

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year Bluebonnet Highlands! After a few months of Rest and Relaxation we have returned to bring you updated issues affecting our great neighborhood. Our website, <http://www.bluebonnethighlands.org> is available online and is packed with lots of interesting information you can use. We are looking forward to a great year and we encourage each and every resident to stay involved.

Made Your Resolutions Yet?

It's that time of year again when we all promise ourselves that we are going to work out, save money, spend more time with the family, etc. We make these resolutions with the best of intentions but somehow our good intentions never seem to stick.

Have you made your New Year's resolution yet? Better question--have you broken your New Year's resolution yet?

If you are still looking for a good resolution for this year, how about some of these?

- Stick to the speed limit in my subdivision
- Actually come to a stop at STOP signs in my subdivision
- Scoop the poop from my pets when we walk in other neighbor's yards
- Bag my trash appropriately so it doesn't blow into my neighbor's yards
- Take an active part in my subdivision
- Meet and get to know one of my neighbors
- Win that Yard of the Month sign at least once this year
- Greet a new neighbor when they move in
- Keep an eye out for safety in my neighborhood
- Take down posted signs when events such as garage sales are over.



Pesky Potholes

Are you familiar with the many potholes in our neighborhood? Noticed any exposed

water main(s) along the sidewalks where our children play? Seen the "eyesore" trash along the boulevard in the trees? We have!

Special thanks to Fairhill resident Becky Allemand who drove the streets of Springlake and Fairhill noting all of those potholes. She reported them to the Department of Public Works and within a couple of days, they were all repaired.

Did you know?

If you spot unsightly potholes, exposed water mains, unsightly trash in your neighborhood, notify the Department of Public Works by calling 389-3158 or sending an email request to Fred Raiford at fraiford@ci.baton-rouge.la.us with the nearest address to the problem. The water main pushing out of the sidewalk located at Hilltree and Hillgate has been reported.

If your streetlight is burnt out, then you can contact Entergy at the same number where you would report outage to your home.

Other Helpful Phone Numbers are listed on our website at <http://www.bluebonnethighlands.org>.

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Dues are Due

The annual Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowner Association dues are now due. Statements were mailed out on or about December 15th and are \$204.00 for January 2003 through December 2003. If you chose to pay semi-annually, please retain your statement and pay your second installment on or before July 1st, 2003. Please note that a second invoice will not be sent out as a reminder. The address to send your payment is as follows:

**Bluebonnet Highlands
Homeowner's Association
10124 Jefferson Highway
Baton Rouge, La 70809**

**Debbie DeJean
292-2020**

If you'd like to receive your future invoices via email, please send your email address along with your payment. Checks should be made payable to Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowner's Association. Payment of the HOA dues are used to cover many expenses several of which include maintenance of the common grounds, lake and clubhouse upkeep. For a listing of how your hard earned dollars were used last year, you can contact Debbie DeJean. Your much appreciated and hard earned dollars paid in January and July help the HOA and meet its monthly obligations throughout the year.

What happens if you don't pay your dues? The rules are clearly defined in section 6.6 of the Act of Restrictions. The Act of Restrictions for both Springlake and Fairhill can be found on our website.

- The HOA can expedite legal proceedings and/or contact a collection agency to collect on unpaid dues.
- A lien can be placed upon your property for these unpaid assessments.

Please make sure you pay your dues in a timely manner.

***Be kind to your neighbors
Practice Good Pet Etiquette
"Scoop your Pet's Poop"!***



Louisiana State Leash Law

State Law requires that a dog/cat must be under the direct control of the responsible owner on the premises of the owner.

An owner may leash, tie, stake, fence or house the animal in any manner so as to keep the animal confined to the owner's property. Any animal found unaccompanied by its owner or keeper and running at-large on any road, street, other public place, or on any property other than that of the owner may be seized by an authorized animal control officer or law enforcement officer. (La.R.S. 3:2773)

Deed Restriction Reminders

Moving into a new neighborhood can be exciting as well as stressful. To make that transition easier, here are just a few reminders that may make your move less stressful:

- Landscaping must be installed within 60 days of completion of the residence. The front yard (and side yards of the corner lots) is to be completely sodded with a non-certified centipede or equal. Any lot owner who does not complete landscaping prior to the above specified dates shall pay a fine of \$300 to the Association for each 30 day period landscaping is delayed beyond said specified dates. The Association shall have lien rights to enforce payment of such fine. (3.25 Act of Restrictions)
 - No sign of any kind except standard real estate signs shall be displayed to the public view on or from any building site without prior consent of the Council or its agents. (4.6 Act of Restrictions).
 - No fence shall be erected on a lot beyond the front building setback line of that lot. All fencing material must be wood, brick, stucco or wrought iron, unless otherwise approved by the Council. All work must be of equal quality of workmanship and materials. No fence may violate any zoning regulation. All fences shall be constructed finished side out (post in) on sides facing the street. There are specific rules regarding fences on lake lots so please refer to the Act of Restrictions (3.15) for further details.
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The Yard of the Month Challenge is On!

Want to be the jewel of the neighborhood? Want to adorn your lawn with the coveted crown of "Yard of the Month"? To do so, just push up your sleeves and get to work! The Yard of the Month contest will resume in February. Want to win? The rules are simple.

- Neighbors nominate the residence with the best overall yard appeal in terms of maintenance/upkeep of the lawn, flower beds, etc.
- The residence with the most nominations from other neighbors will be able to proudly display the Yard of the Month sign for the entire month.
- A different residence will be selected each month – no one residence can win more than once in an entire year.
- Log onto <http://www.bluebonnethighlands.org> to cast your nomination.
- The deadline to cast your selection is the 20th of each month.

May the best yard win!

Commonly Asked Questions:

- **Who should I contact if I find a dead deer in the road along the boulevard?** Call the Sheriff's Department to report the incident. The phone number is 389-5000.
- **I tried to use my clubhouse access card and it did not work. What should I do?** The clubhouse hours are 8am-8pm during the winter hours. The will change later on toward the summer and will allow for extended hours. If you are trying to access the clubhouse before or after those hours, your card will not work. In addition, if you are delinquent on your homeowner's dues, your card will also not work. Check with the HOA if you haven't paid your dues.
- **There are still persons fishing the lakes who do not appear to be homeowners. What can we do to stop it?** This has been a pressing issue for several months. The Homeowner's Association is in the process of implementing signs that clearly state "Homeowner's only". Hopefully, this can deter the problem.

Real Estate Information

	The raw data for the following real estate information was provided courtesy of Merdis Ard your neighborhood realtor with Keller Williams Realty at 768-1850.		
SPRINGLAKE			
	Average	Min	Max
New Homes			
Sq. Ft.	1569	1480	1697
Price per Sq. Ft.	\$98.31	\$92.00	\$106.00
Purchase Price	\$154,259	\$142,800	\$179,900
Days on Market	82	0	226
Resale Homes			
Sq. Ft.	1628	1486	1840
Price per Sq. Ft.	\$91.91	\$79.00	\$98.00
Purchase Price	\$149,172	\$141,500	\$162,000
Days on Market	33	6	85
FAIRHILL			
	Average		
New Homes			
Sq. Ft.	2000		
Price per Sq. Ft.	\$99.95		
Purchase Price	\$199,983		
Days on Market	49		
Resale Homes			
Sq. Ft.	1810		
Price per Sq. Ft.	\$91.02		
Purchase Price	\$164,700		
Days on Market	91		

Newsletter Staff:

Kim Walker, Joni DeVilbiss – Editors
 Joni DeVilbiss – Webmaster
 Becky Allemand – Fairhill Coordinator

C/O Kim Walker
 10406 Springdale Avenue
 Baton Rouge, La 70810 (225) 757-9227

<http://www.bluebonnethighlands.org>

Bluebonnet Highlands Extension Update

On December 12, 2002, the City of Baton Rouge received bids for the construction of the Bluebonnet Road Project. The low bidder for the project was Barber Brothers Contracting Company, LLC for a cost of \$7,616,062.82.

The Metropolitan Council has approved the low bid contingent on the State Facility Planning Office's approval. When they approve the bid, the contracts will be forwarded to Barber Brothers Contracting Company, LLC for execution that is slated to be completed by mid-January 2003. The City will issue the Notice to Proceed for construction. The target date for the start of the roadwork is the first part of February 2003. The contract time for construction is 15 months, weather permitting.

The placement of the mailboxes along Bluebonnet Boulevard has not been decided. At this time, the details are being worked out with Clark Taylor with the possibility of moving them somewhere on Springbrook Avenue.

It is still uncertain as to whether the project will begin on the Nicholson Drive side or on the Burbank side. Mr. Raiford and his staff will be meeting with the contractors in the next few weeks and will keep us updated with additional information as it becomes available.

Unsolicited Flyers at your Front Door?

On Wednesday, January 8th, many of you may have received flyers regarding the painting of your home address on the curb along your street with a modified Neighborhood Watch Symbol. **This flyer is in no way associated with your Homeowner's Association or the Neighborhood Watch Program here in Baton Rouge.** This is an Independent Company named The Address Company, LLC located in Ponchatoula, La.

According to the deed restrictions for Springlake and Fairhill, "3.23 Address numbers shall be displayed on and attached to the residence at or near the front entry door and shall be plainly visible from the street." Homes in our neighborhood already have visible municipal numbers located on the homes and all the street signs are clearly visible, making it easy for emergency services to reach your home in the event of an emergency.



Baton Rouge Mardi Gras Parades

Saturday, February 22

- Krewe of Mystique de la Capitale – 2:00pm
- Krewe of Orion – 6:00pm

Sunday, February 23

- Mystic Krewe of Mutts – 1:00pm

Saturday March 1

- Spanish Town – 12:00pm



Suggestions and Submissions Welcome

Do you have issues that you think need to be addressed in the newsletter? Are you having a garage sale that you would like to advertise? Do you want to express appreciation to an especially nice neighbor? Submissions and suggestions are welcome with approval of the editors. They must be submitted by the 20th of the month for consideration in the next month's newsletter. You can send your comments to webmaster@bluebonnethighlands.org or call Kim Walker at 757-9227 or drop off notes to Kim at 10406 Springdale Avenue.

Are you in need of a business or service?

If you don't already have a preference, then why not patronize the business of one of your neighbors. There is a page on our website dedicated to advertising those resident-owned or resident-operated businesses or services.

Welcome

Hello residents. Happy Mardi Gras and welcome to another edition of our Neighborhood Newsletter. Have the winter blues got you down? Have you been hibernating inside all winter and ready to get outside? Looking for some warmer, springtime temperatures? If you are, spring is just around the corner! For those of you who are ready to roll up those sleeves and get to work in your yards, the season to do so is fast approaching. Our Yard of the Month signs need a place to call home each month. If you want to be the jewel of the neighborhood, start planning ahead. Remember, your peers are judging so make sure you're ready. We look forward to the votes and the beautiful lawns to come!

For Dog Lovers (Bag that Poop!!)

Bob Blackmon, Resident

Thanks for the reminder in the newsletter about scooping your dog's poop. This issue is really frustrating to me. We are a neighborhood of professionals, for the most part. We are lawyers, physicians, teachers, accountants, bankers, professors, higher ed administrators.....the list goes on and on. Yet, frequently I see people allowing their dogs to defecate on lawns. And some are so bold as to let it happen on my lawn while I am watching. I must say, this is really low class and irresponsible.

I own a dog (actually he owns me), so I understand the human/dog relationship. I also understand that it is very simple to clean up after our dogs. No scooper is needed. Here is the simple solution: when you walk your dog take a small zip bag, turned inside out. When you need to clean your neighbor's lawn of your loved one's poop, slip your hand in the inside out bag, use it as a glove, and pick up your dog's poop. Then turn it outside out, close the bag tightly, and go merrily on your way. You will feel better about yourself, and all of us will feel better about you. It's a winner.

If you need assistance learning this scooping technology, stop by 10571 Springglen Ct. I would be happy to teach you.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Window Decals

We're growing by leaps and bounds....If you haven't noticed, our neighborhood has grown. Springlake has 355 homes and Fairhill has 178 homes. With this growth, sometimes it can be hard to distinguish between visitors and residents. In our efforts to keep Bluebonnet Highlands safe, we've enclosed (2) car window decals with this newsletter. Please place them on the rear window (left side) of your vehicle so that you can be officially recognized as a Bluebonnet Highlands resident. If you require additional decals, please contact Kim Walker at 757-9227.

Lost and Missing Signs

When you put up lost and missing signs in the neighborhood, please remember to go back and pick them up.



The Yard of the Month Challenge is On!

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May the best yard win!



NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK FOCUSES ON LIFE JACKET WEAR



Events May 17-23 will highlight the ease of life jacket wear and impact on overall boating safety.

Michael J. Curtis - United States Coast Guard Auxiliary - Resident

Recreational boaters and their passengers can greatly increase their chances of surviving serious accidents by wearing a life jacket while boating. It's not enough to have it on board -- boaters must wear them to save their lives. This is the key message of National Safe Boating Week (May 17-23, 2003), sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

This event is part of the nationwide 2003 North American Safe Boating Campaign. "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It!" is the 2003 campaign theme that organizations across the country will be promoting.

According to the latest Coast Guard statistics, nearly 80 percent of those who died in boating accidents in 2001 were not wearing life jackets, even though in many cases there were life jackets on board.

The U.S. Coast Guard has made life jacket wear so important that children under 13 are now required to wear a life jacket while underway on a recreational boat, except when they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin. This rule affects only those states that have not established requirements, by statute or rule, for children to wear life jackets.

By being safer and smarter on the water, we allow law enforcement officials to concentrate on homeland security duties.

"Thousands of people would be alive today if they had taken the simple precaution of wearing a life jacket before they went out on the water," said Virgil Chambers, Executive Director of the National Safe Boating Council. "With new, more comfortable life jackets it's easier than ever to wear one."

The NSBC says although boating fatalities and injuries have declined over more than two decades, the numbers remain high: 681 dead in 2001. The latest statistics emphasize the speed and suddenness of accidents. Two-thirds of all reported recreational boating fatalities in 2001 involved capsizing and falls overboard.

"In an emergency, boaters and their passengers often don't have time to find and put on stowed life jackets. It all just happens too quickly," said Rear Admiral Harvey Johnson, Director of Operations Policy U.S. Coast Guard. "The safest way to go is to wear a life jacket while you are on a boat. If more recreational boaters did so, and insisted that their passengers follow suit, it would prevent tragic and needless deaths.

Simply put, life jackets float, boaters don't."

Need a babysitter?

Ms. Ashley Matthews

Springlake Resident and LSU Sophomore

Experienced sitter of children (all ages)

Elementary Education Major - enjoys children

References available (225) 757-9129

Newsletter Staff:

Kim Walker, Joni DeVilbiss – Editors

Joni DeVilbiss – Webmaster

Becky Allemand – Fairhill Coordinator

C/O Kim Walker

10406 Springdale Avenue

Baton Rouge, La 70810 (225) 757-9227

<http://www.bluebonnethighlands.org>



Bluebonnet Highlands Review Newsletter

www.bluebonnethighlands.org

April 1, 2003

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2003 Yard of the Month Winners

Fairhill

**Richard & Linda
Wright
10848 Hillmont
Ave**

Springlake

**Jena' Leblanc
10407 Springpark**

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Kim Walker
10406 Springdale Ave
KWalker603@aol.com
225-757-9227

Fairhill Coordinator

Becky Allemand
819-1801

Webmaster and

Co-Editor

Joni DeVilbiss

Want to Volunteer

Fairhill Residents
contact Becky@ 819-
1801

Springlake Residents
contact Kim@757-9227

What's Ahead in the
weeks to come

*Clubhouse/Pool
Opening
*3rd Annual Hot Dogs &
Hospitality at the
Clubhouse

Bluebonnet Highlands New Filing Information

On the third Thursday of every month, **The Metro 3 Advisory Committee** hosts a meeting at the Bluebonnet Branch Library. These meetings are held every month to address issues that affect our district in terms of zoning, new developments, filings, etc. On March 20th, a meeting was held to address many concerns including Fairhill and Springlakes' new filing information. Case S-20-02 (Revision of Fairhill) cites reduction of lot frontage to 60' and to add 12 lots. The Committee was concerned about the Flood Plan and how the homes would be affected. Another member asked if the residents knew what impact this would have on their homes. Drainage issues were also a concern. Case S-19-03 (Revision of Springlake, 6th filing, Parts 1 and 2) presented several concerns among the Committee. The first issue was, of course, the Bluebonnet Extension. Secondly, the rear of the property is currently zoned C2 and the zoning is not being changed, leaving the possibility of future commercial development to go in alongside of these homes. The additional Tract B contained within the boundaries was also a concern among members for the possibilities for future use of this land. The Flood Plan was also a concern. Since there was no one present representing the applicant or developer, the Committee voted to reject both applications. **On March 26, the issues went before the Planning Commission and were approved.** At the time of print, minutes from the Planning Commission meeting were not available. We urge you all to get involved and become aware of issues affecting our neighborhood.

Bluebonnet Extension Underway

The Bluebonnet Extension work has begun and for the next 13 months, travel into and out of our neighborhood will be disrupted. The roadway preparation work will begin on both ends of the project. At this point, many trees have been cleared along the existing road on the Burbank side. If you've traveled along Nicholson Drive lately, you will notice the open space that will be used for the roadway is also under construction. The construction will be a nuisance to our residents however, we would like to suggest that you use caution when entering and exiting the neighborhood and follow all roadwork signs. Above all, let's work to stay safe as this progress continues.

2003 Clubhouse Committee Established

This year's members are: Becky Allemand, Iron Archie, Boyd Charles, Melissa Dillon, Mark Simoneaux, Kim Walker and Dianna Vantimmeren (alternate).

Members will check the clubhouse (pool, grounds and restrooms) on assigned days. If you have any concerns, contact Becky Allemand (coordinator) at 819-1801 or Clark Taylor & Associates at 292-2020.

Happy Easter

Volunteers Needed

Bluebonnet Highlands has grown to over 500 residences. With this growth, we are always excited to welcome newcomers into our community. Our talent pool is tremendous and this is where we need **YOUR** help. If you are interested in getting involved and volunteering in and around our neighborhood, please contact us. Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- Attend the monthly Metro 3 Advisory Committee meetings held every 3rd Thursday of each month at the Bluebonnet Branch Library.
- Serve on the Clubhouse committee or as an alternate
- Form a clean-up committee to clean up debris in the neighborhood.
- Spearhead a Neighborhood Watch Program.

Bluebonnet Highlands Car Decals

Last month, we sent out car decals to each residence. If you didn't receive one, please notify us immediately and we will forward some to you. The decals were sent out as part of a request from one of our neighbors. He suggested that we have some kind of identifying tag to let residents know who lives in the neighborhood. In addition, he also suggested the decals might be helpful in the event a resident wanted to go fishing on the lakes. The decals have been in existence for at least 3 years however; they were not utilized extensively throughout the neighborhood. For those of you who have placed the decal in your car windows, Thank You. Please note displaying the decal is not mandatory. You are not required to do so. We want each and every one of our residents to feel safe. If you do not feel safe by including the decal in your automobile, please don't use it. We do encourage you to get to know your neighbors, especially your immediate neighbors. In the event of an emergency, they could be of great assistance to you.

Water Moccasin Sighting

Residents Beware! A Springdale Avenue Resident spotted a Water Moccasin in her front lawn just a few weeks ago. The snake was killed and the resident was not in any immediate danger. Please be careful when you are out in the yard or attending to your beds or gardens. Just a quick tip – snakes don't like Moth Balls so placing them in and around your beds could do the trick of keeping them away. In addition, Lowe's carries a product called Snake Away that may keep those unwanted slithering creatures away, too!

Dates to Remember

April 6th – Daylight Savings Time

April 13th – Palm Sunday

April 18th – Good Friday

April 19th – Poolside Furniture Cleaning Day

April 20th – Easter Sunday

April 23rd – Secretary's Day

April 26th – Pool Opens for Summer



Food Folks and Fun

The 3rd annual Hotdogs and Hospitality will be held May 24th from 12 noon until 4:00 pm at the Clubhouse. If you wish to donate items to help defray the cost of expense for this event, it is not too late to do so. Your donations are greatly appreciated. If you wish to donate or volunteer for set-up, please contact Kim Walker at 757-9227 or Becky Allemand at 819-1801.

Yards of the Month

Springlake

14555 Springbrook
Bert & Janice Toms



Fairhill

10622 Hillglen
Scott & Tamara Johnson



Fishing Pleasures and Etiquette

Fishing is a pleasure and a teaching tool. Take this time to show younger children the proper way to fish. We seem to show where to store poles at home, how to cast and reel in, but what about the lessons to be learned while fishing. Let's start with the basics - a pole, a license, a subdivision decal, and also a bucket to hold your fish. Who knows, you may decide you don't have enough to eat. When fish are kept live they can be placed back into the water. Another lesson should be picking up everything you brought with you and bringing it back to a trash can or home. Don't forget to pick up any trash they may have fallen while unwrapping lures, worms, etc. The neighborhood decals should be displayed to show people that you have permission to use the lake. The police will not have as many false alarms.

Lost and Missing Signs

When you put up lost and missing signs in the neighborhood, please remember to go back and pick them up.

Pool News



The pool is officially open for the summer. The hours are from 8:00am to 8:00pm. The water is just right, the furniture cleaned and now all we need is YOU to enjoy and have fun in the sun!

Remember that the pool is for the shared use of members and the gates must be kept closed at all times. Members have priority over Guest(s) and Guest(s) will be permitted only when space allows, but it is not mandatory that guest(s) be admitted.

You will not be able to access the pool, grounds and tennis court, unless your homeowner's dues are current and you must use your activated access card to get through the gate. If you need to pay your dues or you need an access card, please contact Debbie DeJean at 292-2020.

Please do not allow anyone else to use your card to access the facility. In addition, if you notice uninvited guests, either children or adults, jumping the fencing to gain access, please call the Sheriff's Department at 389-5000. Last summer, there were several incidences in which individuals were obtaining access to the clubhouse without proper authority to do so.

For your safety, be aware of your surroundings if you are at the pool alone and report any suspicious activity immediately.

Reminder: The pool does not have an established Lifeguard on Duty, therefore, each member agrees when entering this area that they swim at their own risk. Persons under the age of seventeen (17) years are not permitted without adult supervision.

Recreational Complex Committee

Sunday	Mark Simoneaux	763-9878
Monday	CLOSED FOR CLEANING	
Tuesday	Melissa Dotson	757-9026
Wednesday	Boyd Charles	769-7847
Thursday	Becky Allemand	819-1801
Friday	liron Archie	757-8226
Saturday	Kim Walker	757-9227
Alternates	*Dianna Vantimmeren	769-6315
	*Kim Mansur	819-0862

Uninvited Guests At Clubhouse

Summer has just begun and already there have been numerous reports of kids accessing the pool by jumping the fence. In addition to trespassing, these kids are participating in horseplay in and around the pool and being disrespectful to residents. Since we do not have a lifeguard on duty, it is up to us, as residents, to take care of each other and OUR complex. If you see a trespasser, please ask him/her to leave. If they will not, please call the Sheriff's Department. Above all, please stay safe while at the clubhouse. If you are interested in signing up to monitor the clubhouse during the daytime more closely for the remainder of the summer months, please email Kim Walker at KWalker603@aol.com.

Business is Booming

Have you noticed the new businesses along Bluebonnet Boulevard? You will be able to enjoy Wendy's Hamburgers as well as other shops such as Club Tan, Subway, Sweet Repeat Consignment Boutique and Walgreen's. Also, a new Family Dollar store is almost complete just along Burbank Boulevard across from the Texaco gas station. As many of you are already aware, the extension will surely create additional traffic and these businesses will also play a role as well. As new businesses and developments arise, we will keep you informed.

Yards of the Month

Fairhill

Kenny Leatherman
10631 Hillglen



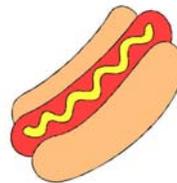
Springlake

Jeanne and Lloyd Dempster
10105 Springbrook

Our Annual Home Owners' Association meeting will be held in August. More details to follow as the date draws nearer.

Hospitality Recap

The 3rd annual Hotdogs and Hospitality held May 24th hosted over 55 guests with lots of food, a spacewalk and fun in the sun! If you missed this year's event, you missed a real treat. Don't worry. We'll be back next year.



Be kind to your neighbors, scoop your pets poop and keep your dog on a leash while walking.

A-I GREEN LAWN CARE, INC.

**LICENSED * INSURED * FREE
ESTIMATES**

RAY GUIDROZ

**2458 DAY DRIVE
BAKER, LOUISIANA 70714**

225.963.2854

225.774.6882

Our Annual Home Owners' Association meeting will be held on September 24. Look for the notice and please make plans to attend. This is your forum for voicing your opinion.



Balloons Land in Bluebonnet Highlands



Saturday, August 9 was an exciting afternoon for some Bluebonnet Highlands residents. At least seven hot air balloons were visible at close range from Springlake. Two landed in the field behind Wendy's and one at Albertson's. Several balloons landed in the open areas to the right when you first enter Bluebonnet Highlands and a couple more in the back of Springlake. Our residents got first hand view of landing and balloon recovery. It was amazing how quickly they were packed up and out of here, but it was exciting while it lasted.



I-12 - Essen Lane Construction

The purpose of the Essen Lane project in East Baton Rouge parish is to add a third lane to Essen Lane in the northbound direction, to add an on-ramp to I-12 eastbound from Essen Lane, and to modify the existing on-ramp from Jefferson Highway to I-12 eastbound. Interstate traffic will only be affected by work associated with the on-ramps.

Prior to beginning the work on both on-ramps, the contractor will need to re-stripe I-12 to shift the three lanes of eastbound traffic approximately eight feet away from the outside shoulder. **I-12 eastbound will be restricted to one lane for a weekend** while this

re-stripping is taking place and again at a later date to remove this temporary striping and place the permanent striping when the ramp work is complete

There will be delays associated with this work. Motorist should use alternate routes, where possible, to minimize delays.

The project was let to contract on June 12, 2002 and was awarded to the low bidder, Barber Brothers Contracting Co. of Baton Rouge, LA, in the amount of \$6,530,989.05. The contract time is 145-calendar days. For more information go to: <http://www.dotd.state.la.us/construc/>.



**One of our
neighbors on
Springglen was
recently robbed.**

The Facts About Burglary:

- Burglary happens once each 13 seconds.
- Almost half of these burglaries are committed without force - that is through unlocked and/or open doors and windows.

MOST OF THESE BURGLARIES CAN BE PREVENTED

- Always lock your doors and windows, even when leaving "just for a minute".
- Never leave a house key under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of the door. These are first places a burglar will look.
- Give an extra key to a neighbor you trust.
- Ask your local police to conduct a free security inspection of your residence.

REMEMBER, IF YOU COME HOME AND FIND A BROKEN WINDOW OR A JIMMIED DOOR, DONT GO IN! CONFRONTING A BURGLAR CAN BE DANGEROUS. PHONE THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY.

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Make life harder for crooks

Remember the following tips

CHECK YOUR LOCKS!

- Sliding doors and windows should all have "ventilation" locks, as well as auxiliary locks to bolster security.
- Be sure to include good locks for garage, cellar, patio, or other doors that lead out through storage areas or spare room.
- Exterior doors should have "DEAD BOLT" locks with a strong, one-inch metal bar extending into the door frame.
- When you move into a new house or apartment, re-key the locks.

For more information on locks, contact your local law enforcement agency.

GOING OUT?

- Lock all doors and windows.
- Use timers so that lights and your TV go on and off throughout the home to indicate someone is home.
- For longer trips, be sure to stop mail and newspaper delivery, or have a neighbor collect them daily.

**BEST TIP IS MAKING YOUR HOME
LOOKED LIVED IN WHILE YOU ARE AWAY.**

OTHER TIPS:

- Install a wide angle lens viewer in the front door. Never open the door without knowing who is there.
- Consider alarm systems or trained dogs for additional protection.
- Thieves hate bright lights. Install bright lights and keep them on at night.
- Trim shrubbery from doors and windows.
- Mark and photograph your valuables.

Thanks to the Deaf Advocacy Center Home Security Tips



Bluebonnet Extension Update

If you haven't noticed, some of the work has begun within our neighborhood with respect to the Bluebonnet Extension. Along Bluebonnet, workers have been surveying and excavating over the past few weeks. Please exercise caution when navigating through this stretch of roadway. The safety of our residents is extremely important.



Traffic Lights on Bluebonnet

Fred Raiford from the Department of Public Works had this to say in a response to a recent email from one of our residents.

"Thanks for your e-mail concerning the possible light at the intersection of Bluebonnet and Hillmont. Certainly I understand your concerns about the safety of the people in the area but I am not sure the State DOTD will agree to do this. This will be a State road and not a City road. I will work with you to try to address this. I do not believe the State will look at this until the road is built. I would suggest that the Association put together a petition from the homeowners to the State DOTD and send me a copy."

Newsletter Staff

Joni DeVilbiss
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Becky Allemand

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Baton Rouge, La 70810 (225) 757-9227

<http://www.bluebonnethighlands.org>

Annual Homeowner's Meeting

The Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowners Association annual meeting is fast approaching. The meeting is on September 24 at the Bluebonnet Branch Library. A notice will be mailed to each residence by the Homeowners Association. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated. Show your support for your neighborhood and get involved.

Lake Lot Neighbors need your help

Please be considerate when visiting the lakes in our neighborhood. They are very beautiful and should be enjoyed by all. If you would like to visit the lakes, please remember lake lot owners own the land even as it extends down to the lakes. Please respect their privacy and do not venture into their backyards.

Need to advertise?

If you need to advertise a garage sale, want a babysitter or looking for a missing pet, send email to us at webmaster@bluebonnethighlands.org.



Speed Limit in Bluebonnet Highlands

Please note the posted speed limit in Bluebonnet Highlands is 30 miles per hour. Please watch out for the kids at play and remember to adhere to

all Stop signs. If we don't follow the posted speed limit signs now, we can't expect others to follow suit when the extension is complete.



Annual Meeting of the Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowners Association

6:00pm-7:00pm on Wednesday, September 24 at the Bluebonnet Branch Library.

This is your opportunity to get information and to ask questions. Please make every effort to attend.

What's going on with the Bluebonnet Extension?

That's certainly the question that seems to be on everyone's mind. Well, it appears that we may have the perfect opportunity to find out. Dr. Pat Culbertson, the Region 3 representative to the Metro Council, and Fred Raiford, Director of the Baton Rouge Department of Public Works both have plans to attend our annual homeowner's meeting. There is a metro council meeting that day and their arrival depends on the length of that meeting.

New Parking Ordinance

The Metro Council recently passed a change to an East Baton Rouge Parish ordinance to make parking in the grass in a yard a "parking ticket" offense.

Several Council Members have heard from neighborhood groups complaining about people regularly parking in their front yards. They said that it generally detracts from the property values because of the unsightliness of the effects, such as killing the grass and causing dust when it is dry and mud when it is wet. There were also concerns about conditions that neighbors had to put up with and property rights.

Under this new ordinance, if somebody parks in yards on a regular basis, an officer or deputy "may" write a parking ticket. This type of offense is classed as a misdemeanor, but it could still result in a fine of up to \$500.

Congratulations to one of our Young Residents

Congratulations to Miss Kaitlyn Walker, six-year-old daughter of Kim and Kevin Walker of Springdale. In June, she won the title of Louisiana State Cinderella Tot 2003-2004 in connection with the Cinderella Pageant. In July, she traveled to Las Vegas, NV where she competed against 75 other tots and finished in the top 10 for the title of International Cinderella Tot.



Would You Like To Share?

We'd like to start a new column here dedicated to those items that neighbors would like to share. Do you know somebody in the neighborhood who has had a recent accomplishment such as our dear Kaitlyn? Do you have an interesting hobby or story about your job? Your neighbors would like to hear from you.

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Elections Are Coming Soon

Who is eligible to vote?

- United States citizens
- Individuals at least 17 years old but must be 18 years old prior to next election
- Individuals not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony
- Individuals not under a judgment of interdiction for mental incompetence
- A resident of the state and parish in which registration is sought

How do I register?

Eligible individuals may apply for voter registration by completing a Louisiana Voter Registration Application form at any of Louisiana's mandated sites, any Registrar of Voters office, or by mail. Below is a list of mandated sites:

- Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles
- Louisiana Department of Social Services and WIC offices, Food Stamp offices, and Medicaid offices
- Offices serving persons with disabilities, such as the Deaf Action Centers and Independent Living offices
- Armed Forces Recruitment offices

Louisiana statutes require individuals to be registered 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that particular election.

The above information was gathered from the Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration. For more details, visit their web site at <http://www.elections.state.la.us/> or contact them at:

Elections Division
P.O. Box 4729
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4729
Main Phone: 225-219-9600

Voter Resources

- www.cabl.org
- www.ethics.state.la.us
- www.sec.state.la.us
- www.elections.state.la.us
- www.vote-smart.org
- www.la-par.org
- www.lpb.org
- www.legis.state.la.us
- www.lwvbr.org
- www.state.la.us

The voter information listed on this page taken from the Council for a Better Louisiana's website listed at www.cabl.org.

Absentee Voting

In Person

Absentee voting in person is conducted from 12 days to 6 days prior to any election. During these periods, registrars remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday.

By Mail

To request absentee ballots by mail, you must send a request in writing stating your name and reason you are not able to vote in person absentee or in person on Election Day. All instructions will be sent to you with the absentee ballots on how to fill out the ballots and the requirements for mailing them back. (click here for the listing of Registrars of Voters)

Deadlines for returning ballots:

- Military personnel.....Election Day
- U.S. citizens not residing in U.S.....Election Day
- All others.....the day before Election Day

The above information on absentee voting was gathered from the Louisiana Department of Elections and Registration. For more details and eligibility requirements, visit their web site at <http://www.elections.state.la.us/> or contact them at:

Absentee Division
P.O. Box 4729
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4729
Main Phone: 225-219-9600

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Email: webmaster@bluebonnethighlands.org
Website: <http://www.bluebonnethighlands.org>

A note from the staff:

In light of recent comments, we would like to make it perfectly clear that this newsletter is not now nor has it ever been a product of the Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowners Association. It is the product of three individuals with input from their neighbors. If you have any items that you wish to share with your neighbors, we would love to have your input. If you have suggestions of changes or additions to the newsletter, we would be happy to hear them and will do whatever we can.



Annual Meeting of the Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowners Association

The Homeowners Association meeting was held at 6:00pm on September 24 at the Bluebonnet Branch Library. Only 45 residents, representing 36 lots, actually showed up for this meeting. There were four speakers: 1) Clark Taylor, President of Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowners Association 2) Wayne Beilitz, Animal Control Center Officer, 3) Pat Culbertson, Region 3 Representative to the Metro Council and 4) Fred Raiford, Director of the Baton Rouge Department of Public Works.

Wayne Beilitz

Animal Control Center Officer

- There are a total of 8 officers to cover all of East Baton Rouge parish.
- The City Parish Ordinances are listed on the website at <http://brgov.com/Dept/Animal/default.htm>
- Dogs are required to be on a leash to walk.
- Hunting or working dogs is different, but you don't hunt or work your dog in the park.
- Cats also have laws. They can be loose in their yard, but once they venture out into somebody else's yard, that does not work.
- Nuisance complaints such as barking dogs, poop in the yard, etc are required to be submitted in writing to the attention of animal control and require the name, address and phone number of the complainant.
- Cruelty and danger complaints are the only complaints that are accepted anonymously.
- You are welcome to send email about problems, but if it is an emergency, please call. Emails are checked at the beginning and end of day and may not be addressed immediately as in an emergency situation.
- Animal Control can be reached after hours. If you have an emergency like a snake in a house, etc, you can contact the Sheriff's office and they can call out animal control.

Dr. Pat Culbertson

Region 3 Representative to the Metro Council

Please take advantage of the experience and the assistance that can be provided by the Greater Baton Rouge Council of Civic Associations.

In an arrangement with the state at the beginning of the Bluebonnet Extension project the following three things were agreed upon. There will be no hazardous materials transported down Bluebonnet through our neighborhood. There will be a 35 mph speed limit in all residential areas. The Baton Rouge Department of Public Works will control the design of the roadway.

What we can do to control the development between us and Nicholson

The land between our neighborhood and Nicholson is owned by two owners and is mostly rural. Once Bluebonnet is complete, there will probably be moves to rezone these properties. There is no way at this point of telling whether there will be more residential areas or commercial or what, but there is something that we can do to control that development. We need to consider actively supporting an Urban Development Overlay. This would be a design overlay that would control the type of construction design that could be built in the area. This overlay would apply regardless of the zoning of any given piece of property. It could control things such as the distance set back from the road, the type of construction materials that can be used, whether the parking can be in front or on the side or in the rear, etc. This design overlay plan would require ACTIVE participation from residents to support it. It would be a lot of work, but it would help us protect our property values.

There are some homes in our neighborhood that have lots of cars there all the time and there are not single families living there. There is an ordinance about rental property that says that no more than two unrelated individuals are to reside in a home in an A1 zoned area. If you would like to know how to pursue this further, contact him at pmculb@bellsouth.net and he will give you further direction.

Clark Taylor

Bluebonnet Highlands Homeowners Association

A summary and paraphrasing of questions and discussion:

The mowers we have now are very good. Will we be keeping them? That contract is re-bid every November and if they are the lowest bidder, then we will keep them.

Who is responsible for maintaining the lake? That contract is with Bart Gremillion of Louisiana Pest Control. Controlling the aquatic vegetation is going to take time. It has to be done slow in order not to kill the fish.

When cutting trees along Bluebonnet, why were they left on the side of the road?

We have no control over that. That property does not belong to Bluebonnet Highlands and it is up to the contractor.

Is St. Augustine grass allowed? Yes.

Drivers and Construction are imposing on homeowners on Hillmont. Drivers are driving wildly through the neighborhood. Construction workers are playing loud music at 6:30am every day but Sunday. Construction workers are taking water from the homeowners. Debbie Dejean will contact the appropriate party and see what can be done.

West Star worker was speeding and hit garbage truck and a worker was badly injured? What can be done? Speeding is to be reported to the Sheriff's department.

Is there any plan to replace the Fairhill entrance sign? Not at this time. The association is not doing well enough financially.

What about the landscaping around the Fairhill sign? Clark Taylor will look into it.

What can we do about burglaries? Report them to the Sheriff's office and start a neighborhood watch.

What can we do about non-residents at the pool? Call the Sheriff's office. They are aware of the deed restrictions and if the people do not live in the neighborhood, they will ask them to leave. If you go to the keypad at the gate, you can punch in 555# and it will call the Sheriff's Office. The phone by the bathrooms only rings 911 and is to be used for emergencies.

What will happen to the mailboxes that are currently located on Bluebonnet near the Springlake entrance? They will be moved to the gazebo just behind the Springlake sign.

What can be done about non-residents fishing at all hours of the day and night? Call the sheriff's office.

Is there anything we can do to prevent having rental property in our subdivision? It is possible to create the deed restrictions for the future phases and filings to address this, but the existing phases and filings won't be affected. To change those, it would require 100% acceptance of all residents.

Is there a plan for more parking at the pool? Currently the parking lot is not big enough. Residents have had to park on the grass outside the gate. This will not be possible once the construction on Bluebonnet starts. Clark Taylor will look into this and if the budget allows, it can be expanded.

How many lots are in Fairhill phase 2? Approximately 75-80

How many more lots total will there be? Springlake and Fairhill together will hold about 250 more lots.

The lot size in Fairhill phase 2 is going down to 60 feet. Won't this hurt the property values for the current residents of phase 1? No. This is being done everywhere. It was done in Springlake and in Fairhill. There are various sized lots. Those people are selling their homes now for much more than they paid for them.

Will the French Collection style continue? It depends on the market, but it looks good, at least for now.

Sometimes there is an odor in the neighborhood. New sewer lines are being laid and this could have something to do with the smell.

Somewhere in plans child care facility was mentioned. This was part of possible development. It would probably not be instituted until the development is complete and there are enough homes to support one. At that time, Clark Taylor would probably contact somebody in that line of business about buying or leasing property to do that.

Dog Shot with Arrow

Pat and Kelly Stutes of Springpark found their dog, a Rottweiler, shot with a hunting arrow. The dog was in a fenced yard at the time that it was shot. The arrow hit his chest. He is in bad shape, but he is recovering. The owners called the police and filed a statement. The police also took the arrow. It is very sad that someone would hurt an animal that way. One would hope that it was an accident. If you know anything about this terrible event, please report it to them at 819-0876.

Fred Raiford

Director of the Baton Rouge Department of Public Works

Problems with standing water behind homes on Hillmont that backup to the new development. West Star is involved in that and should be handling it. West Star told the homeowner that it was solved, but it is not. Fred Raiford will pursue this further.

- We have done everything we can to minimize the inconvenience to the residents.
- The project actually go the go ahead back in May of 2003.
- It is a 14 month contract.
- Weather permitting, we expect be complete in the June/July 2004 time frame.
- At the current time we are 1.5 months ahead of schedule.
- We are currently doing everything we can to finish the end of the road that connects to Nicholson.
- Expect to start on the Bluebonnet Highlands end of the road in January 2004. It could be sooner if the weather is really good and we get way ahead of schedule, but the residents will know of the change if there is one.
- We are not widening the road. We are narrowing the median. There is currently approximately a 28-foot median and there will be approximately a 19-foot median when we are done.
- We will do what we can to remove the 38 crepe myrtles and 2 oaks. This was not in the plan, but it will come out of our budget to remove and store these.
- When construction starts on the Burbank end of the road, a detour road will be built on the West, or incoming, side of the boulevard. A second lane will be built next to the existing lane and all of the Bluebonnet traffic will be detoured to the West side. The East, or outgoing side, of the existing road will be torn out and all of the work will be done to complete that side. Once the East side is complete, all traffic will be rerouted to the East side. The West side of the boulevard will be torn out and all construction will be done on that side.
- The Nicholson end of Bluebonnet will not be opened until everything is complete.
- Landscaping is not part of the contract.
- Bluebonnet will be a state highway and yes, eighteen-wheelers are allowed to travel on it, but not hazardous cargo.
- We will be building retaining walls where the road crosses the slough.
- There will not be sound barrier walls.
- There will be turning lanes for the side streets

- The speed limit will be 35 in the residential areas. If the land beyond ours is zoned differently, then the speed limits may increase down there.
- There are no plans to put in traffic lights. Once the road is complete, a traffic volume survey will be done to determine if there is a need for traffic lights and if we meet the criteria.
- Will there be a light a Bluebonnet and Nicholson? Think so.
- Bluebonnet will be overlaid with asphalt to buffer the sound.
- What about Burbank from Seigen to Gardere? Is there any plan to widen that part of the road? It is a state road, but Fred's office has requested that this project be given a higher priority.
- There will have to be a decision made as to how to approach the construction of Bluebonnet where it intersects with a side road.

There are two options:

1) Pave half of the intersection at a time, while allowing the other half of the intersection to remain usable and then go back and pave the other half **-OR-** 2) close off the intersection and pave the entire intersection at one time.

FOR INSTANCE, when getting ready to pave the Springbrook/Bluebonnet intersection,

1) the incoming side could be closed and constructed while the outgoing side remains open. Then the outgoing side would have to be closed and constructed while the incoming side remains open. **-OR-** 2) The whole Springbrook/Bluebonnet intersection would be closed and constructed while residents that normally use that intersection to come and go would use an alternate route such as Springcrest or Springpark.

In option 1, the construction would take longer and there would have to be more places where pipes and such are spliced together.

In option 2, the construction would take less time and there would be less places where splices were necessary. It would be to the benefit of the residents to choose this option.

This decision has not yet been made, but Mr. Raiford will be looking to the residents for their input when that time comes. At the time when this decision is necessary he will meet with the committee from the neighborhood to make this decision with them.

Halloween Safety



Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches

or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Many communities officially designate a "Beggars' Night" and assign specific hours for trick-or-treat activities. Both children and adults need to think about safety on this annual day of make-believe.

The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween.

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Before children start out on their "trick or treat" rounds, parents should:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and **never** to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.
- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.

Children should understand and follow these rules:

- Do not enter homes or apartments without adult supervision.
- Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.
- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

To ensure safe trick-or-treating, parents are urged to:

- Give children an early meal before going out.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.
- Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- When in doubt, throw it out.



Have a Safe
and Happy
Halloweeeeeeeeen!

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/halloween.htm>

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