

Hello Briarhills Residents!



reminder

The payment for the 2016 annual maintenance fee is now due. Payment must be received by the POA office by February 28, 2016; after this date, a \$100 late fee will be assessed. If you need a copy of your invoice or have any questions, please contact the POA office (281-558-7422; briarhills@sbcglobal.net) as soon as possible.

The POA board is moving forward on the construction project. We are continuing to review design contracts. We are also seeking to expand our legal representation. If residents would like to attain more information about the project, we want you to know you can study the board's open documents. While for security reasons we cannot mass publish certain open documents (contracts, etc.), any POA member may make an appointment with the POA office manager to see said documents. Also, all POA meeting minutes are available online; however, just a reminder that residents must log-in to the secure portion of the website before you can view them. Furthermore, residents should be aware that we are working on replacing the current website and the new website will be available soon. Residents should also know that new tennis screens for the tennis courts have been ordered and should be arriving soon.

Finally, we welcome your thoughts. If you see something concerning in the neighborhood, please notify the POA board at briarhillspoa@sbcglobal.net. If you don't tell us, we don't know what is happening.

Hannah Bailey
Social Director, Briarhills Property Owners Association

BRIARHILLS POA OFFICE INFO

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Saturday*–9:00 am – 12:00 pm and by appointment

*The POA office will be closed on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

STREET ADDRESS

14300 Briarhills Parkway, Houston, TX 77077

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 940548, Houston, TX 77094-7548

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 940548, Houston, TX 77094-7548

EMAIL

briarhills@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITE

www.briarhills.org

Every resident is encouraged to register in the Briarhills website. This allows you to have access to various up-to-date information about the POA that is not available to the public. You will also be able to immediately receive, by email, important announcements.

SWIMMING POOL

A pool tag with the current year sticker is required to access the swimming pool amenities. Pool tags are issued at the POA office starting in May until the end of the pool season (Labor Day). Please check the Briarhills POA website for updates.

TENNIS

A key is required to access the tennis court amenities. To obtain a tennis key, please check the Briarhills POA website.

CLUBHOUSE

The POA Clubhouse is available for rent to residents only. The daily rental fee is \$100. The signed rental agreement, together with the payment, must be signed and submitted to the POA office at least seven days prior to the rental date. Please check the Briarhills website or contact the POA office for the rental agreement and clubhouse availability.

POA MAINTENANCE FEE'S

Invoices for POA dues are mailed in early December. Please contact the POA office if you do not receive your invoice by December 15. Non-receipt of the invoice does not preclude payment of the dues.

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

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION GENERAL INFORMATION

Trash and recycling collection service is provided by Waste Corporation of America (WCA) - www.wcawaste.com.

TRASH COLLECTION

Type of Collection: Refuse will be collected two (2) times per week on Monday and Thursday. Containers and bags shall be placed at their collection points by 6:30 am on the designated collection day. Refuse is defined as waste generated inside the house. Items must be either in light weight metal or plastic containers, or sturdy plastic trash bags (not "kitchen" bags). Containers and bags should not exceed fifty (50) pounds. All permanent trash containers, after being emptied, will be returned to their point of origin in the same condition in which they were taken, normal wear and tear expected.

Yard and Tree Waste: Placed at the curb on your designated collection days. Trees, shrubs, brush trimmings and fencing must be bundled in lengths no greater than four (4) feet with no branch diameter exceeding three (3) inches. The bundling is required to allow quick pickup and size limitations are required to avoid damaging the equipment in the crushing process.

Heavy Trash and Waste Collection: Bulky Waste Items: Furniture and appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washer, and dryers) will be picked up on Thursday. Exclusions: hazardous waste, carpet, and construction debris resulting from remodeling or demolition operations. By Federal Law, refrigerators and freezers, or any other items containing Freon must be drained of Freon and have an accompanying bill to validate such service was performed.

Unacceptable Items: For reasons of government restrictions, personnel and community safety, and protection of equipment, the following items cannot be collected: gasoline, motor oil and used oil filters, paint and other similar liquids, vehicle tires and batteries, and large pieces of metal such as car fenders or engines. Debris from construction and remodeling such as carpet, rocks, bricks, concrete, dirt, sand, gravel, roofing, lumber, fence boards, and large pieces of glass also cannot be collected. Potentially dangerous materials such as sharp objects, glass, metal, and the like should be properly identified and separated from other trash and/or double wrapped to avoid potential injury to the loader.

RECYCLING

Type of Collection: Recyclables will be collected once per week on Friday. Designated recycling containers are provided by WCA. These containers may be obtained by contacting WCA or the Briarhills POA office. Recyclables shall be placed at their collection points by 6:30 am on the designated collection day.

Acceptable Items:

- Paper: newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, envelopes, office paper, construction paper, colored paper, folders, paper bags, phone books, holiday cards and greeting cards

(Continued on Page 4)

December 2015 Security Report Summary for HOA and POA

Accident/Major	1	Meet the Citizen.....	16
Alarm Local.....	6	Open Door/Window.....	10
Alarm/Rep. Site.....	1	Prop Found/Lost.....	1
Alarm/Sil/Pan/HU.....	1	Solicitors.....	2
Burglary/Hab.....	6	Susp Person.....	7
Check Park.....	3	Traf Initiative.....	24
Contract Check.....	324	Traffic Stop.....	11
Dist/Fireworks.....	3	Unk Med Emerg.....	2
Dist/Loud Noise.....	2	Vacation Watch.....	142
Follow Up.....	1	Veh Suspicious.....	16
Incident Report.....	17	Total Count for Period.....	669
Information Call.....	78		

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REBECQUE & NANCY'S BEAT

MEMORIAL DRIVE PAVING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

We need to be prepared for this 860 calendar days (2 1/3 years) project that is scheduled to start within the next 2 to 3 months. This will consist of a four lane divided roadway on Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Eldridge with the installation of seven new traffic signals, wheelchair ramps, driveways, sidewalks, and street lighting along Memorial. Though we will be greatly impacted by this project, the replacement of the existing bridge at Turkey Creek will affect our driving patterns the most with the need to find alternate routes. This project with a projected cost of \$39,001,000 has been in the planning stages for several years. Before retiring, Council Member Pennington requested that Public Works & Engineering hold another public meeting prior to the beginning of construction to provide information and answers questions from residents. Watch for notification from Greg Travis, our new city councilman, about this upcoming meeting.

With the plunge of the price of oil the number of house sales in Houston has dropped about 2 percent. Though the number of sales in Briarhills dropped 30% from 2014 to 2015, the average sales price rose 2.8%. The drop in number of sales is due more in that fewer houses were offered for sale than the impact of the economy. We had a robust 2013 with an increase of 13.2% in price per square foot and 19.1% in 2015. The supply of houses has gone from about 1.5 months to 3.5 months. There are still buyers for houses.

Houston will continue to attract businesses because of the diversity of service-driven economy with strength in financial services, health care and technology, and it is in a right-to-work state with low taxes.

Happy Groundhog Day

WOW!
LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The Best Neighborhood
in the Heart of the Energy Corridor

PLEASE CALL US
WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS



heritagetexas.com

14340 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas | 77079



Rebecque Demark

713.252.8899

demark@heritagetexas.com

Nancy Scott

713.865.0500

nscott@heritagetexas.com



The Briar Beat is Looking for Submissions!

The Briar Beat would like to build community between neighbors by sharing in each other's celebrations and losses. Thus, please submit news of any birth, wedding, or death of a Briarhills resident, or a family member of a resident, to:
briarhills.briarbeat@gmail.com



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TOP THREE TIPS TO BE REMEMBERED IN ANY SITUATION

Rule Number One: Must Have Clean Humor

Networking. This will either sound exciting to you or send a shudder up your spine. Whether you are a spouse wondering what in the world you are going to talk about at the next office get together outside of business or wondering how you can stand out in the crowd of other entrepreneurs, here are Rules to Successful Networking that may help smooth your nerves.

Nothing says stay away from me faster than a bad, tasteless joke, or worse, to have someone remember you for the wrong reasons. It is hard to find clean jokes to make everyone smile and for certain have someone else remember you as they repeat a clean joke when they get home or at the office the next day to get a few laughs.

So when "Want to hear a dirty joke?" has everyone leaning in.... say, "Actually, I do have one (Dramatic pause or have everyone lean in....) "White horse.....fell in the mud.....and got dirty! Argh. Argh. Say "Oh yes, you are groaning, but I'll bet you'll find yourself repeating it somewhere down the line!"

Laugh or Groan. Hey, someone will fall for this joke. Okay, Okay, you'll just have to know your audience, but when it was my job a long time ago to find good, clean jokes I really, really found out how hard it was to FIND a good, clean joke. At networking events, you'll have only a few minutes and all heads turn when you hear laughter, right? Here is one that I bet you'll repeat at least once!

Best Clean Joke

The local sheriff was looking for a deputy, so a young woman (or gentleman), went in to try out for the job. "Okay," the sheriff drawled. "What is 1 and 1?"

"Eleven," she/he replied. The sheriff thought to himself, "That's not what I meant, but that is right."

"What two days of the week start with the letter "T"?"

"Today and tomorrow."

He was again surprised that the young woman/man supplied a correct answer that he had never thought of himself.

"Now, listen carefully: Who killed Abraham Lincoln?"

The young woman (or gentleman) looked a little surprised herself/himself, then thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted, "I don't know."

"Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?"

So, the young woman (or gentleman) excitedly met with her/his friends, and they just couldn't wait to hear the results of the interview.

The young woman (or gentleman) was excited beyond belief. "It went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

At least start the chuckling yourself. Go ahead be bold and say a joke anyway. A clean joke.

Second Best Clean Joke ...

A jock and a geek were applying for the same job. The boss said, "Boys, you need to take a test before you can get this job."

So they took the test and the next day they came back to see who the boss chose. "Well, he said, "Both of you got the same score except I'm going to choose the geek."

The jock complained, "Don't you think that's unfair?"

"Well," the boss said, "Let me tell you what happened. Both of your papers were right all the way through until the last question came up, and the geek answered, "I don't know," and then when I looked at your paper, you answered,

"Me either!"

When the chuckling subsides, say "I only have two jokes". I am always looking for another one to trade up, has anyone heard something funny lately?

Rule Number Two: Be Interesting

To be remembered as someone who IS interesting, you'll have to BE interested in other people. Yes, it pays to have something to add to the conversation, and you'll be forearmed after reading the rules of Networking above. Have a few questions ready in case there is a pause in the conversation.

What keeps you occupied outside of your business? This question will help you gain common ground or something interesting to write about in your follow up note.

Have you seen any good movies lately? Did you see? See, this is where you will sound interesting.

That was terrible aboutDid you see it on the news this morning?

What are your thoughts on ?

Getting other people to talk about themselves and their interests ultimately makes you more interesting.

Your mission: look in the newspaper, look at your local networking clubs and go make some new clients, friends or even dates! You don't have to be a Toastmaster to feel comfortable in new environments.

Oh, a Bonus Rule. Keep your nails nice. Keep your nails nice. Whether handing your business card over to your next big client or holding a drink (preferably soda), you'll be sending a message that you think about yourself as much as you'll care about them as an account.

Rule Number Three: Remember Names

Actually, Rule Number Three: Remember Names should be Rule Number One. Remembering names is crucial. Asking for a business card. Ask how they spell it. Except for the easy, easy names. Try "Is that Linda with an "i" or a "y"? Making up a rhyme, word association, movie association, actor association. Be deliberate and really slow to repeat their names in your head or at least in re-working the introduction. "My pleasure to meet you, Linda". You'll already be thinking of your next question, so please think slowly on remembering someone's name. As crazy as it sounds, try saying "Linda, Linda, Banana Fanna Bo Binda Fee Fi Bo Binda, Linda" (ahem, in your head, please). Anything works. ; You'll surely brighten someone's day and impress them with your Savant-mindedness. Don't use this if you wind up saying "My pleasure to meet you, Binda"? or worse "Bimba".

Linda Bates is a Freelance Writer who has been writing and volunteering in the Houston area community since BEFORE the word "Apple" actually meant fruit.



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**GARY
 GREENE**

2015 MARKET REPORT

For Briar Hills from Jan 1st 2015 to Dec 31st 2015

Number of Homes Available	6
Pending Sales	2

Number of Homes Sold	26
Highest Sales Price	\$586,000
Lowest Sales Price	\$258,000
Average Sales Price	\$353,927
Average Sale Price per Square Ft.	\$139.78
Average Days on Market	26

We live, work and play in the neighborhood and make it a priority to know the local market. Give us a call or send us an email if you have a real estate related question or when you are ready to sell. We always use a professional photographer to take exceptional photos of your property and give superior staging tips that will make your home stand out.

Because You Deserve Better.