place for the protection of the entire neighborhood.

With that in mind, the Board of Directors has implemented a new policy to handle residents who abuse the lifeguards. Effective immediately, any resident who does not have their pool tags will be removed from the pool by the constable for trespassing – as their residency cannot be determined by the pool staff due to lack of pool tags. In addition, any residents found to have abused the lifeguards for any reason will have their pool privileges suspended immediately for the duration of the pool season unless they provide a written apology and promise to abide by all pool rules and regulations.

If we can get enough signatures to implement Master Plan B, we will be moving away from the annual pool tag system to an electronic FOB

(Continued on Page 2)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Emergency	
Constable (Closest Law Enforcement)	
Poison Help	1-800-222-1222
Library and Community Center	
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	
	(then 1 then 4)
Power out/emergency	
Gas leak suspected	713-659-2111
Before you dig	Call 811

BRIARHILLS SERVICES

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

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

(Continued from Cover)

key for all residents. In the future, residents will no longer be required to annually renew a tag, or even come to the office to get the clubhouse rental key. The electronic keys will control everything and make for a more streamline and enjoyable use of the amenities.

We want to make sure that we have a safe and enjoyable pool environment for all of our residents, and ensuring that our own residents do not compromise that safety by undermining the authority of the lifeguards is critical to that goal. We need to remember that these policies are in place to protect everyone, and that we all must do our part.

Alec Luong, AIA President, Briarhills Property Owners Association



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REBECQUE'S AND NANCY'S BEAT

Most of you have received several mailers about hurricane preparedness. Having survived several of these windy and wet events, I am going to share some of my commonsense suggestions. My favorite is the use of a house generator system that automatically clicks into action when there is a power outage, but this costs about \$7,000.

Prepare for loss of power. Clean out your refrigerator and organize your freezer. Make a list of where everything is located so that you can grab it quickly. Cook, eat, or throw out anything that will melt or spoil. Have an ice cream party and eat all boxed prepared meals. Cook meat that can be kept cool in a cooler. Freeze containers of water to line the front of the freezer.

For flushing toilets fill recycled gallon water bottles with tap water, fill the bathtub and pool water can be used. Buy gallon bottles of water or fill recycled bottles and other containers such as bowls and pans with tap water for consumption cleaning, and cooking Wash your dirty clothes, hair, and dishes. Clean your ice chests and lawn chairs. Bake comfort food such as cookies to use up eggs and butter. Put fresh batteries in your flashlights and lanterns, preferably use LED lights. Have tools handy such as a wrench, screw drivers, and a hammer. Find any camping equipment and tarps that you may have. You will need a lighter. A camp stove with extra containers of propane along with a grill, charcoal, and starter will make life much better. We are always happier when our stomachs are full.

Stock up on trash bags, duct tape, paper towels, toilet paper, body wipes, lemons, vinegar, baking soda, and a non-electric can opener.

It is important that you fill up your gas tank in all of your automobiles.

Have a safe Hurricane Season and let's pray that none of the above is needed. If we are without water for more than several days and it is still raining, you can shower and wash your hair outside. My daughter and I still laugh about when we did that.



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POA BOARD ELECTIONS: CALLING FOR CANDIDATES

The election for new POA Board members will be this September. Every Briarhills POA homeowner currently residing in the neighborhood is eligible to run for the Board. Now is a good time to start thinking whether you can be a part of this great opportunity to be involved in the management o four neighborhoods.

The Biarhills POA Board is comprised of 5 members – The Directors. Three Directors seats are up for election this year. After the new Directors are elected, all five will get together to vote for the Officers of the Board: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Directors are also assigned specific duties such as: Architectural Control, Safety, Pool Management, Maintenance, and Community Relations.

Interested candidates need to provide a written bio to include their professional background and their interest in running as well as any other information they wish to share with the other residents for why they should vote for them. These descriptions will be published in the August edition of the Briarbeat for distribution to all the residents prior to the election. ALL CANDIDATE BIOS ARE DUE TO BACK TO THE POA FOR PUBLICATION BY NOON, WENDESDAY JULY 15 VIA EMAIL ONLY.

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



BRIARHILLS





Cicadas are fairly large insects but can vary in size with some growing over 1 ½ inches. Color may also vary depending upon species, but many are brown or green. All cicadas have bulging eyes and, on adults, wings that are held roof-like over the body. The wings are semi-transparent with thick wing veins. The majority of their life cycle is spent underground.

Cicadas have 2-5 year life cycles and appear in Texas in mid to late summer. Females insert egg clusters into branches of trees using their saw-like ovipositor



(egg laying structure). Eggs hatch after about 6 weeks and small nymphs drop to the ground where they burrow into the soil. Nymphs feed on sap of tree roots with their piercing-sucking mouthparts. After becoming fully developed, nymphs emerge from the ground at night and climb onto nearby objects such as tree trunk, plants, fences, etc. Adult cicadas emerge from the last nymphal stage leaving behind the exuviae (cast skin). Adults can live 5-6 weeks.

Male cicadas are well known for their "song". They rest on a tree and produce a whining sound to attract females. The sound is produced by two vibrating membranes on the side of the abdomen. Females do not "sing". Adults feed on juices from tender twigs, but usually do not cause lasting harm to the plant from feeding.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Lesha Roberts, DC

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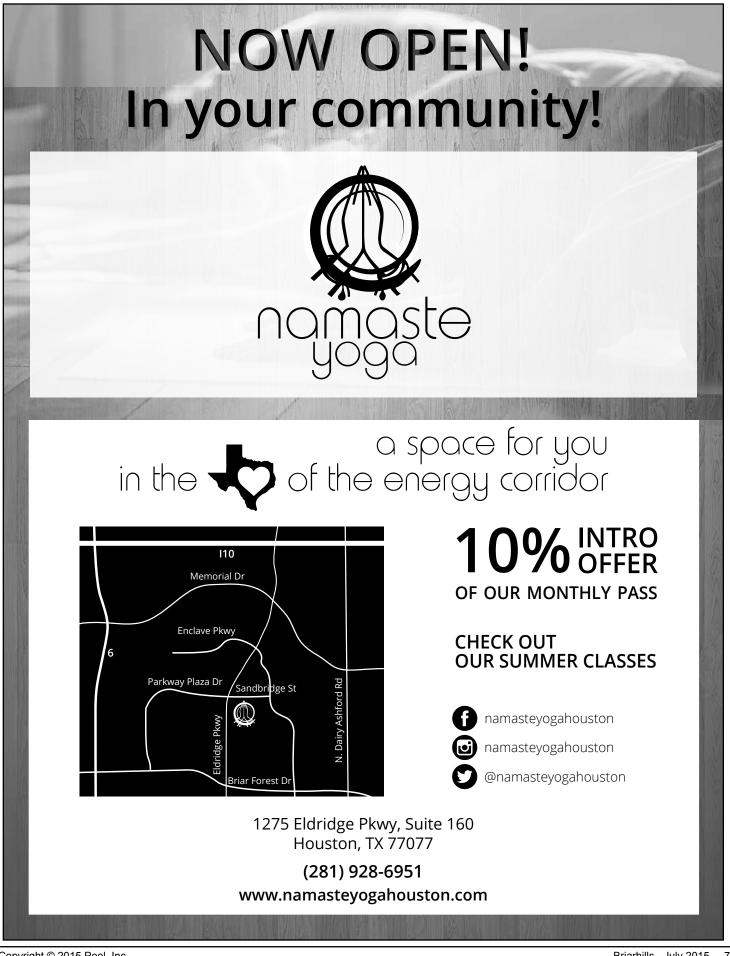
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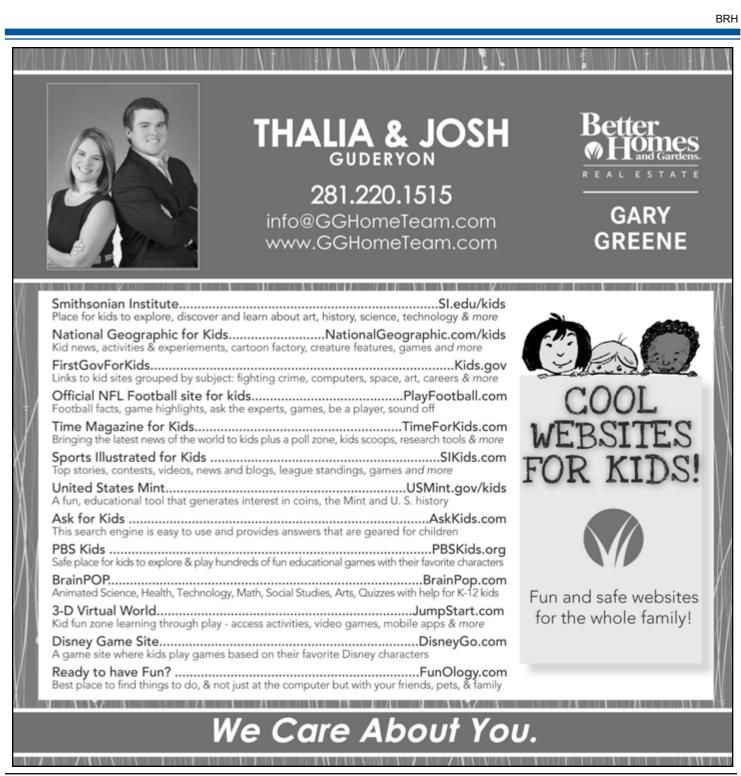
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Total Count for Period : 399







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