

July, 1st 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

Bluebonnet Highlands Newsletter

Neighborly Reminders:

- July 1st - HOA Dues
- July 4th Independence Day

www.bluebonnethighlands.org

Message from HOA President

I would like to thank everyone who has helped this Association grow from its infancy, two years ago, to the healthy, active, thriving entity it is today. Although we have a lot of work ahead of us, the help and encouragement we've received from many of the homeowners has meant a great deal.

In this message, I would like to help everyone understand that an Association, such as ours, is only as good as its

members. We are all responsible for maintaining and improving the place we live. It is in all of our best interests to follow the deed restrictions to maintain the beauty and desirability of Bluebonnet Highlands. The Council alone is not the Association. Everyone who owns property and/or lives in the neighborhood is a valued member of this Association. If we all work together, our property

values will continue to grow at the rate we've enjoyed over the past few years. This is especially important in the tough economic times ahead. We cannot operate the Association without your help. If this means pointing out violations, volunteering, talking to neighbors or picking up a piece of trash, it benefits all of us to participate. Remember, if we continue to work together, our Association will only get stronger.

Have a Happy and Safe Independence Day!

Please read the following memo from the St. George Fire Department

With the greater Baton Rouge area having received only about one-tenth of the average monthly rainfall expected in the month of June and less than half the average total year to date, everything is parched. Temperatures in the high nineties have only compounded the problem. The forecast through the Fourth of July offers little hope of significant relief. In response to these severe conditions, the State Fire Marshall has issued a state-wide burning ban. The only exceptions are those agricultural burns permitted by the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Environmental Quality or burns specifically permitted by the local fire department.

The private detonation of fireworks is always illegal in East Baton Rouge Parish, therefore not permitted in the St. George Fire Protection District. In the past, this has been a much-ignored prohibition. We ask your co-operation in making this Fourth of July fireworks free. Yes, it's fun. Yes, kids (of all ages) enjoy it. And, yes, your neighbors may come out on the porch or into the yard to enjoy your personal fireworks display, right up to the time a glowing projectile lands in some dry brush or on someone's roof. Please, help everyone have a safe Fourth of July - lay off the fireworks.

Under these conditions and circumstances, personal injury and property damage caused by the illegal use of fireworks would most certainly not be intentional, but may be hard to call "accidental."

Independence Day Trivia



- In July 1776, the estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation was 2.5 million
- Fourth of July was declared a legal holiday in 1941.
- Our national mascot, the bald eagle, can achieve speeds of nearly 200 miles per hour when making a predatory dive. During a normal flight, the bald eagle can travel up to 30 miles per hour.
- "The Star-Spangled Banner" started out as a poem named "The Defense of Fort M'Henry" and was written on the back of an envelope. It was quickly found that the cadence of the poem fit the tune of a song titled "To Anacreon in Heaven." It was set to the music and renamed, thus becoming the national anthem as we know it today.

Flag Etiquette

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.

The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.

The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.

The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations. The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.

The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country; it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Did you know?

Someone who specializes in the history of flags is called a vexillologist.



Neighborhood Watch

There has been a lot of development activity around our neighborhood in recent years. Our residents are concerned about an increase in crime. Nearby Sheriff Department makes random passes but they cannot alone stop the crooks!

EACH resident is responsible for the safety of our beautiful community. We need at least 51% resident participation to make the program successful

That's why we call on all residents to join our Neighborhood Watch Program. If you or your neighbor wants to volunteer to become your street block captain, please contact Erin at bbhrep@hotmail.com

We will attempt to have a formal meeting in August.

Question:

Why don't we just pay off duty cop?

Answer:
To have an around the clock security guard is very expensive. At a rate of \$20-\$25 per hour we would pay \$15,000.00 per month! Having an off duty officer to patrol our neighborhood a few hours a day, is being considered for the near future. However, the fact is that an active NWP which works together with the Police Department is considered the best way to combat residential burglaries.



Neighborhood Safety - Take a Bite Out of Crime

- ✓ Make sure you have not left anything of value in your vehicle that would make it a target. Do not leave CD's or CD cases in plain sight. Keep you vehicles in a garage or locked.
- ✓ Trim shrubbery from doors and windows.
- ✓ Keep your doors and windows locked. Consider alarm systems or trained dogs for additional protection. Most thieves are opportunists - they look for the easiest target, and will often move on if they find a house or an apartment that they consider being too secured.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ If you plan to travel, make your home look the same while you are away as it does when your home. Use timers for lights in your home to turn off and on in different areas of the house throughout the night.
- ✓ Be vigilant in looking for suspicious persons and vehicles in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors. If you see something or someone that is suspicious report it to the Sheriff Department at 389-5000. Give them as detailed a description as possible. DO NOT try to apprehend suspicious persons yourself.



Most of the residential burglaries can be prevented. For more information about NWP go to www.usaonwatch.org



Pool Etiquette

Summer is here and that means Fun in the Sun!

Rules to remember:

- ❖ Hours are 8am-8pm
- ❖ Closed on Monday
- ❖ **No one** under the age of 17 is allowed in the pool area without an adult.
- ❖ **No glass** containers are allowed
- ❖ **No alcohol** is allowed
- ❖ **No smoking** is allowed
- ❖ Only 2 guest allowed per household
- ❖ **No horseplay**
- ❖ **Keep pool gates closed at all times**
- ❖ **Do not** allow anyone to use your card to enter the gate.
- ❖ **Do not** jump gate if card
- ❖ Pool parties require scheduling.

The pool is for every resident to enjoy. All the rules are posted by the pool. Please make sure that everyone in your family reads them. Due to recent problems with residents drinking beer at the pool and leaving all the glasses on the ground, anyone caught drinking alcohol will be asked to leave. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Visit our website www.bluebonnethighands.org to download Clubhouse and Pool reservation form and to check available dates.



"It's better to light a small candle than complain about darkness."

Volunteers Needed

Bluebonnet Highlands has grown to over 900 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 at bbhrep@hotmail.com

- Opportunities:
- Pool committee
 - Neighborhood Welcome committee
 - Social Committee
 - Election Committee
 - Decorations Committee

Question: Why volunteer? I pay my dues.

No one can make you.

But consider this: our HOA is run by volunteers, maintaining our website, preparing annual meetings, cleaning around the pool is done thanks to our unpaid volunteers. That's why we can put more money into improving our community (e.g. new playground, new pool furniture) instead of paying huge fees to a Management Company.

The HOA belongs to all of us. A larger resident involvement will build a better and stronger community.

Do you know your HOA?

The Homeowner's Association collects dues and ensures services are performed in terms of upkeep in the neighborhood. Dues are due annually in January, but can be paid semi-annually, quarterly or monthly. The yearly fee is \$360.00 and is used for a variety of services, including, but not limited to, liability insurance, maintenance of public area lawns, clubhouse, pool, lakes, etc.

The HOA Council holds open meetings usually on the first Wednesday each month from 6:30 to 7:30 at the clubhouse. All

residents are encouraged to attend. It is a great place to meet your neighbors and have your voices heard!

If you cannot make the meeting please check our website.

You will find the latest financial information along with meeting minutes.

The annual meeting is held in January. It is important that the residents attend this meeting. Yearly financial information is presented, you can vote for new council members and approve the budget.

If you are interested in serving on the council, this will give you and opportunity to introduce yourself.

Please check our website www.bluebonnethighlands.org for information about upcoming meetings.

Our council e-mail is bbhcouncil@hotmail.com



Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually. those around us.

Good neighbor mini-quiz

Disclaimer: For Entertainment purpose only! Holds no scientific value!

You see an empty bottle on a street:

- 1) What bottle? Would not even notice.
- 2) Write a lengthy post on a message board, calling on our HOA to launch full scale investigation.
- 3) Pick up the bottle, throw it in the trash.

Your dog leaves a smelly gift on your neighbor's lawn:

- 1) Leave it. It will fertilize the grass.

- 2) Call the HOA Rep. Request installing "poop stations" on each corner. Preferably with full time attendants.

- 3) Scoop it up.

You keep your yard:

- 1) Definitely going for the jungle look.
- 2) Call it Garden of Eden!
- 3) Keep it simple, neat and trimmed.

Volunteering:

- 1) Come on! I hardly pay my dues.
- 2) Pay my dues. 'Nuff said.
- 3) I do.

Words of Wisdom:

It never rains on your neighbors without you getting your feet wet.

Love is blind — but not the neighbors.

Don't complain about the snow on your neighbor's roof when your own doorstep is unclean.

BBH HOA

Contact Us

General Inquiries
bbhrep@hotmail.com

Rep. Erin Guillory
678-1505

Billing Inquiries
bbhbilling@yahoo.com

Council Members
bbhcouncil@hotmail.com

Street Lights on Bluebonnet Boulevard

With the help of Councilman Loupe, we were able to get a formal petition prepared to install a lighting system on Bluebonnet Blvd. However, this may take some time because there was no infrastructure put in place when the extension was built. According to Councilman

Loupe's office, this means that the total project will cost approximately \$100,000.

Hopefully, the city/parish can get this budgeted for the next fiscal year.

We will keep you informed about the progress.

Question: Who do I call about broken street lights?

Answer: Contact Entergy directly.

You can fill out the form at <https://secure.entergy.com/forms/StreetLights.aspx?FormId=132&RegionId=LA>

Burbank Dog Park – Coming Soon

East Baton Rouge Parish residents love dogs. A 2001 survey showed that for every 100 households, there are 79 dogs. These residents with four-legged family members will be pleased to know that a new BREC Dog Park is

under construction. The new dog park is being built at Burbank Park, 12400 Burbank Dr.,

The Dog Park is 60% completed and should be finish in August 2009.

Check BREC website at www.brec.com to learn more about dog parks. Do not forget to read the dog park rules!

Newsletter Help Wanted!

We are looking for Springlake and Fairhill residents to help with the newsletter.

If you would like to become a newsletter staff member or have an interesting story, idea or

tip you want to share, we encourage you to submit it to us.

Please email us at bbhrep@hotmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bluebonnethighlands.org