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The Official Publication of The Briarhills POA

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

Friends and Neighbors,

It's been a while since we've had an update on the current Master Plan project and many things have been happening to get this project moving forward. The POA has been actively engaged in soliciting contracts and executing them for the civil engineer, surveyor, architect, and geotechnical engineer. At this point, the civil, surveyor, and geotech have all been signed up and contracts executed. Over the next few weeks we should see a flurry of activity as soil borings are made and surveys are taken of the property.

The POA has also selected an architect and is actively working to finalize the contract negotiations with them. Stern and Bucek Architects was selected as the architect for the building. They bring a wealth of small project experience and a wonderful design sense to the project and we are all looking forward to working with them. As part of their contract, they will be presenting design ideas at two public meetings in the coming months. So please be on the lookout for when those will be held to make sure you stay informed of the progress of the design.

The POA has also been actively soliciting mortgage proposals from various lenders and institutions. No decision has been made at this point, but our treasurer, Warren Murdoch, will be presenting the vetted options and applications at the May monthly meeting. Please be sure to attend if you are interested in the details of the various lenders.

During construction, which is slated to start in October, the POA offices will be relocated to a temporary location. We have not yet settled on where the lease space will be, but we will strive to keep the level of services as close to normal as possible for the one-year duration. Stay tuned for more information on that in the coming months.

A special thanks to Rita Murdoch, our office manager, who has been instrumental in coordinating and scheduling between the various contractors and professional services personnel out on site. She has also been crucial in getting all of the paperwork, applications, and back of house information necessary to get the project moving. We are a self-managed association and do not have additional manpower at our disposal for large projects. Rita has taken on all of this work by herself. We should all be thankful to have such a wonderful woman working in our office making sure that, among

everything else going on, our residents have top notch service and a person to contact if they need anything related to the POA.

The POA has also been actively negotiating with the Terraces of Memorial neighborhood to use our amenities. Many of us have friends that live in the neighborhood that we meet at swim team or at the park. The THOA in the past year has reached out to us to negotiate a fee to use our amenities and become closer to our neighborhood. We are pleased to say that we are in the final stages of that agreement and hope to have a final executed agreement prior to the pool opening.

The POA has also been actively negotiating with the HOA to contribute funds to the ongoing Master Plan project. The POA and the HOA has a very productive joint meeting last month to discuss what can be done to make this happen. We are also very happy to say that those negotiations are ongoing and we hope to have a framework for a fee worked out by the May meeting as well.

A few other notes. Briarhills Swim Team is currently registering for this year's season. Please contact the office for more information. In regards to pool usage - Briarhills POA residents, who are current on their POA accounts, may pick up their 2016 amenity tags at the POA office starting Monday, May 2, 2016. Residents must have the 2016 amenity tags in order to use the pool facilities. Previous years' amenity tags are no longer valid. A valid driver's license or utility bill showing your Briarhills POA address must be presented before amenity tags are issued.

Also, the Briarhills POA has a brand new website - <http://www.briarhillspoa.org/>. Current POA residents who have registered in the previous website should have received an email with instructions on updating their passwords on the new website. If you did not receive the email, please contact the POA office or go directly to the new website and re-register.

And finally. The POA has negotiated with WCA, our current trash provider, to provide recycling for the entire neighborhood without a cost increase. We have also been able to secure a refund for services for the trash hickups that plagued the neighborhood last summer. Please contact the office if you would like a recycling bin.

Alec Luong, AIA

President, Briarhills Property Owner's 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	281-368-8397
Amenity tags	281-558-7422
Tennis courts.....	281-558-7422
Pool parties.....	281-558-7422
Clubhouse rental	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

POA OFFICE INFO

OFFICE HOURS 2016

Monday – 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Saturday – 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

And by appointment

****The POA office will be closed on these days: November 24, December 24, December 26.***

OFFICE CONTACT

Street Address.....
..... 14300 Briarhills Parkway, Houston, TX 77077

Mailing Address

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

Telephone..... 281-558-7422

Email

briarhills@sbcglobal.net

Website

www.briarhillspoa.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

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 FEES

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.

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
- Cardboard: corrugated cardboard boxes, paperboard boxes (cereal, soda/beer, egg, shoe boxes)

- Containers: aluminum cans, tin cans, steel cans, empty aerosol cans, aluminum foil, plastics #1-#5 & #7 (milk, soda, water, juice, shampoo, detergent, pool supplies, pet food), metal pots and pans, copper, scrap metal (nails, screws, gutters)

Commonly Mistaken Unacceptable Material: plastic bags, styrofoam, wrapping paper, used pizza boxes, coat hangers, paint and solvent containers, light bulbs, mirrors, windows, dishes and cups, pyrex pans, wet or soiled paper, paper towels, facial and toilet tissue, disposable plates and cups, milk and juice cartons (wax-board containers)

HOURS OF OPERATION: Collection of refuse shall not start before 6:30 am or continue after 7:00 pm on the same day.

HOLIDAYS: WCA may decide to observe any or all of the following holidays by suspension of collection service on the holiday. In the event the holiday falls on the pick-up day, refuse will be made on the next scheduled pick-up day.

New Year's Day • Labor Day • Independence Day
Thanksgiving Day • Memorial Day • Christmas Day

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Debbi T.



REBECQUE & NANCY'S BEAT

We had a good turnout at the elections on March 1. Please remember to vote in the Run-Off election on Tuesday May 24 or during Early Voting. The voting locations will be determined closer to Election Day.

Nancy Scott is your Republican Precinct Chair. She wants to make you aware that 4 endorsement slates of candidates that many of you receive in the mail prior to each election are referred to as Pay to Play. The Link Letter, Conservative Republicans of Harris County, and Texas Conservative Review and Harris County GOP PAC, both of which put out a publication as the Official Republican Primary Endorsements, make hundreds of thousands of dollars each election by charging candidates for their endorsements. They have been condemned by the Harris County Republican Party. There are no official Republican slates.

For a fun event you may want to go the 2016 Bayou Bash at 105 Sabine Street from 12 to 4 pm on Saturday April 23 featuring crawfish and libations, live entertainment, silent auction, lawn games and pontoon boat rides. For more information go to www.buffalobayou.org. Last year, for her birthday, I took Rebecque on a pontoon ride to see the bats. It was great fun!

We heard from a homeowner with a concern that drivers are slowing down rather than stopping at the Stop Signs in our neighborhood. I have also heard this from our local Constables. Recently a dog was run over and killed in front of his owner's house by a driver running a Stop Sign in West University. We do not want anything to happen to any of our children or pets. Please drive safely!

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The Briarhills POA is Looking for Volunteers!

The Briarhills POA needs your help planning our neighborhood's 4th of July festivities. If you are willing to serve on the planning committee, please email your name and contact information to: bhillspsocial@gmail.com



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Honey Bee Swarms

Honey bees are beneficial by producing honey, wax and pollinating crops. With warmer temperatures, honey bees are becoming more active and may soon begin to swarm.

Honey bee swarms look like a large clump of bees clustered together. The swarm may stay in a location from a few hours to a week. Swarms are produced as a part of the colony's reproductive process. An established colony produces a new queen, causing the old queen and half the worker bees to leave the colony to search for a new nesting location. Swarming honey bees are usually gentle and unlikely to sting. Swarms are not protecting their home, food or offspring. Scout bees are sent out from the swarm to search for a nesting site. Colonies produce comb and honey and are defensive. Bees from a colony are more likely to sting as they are guarding their home, food and offspring.

Sometimes, honey bee colonies can be found in wall voids, chimneys, attics or sheds. If bees are in a wall void, DO NOT block their entrance; this makes them search for another way to exit and could lead bees into the structure. To keep bees from entering a home, seal any holes found in walls where pipes enter the home, cracks in window framing, knotholes, weep holes, or cracks between wood and brick junctures.

While many enjoy having honey bees around, some people are severely allergic to their venom. This, along with other situations, such as bees located near sensitive areas (such as playgrounds) may require removal or even extermination of the bees.

People should NOT try remove or exterminate bees on their own. Beekeepers and pest control companies have equipment to carry out these jobs in a safe manner. The city or county does not provide bee removal services.

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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APRIL GARDENING TIPS

Offered by WeekendGardener.Net

Use this list to help you figure out what gardening tasks you want to accomplish this month.

Planning

When purchasing bedding annuals this spring, choose properly grown plants with good color. Buy plants with well-developed root systems that are vigorous, but not too large for their pots. Plants that bloom in the pack are often root bound and can be set back for several weeks after being transplanted. Plants not yet in bloom will actually bloom sooner, be better established and grow faster.

For hot-weather color, select one of the following: Gloriosa Daisy, Madagascar Periwinkle, Ornamental Peppers, Mexican Zinnia or Amaranthus 'Joseph's Coat. Plan to attract hummingbirds to your garden this year by planting red or orange flowers. Monarda (common names: beebalm, horsemint, Oswego tea, and bergamot) is a good perennial plant that thrives in sun and provides nectar for these small birds.

Planting

Begin to plant seedlings of warm-season vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. You can also start your pumpkin seeds now.

Sow beets, beans, cucumbers, carrots, lettuce, sweet corn and

radishes

Plant herbs such as thyme, sage, parsley, chives and basil

Sod or sow new lawns, and over seed damaged older lawns

Start planting out warm season annuals such as impatiens, marigolds, petunias, sunflowers, zinnia, lobelia, alyssum

Finish planting summer-flowering bulbs like tuberose, gladiolus, dahlias, and callas

Plant chervil, coriander, dill, rosemary, and summer savory outside after the last spring frost date for your area. Your Extension agent should be able to give you the date.

Maintenance

Mulch soil to save water, smother weeds, keeps soil cooler. Spread 1-3 inches (2.5-7cm) of bark chips, compost, wood shavings, or other organic material under shrubs trees, annuals and vegetables. Thin vegetables that were sown too thickly, like basil, carrots, green onions, or lettuce. Prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees after bloom is over.

Fertilize everything right now, but do not feed spring-flowering shrubs like azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons until after they have finished flowering. Use an acid based fertilizer. They also should be pruned after blooming.



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2016 SPRING FESTIVALS & EVENTS

April 8 - 10 | International Gem & Jewelry Show.....NRGPark.com
April 8 - 17 | 49th Houston Int'l Film Festival.....WorldFest.org
April 9 | 10th 'Art in the Park' at Elizabeth Baldwin Park.....MidtownArtInThePark.com
April 9 - 10 | 21st Bayou City Cajun Festival.....TradersVillage.com
April 9 & 10 | 52nd Bluebonnet Festival, Chappell Hill.....ChappellHillMuseum.org
April 9 - 10 | Houston's Ultimate Women's Expo.....HoustonWomensExpo.com
April 16 | 11th Earth Day Houston, Sam Houston Park.....EarthDayHouston.org
April 16-17 | Katy, TX Spring Gift MartHomeForTheHolidaysGiftMarket.com
April 22-23 | Freeport Riverfest 2016FreeportRiverFest.com
April 23 & 24 | 28th Houston Children's Festival, Downtown...HoustonChildrensFestival.com
April 29 - May 1 | Bayou City Art Festival, Memorial Park.....BayouCityArtFestival.com
April 29 - May 1 & May 6-8 | 30th Texas Crawfish & Music Festiva...TexasCrawfishFestival.com
May 1 | 11th Annual Cinco De Mayo.....TradersVillage.com
May 7-8 | 16th Houston Dragon Boat Festival.....HoustonDragonBoat.com
May 20-22 | 43rd Pasadena Strawberry Festival.....StrawberryFest.org
May 22 | 4th Annual Houston BBQ Festival.....NRGPark.com

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