

DECEMBER 2019

The Official Publication of The Briarhills POA

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12



On October 16th, the POA Board of Directors voted to raise the annual dues from \$757 to \$833 for 2020. This 10% rate increase is necessary to cover increasing operating costs, such as longer pool season, increase in Constable fee, trash rate increase, and to rebuild savings for future capital improvement projects.

Stay tuned for more information on the 2020 budget and the POA Board of Director's multi-year plan to improve the long term financial health of the POA. If you have not already received your statement in the mail, please email the POA office at officemanager@briarhillspoa.org to request another copy.

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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	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	
Amenity tags	
Tennis courts	
Pool parties	
Clubhouse rental	

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 <u>advertising@PEELinc.com</u>. 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

2019

By appointment only

OFFICE CONTACT

Street Address

BRIARHILLS AMENITIES & ELECTRONIC ACCESS CARDS

Available for the use and enjoyment of each resident is the Briarhills POA Recreation Center. The Recreation Center includes four and two-tenths (4.2) acres equipped with a swimming pool for the family, a wading pool for tots, lighted tennis courts, playground equipment, a community clubhouse, basketball court and off-street parking. Electronic access cards are required to access the pool, unisex restroom and tennis courts. Registered property owners and tenants may receive 2 cards per property address. Check the website or contact the POA office to obtain access cards.

SWIMMING POOL

The swimming pool is normally open from Memorial Day weekend through the start of school in August, six days a week (Tuesday through Sunday). The pool is staffed with certified lifeguards during swim season and maintained by a reputable pool management company.

TENNIS

Tennis courts must be reserved through the online reservation system at www.briarhillspoa.org (log-in account is required).

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Briarhills Community Center may be reserved by residents for private events. Check the website or contact the POA office to make a reservation.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

The BPOA board meets at the Briarhills Community Center on the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Residents are invited to attend these meeting where the board will discuss and make decisions on issues that will impact the Briarhills POA community.

POA MAINTENANCE FEES

Invoices for BPOA 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.

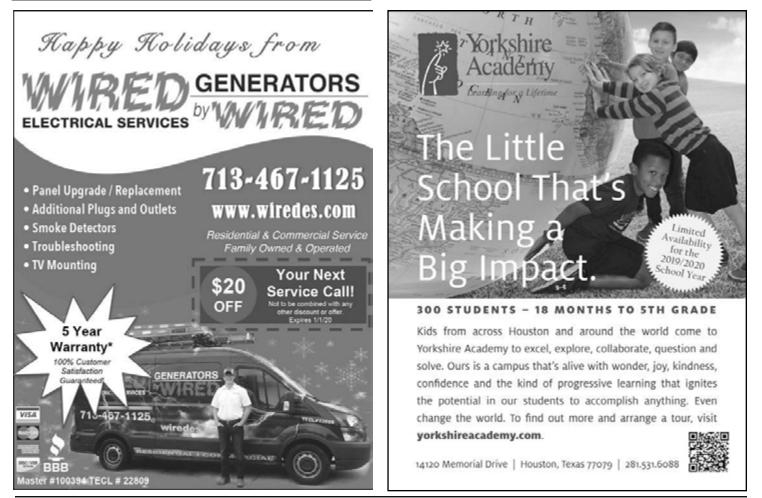
The above information is subject to change without prior notice.

New Briarhills Committees

Earlier this year, the Briarhills POA board officially established two committees to build upon community interest in improving the landscaping around the new Community Center and to replace our aging playground. These committees are run by volunteer community members, with BPOA Board oversight, and plan to meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 and 6:30 PM at the Community Center. Please attend a monthly meeting if you are interested in being part of one of these committees. These committees are open to members in all the communities that pay to use the Briarhills POA amenities, including the Briarhills HOA and Terraces on Memorial.

Landscaping Committee

If you have been to the pool this summer, you have already seen some of the projects planned and installed by the Landscaping Committee. The plants along the south fence of the pool and the bench and plants near the front door to the Community Center were installed by the Landscaping Committee and community volunteers earlier this summer. The new gravel path that connects Briarhills Pkwy to the existing concrete sidewalk is an Eagle Scout project facilitated by the Landscaping Committee. The committee *(Continued on Page 4)*



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"New Briarhills Committee" (Continued from Page 3)

has developed a preliminary master plan for the grounds, and will be executing small projects every few months.

The first round of projects would not have been possible without generous donations from community members and local businesses, as well as many hours of volunteer time for labor, planning, and committee meetings. Future projects are in the works so there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities as well as community fundraising events. Thank you again to everyone who has helped out so far!

Landscaping Committee Board

Doerte Steinhoff

Carolyn Klein

<u>Mission</u>

Develop a master landscaping plan for the common areas impacted by construction of the community center, and implement those plans directly with community support where possible.

<u>Goals</u>

1) Develop a master landscaping plan that is low maintenance and utilizes a large percentage of Texas native or drought tolerant plants.

2) Hold regular community volunteer events to execute the master landscaping plan.

3) Serve as a staunch advocate for community members' ideas and concerns by engaging the community on matters involving landscaping on a regular basis, and feeding these ideas back to the BPOA Board.

4) Build support for the landscaping master plan across all three homeowners associations, BPOA, BHOA, and THOA, through facilitating regular landscaping committee meetings or events.

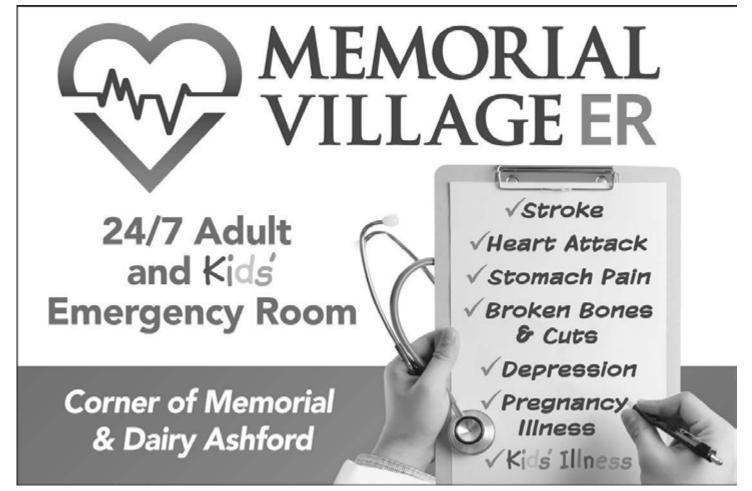
5) In addition to financial support from BPOA, the committee will fundraise and look for alternative funding, donation, or labor sources.

6) Work with the Playground Committee to identify project synergies, and avoid duplication of effort.

Playground Committee

If you have been to the playground recently, you may have heard some of the Playground Committee members discussing ideas for the playground. Replacing the playground will be an expensive undertaking, so this committee has a large remit which includes planning and fundraising. Currently, the committee is narrowing down four playground options down to one in order to create a master plan so they have a starting point for moving forward. They are also working to identify repairs to the current playground that could be done with the help of community volunteers.

(Continued on Page 5)



"New Briarhills Committee" (Continued from Page 4)

Playground Committee Board

Ivonne Cruz

Meycy Zapata

Natalia Ibañez

Valerie Shaikh

<u>Mission</u>

Develop a master playground plan and fundraising program through extensive community engagement which will allow construction of a new playground.

<u>Goals</u>

1) Develop a new master plan and budget for replacing the playground that will create value for the community. Possible approaches:

a. Use existing playground master plan for preliminary budget

b. Reach out to community members with expertise on playground structures, landscaping architecture, constructors, fundraising skills, etc...

2) Develop a fundraising program annually and look for alternative funding sources. This will include:

a. Grant research and submission,

b. Neighborhood business donations,

c. Local fundraising events such as: movie nights, silent auctions, bakes sales, neighborhood run, etc...

d. Go-fund me

3) Work with Landscaping Committee to identify project synergies, and avoid duplication of effort.

4) Work with BPOA, BHOA, and THOA, boards and neighbors through regular meetings and events advocating for a community project in replacing the playground and associated amenities across all three homeowners associations.

5) Create sub-committees within the playground committee in order to delegate work according to areas of expertise and interests, as well as volunteer rotation to get community members and families involved. This will include:

a. Playground Committee Board

b. Treasurer

c. Secretary

d. Social Media

e. Fundraising

f. Community Outreach/Volunteers

g. Project Management

6) Conduct monthly meetings to regroup and update with subcommittee members.

A Friendly Reminder from the Deed Restrictions Inspection Committee:

When the weather turns cold and rainy, we tend to see more and more trash cans left at the curb. Please don't let bad weather stop you from bringing in your trash cans. As a reminder, trash and recycling containers should be placed at the curb no earlier than 6:30 am on the day of collection and should be removed and stored away from street view within 24 hours after pickup. Help us keep our neighborhood looking good and bring in your waste containers promptly.

Also, as you decorate the exterior of your home for the holidays this is a good time to clean your gutters, trim away dead brush and repair leaning or broken mailboxes.

Take pride in your property and let's keep Briarhills beautiful!

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THANK YOU Landscape Volunteers!

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that came out these past few weekends and volunteered their time to create the new pathways at the Briarhills Community Center. It was wonderful seeing neighbors come together and new friendships formed. We sure are fortunate to live in such a wonderful community!

This was an Eagle Scout project organized by Clayton Smith of Boy Scout Troop 47, which is sponsored by the Memorial Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Volunteers on the two project days came from families from the Memorial Ward, Troop 47, the Briarhill POA and HOA, Westside High School, plus Latter-day Saint missionaries assigned to the Memorial Ward and a neighboring congregation. We had 8 volunteers on October 5th and 51 volunteers on October 12th. WOW!

A special thank you to Dorete Steinhoff and Carolyn Klein for leading the Landscaping Committee and for you and your family's ongoing help.

Thank you also to The Ground Up, which sold the landscaping supplies at wholesale rates to support the Eagle Project. Please visit this local business and let them know how much we appreciate their support!

And finally, thank you to all that made monetary donations, paid for pizza and purchased tools and safety equipment. Every bit of help counts and this project would not have been possible without these generous donations.

Stay tuned for future work dates and volunteer opportunities!

Take a Book, Leave a Book



Briarhills now has it's very own Little Free Library thanks to Village High School student Olivia Bangs from the Terraces on Memorial Neighborhood. Olivia built the library for a school project that focused on creativity, activity and service (CAS). The library was installed by Olivia and her Father in early November and is located along the sidewalk that connects the playground to the community center. The library operates on the principle of, "take a book, leave a book" so comb through your home library and share your favorite books with your neighbors. This Little Free Library will soon be listed on the Little Free Library World Map which shows the location of all official Little Free Libraries. Head to https://littlefreelibrary. org for more information on the program.

If you see Olivia please thank her for her wonderful addition to our neighborhood!

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BRH THALIA & JOSH 281.220.1515 GARY info@GGHomeTeam.com GREENE www.GGHomeTeam.com CENTRAL HOUSTON **River Oaks Boulevard** 'Zoo Lights' at Houston Zoo* **BEST HOLIDAY** Lights in the Heights Festival NORTHWEST HOUSTON Franck's Christmas Light Show, Copperfield LIGHTS! Prestonwood Forest Shepherd Park & Candlelight Plaza NORTH Christmas Ranch - Cleveland Dearing Dazzle - Conroe Dodd Family Holidays - The Woodlands Gullo House of Lights - Magnolia Holiday light shows make the Schultz Holiday Lights - Spring WEST season a little more magical. Candy Wonderland, Spring Shadows - Houston Christmas Katy - Pin Oak Subdivision - Katy And, if you find a house SOUTHEAST Dickinson Festival of Lights - Dickinson you would like to tour, Magnolia Creek - League City Moss Lights - League City please give us a call. SOUTH Green Tee Terrace - Pearland SOUTHWEST Pecan Grove Subdivision - Richmond Sugar Land Holiday Lights, Constellation Field GALVESTON *Admission Fee Moody Gardens Festival of Lights* Check 'Visit Houston' web site for up-to-date listings

We would love to work with you.

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