

SPRING NEWSLETTER

CHATEAU ESTATES CIVIC ORGANIZATION

MARCH 2021

President's Message

To borrow an old quote, "Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean". Spring fix up across Chateau Estates is underway. Gardening tips from Michelle Charvet and exterior maintenance tips from Tom Tatar may provide ideas as you 'step across the street' and check out your property. If you are looking for expert assistance with your home or garden please consider our advertisers; a professional can be a quick path to an update of your property.

With the end of the pandemic slowly coming in sight, we will hold a zoom meeting this month. Voters have pocketbook issues coming up include a parish millage renewal this month and three Kenner millage renewal votes in April. Debbie Villio will participate to discuss the upcoming state legislative session, including state capital outlay requests that affect our area. As vaccines become more widely available, we look forward to resuming actual everyone in the same room civic organization meetings later this year.

A note of thanks to board member Ron Updegraff for bringing the need for a holiday blood drive to the civic organization. We coordinated with other Kenner civic associations in December and the blood drive had a nice turnout. Thanks also to board member Sid Bullard for donating use of the Event Center for the blood drive.

In 2019 the CECO board surveyed Chateau neighborhoods and identified various street, drainage, sidewalk intersection and curb repairs needed. At that time Councilman George Branigan committed

Civic Organization Zoom Meeting March 17th, 7:00 PM

Jefferson Parish Millage Renewal for Water - March 20th Voter Referendum

City of Kenner - Millage Renewals for Fire Protection, Trash Services and Sewer Treatment – April 24th Voter Referendum

Upcoming Louisiana State Legislative Session – Town Hall with State Representative Debbie Villio

The link for the zoom meeting will be posted on the CECO website on March 1st.

Representatives from Jefferson Parish and the City of Kenner will be present to discuss millage renewals and answer any questions.

District 4 infrastructure funds and improved handicap sidewalk intersections. Last month Councilman Branigan stepped forward again and committed funds to repair of curbs. We put the call out on the 'CECO Weekly Echo' and many homeowners contacted us identifying repair needs. We look forward to the curb repairs. Thank you Councilman Branigan!

Inside you will find an article by our Parish Councilman Dominick Impastato with updates on several road and infrastructure projects that affect Kenner, including the marina.

Through March 8th the city is seeking public input on ideas to revitalize the Esplanade Mall and Rivertown. Preliminary ideas on the Esplanade 100 acre property include adding green space/parks, residential options and more entrances to the mall ring road. A link to surveys is on the CECO website. Public zoom meetings to discuss findings will be March 29-31st. We will put a link to those meetings on the website. Please consider participating in the surveys and public meetings.

Annual membership dues are due. Part of your dues go to the Garden Club for gardens on Chateau and Vintage. If you have paid your dues, thank you. If not, please consider joining by using the form on the back, or through PayPal on the website. You do not need a PayPal account. Please support your civic organization.

The CECO board will continue to focus this year on supporting quality of life for the Chateau area and economic development activities.

On behalf of the board of your civic organization, best wishes to you and your family.

Bob Bales CECO President



Safety on Streets

Children are out playing, walking and biking. Please drive like your kids live here. The speed limit is 20 mph inside all subdivisions, and 25 mph on Vintage.

SPEED LIMIT 20

Traffic enforcement on your street can be requested by contacting the Kenner Police

at 712-2200.

The CECO Weekly Echo

To share a community interest, club or volunteer opportunity, cultural event, fundraiser, or item of interest to families and children, email us at CivicOrg@ Chateau-Estates.org. Your announcement or blog will go on the website, Facebook page and the weekly email. If you are interested in posting regularly on an interest such as cultural events in Kenner, we would love to hear from you.

Last summer we began a weekly email to addresses in the CECO database, containing blogs posted that week. You can subscribe on line by viewing any blog. If you have subscribed but are not receiving, check your junk mail settings. If you have suggestions or comments on the newsletter or website, or would like to help please contact us at the above email.

We looking for someone to help sell ads on the website promoting Kenner businesses. If you are interested contact Kerry Marcus at kerry.marcus@gmail.com.

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CECO Business Notes

The civic organization officers and area directors are elected annually at the fall meeting. Board members for 2021 are:

President **Bob Bales** Vice President Kerry Marcus Secretary Laurie Becker Treasurer Julius Neumeyer

Area Directors

South West Sid LeBlanc

> Ron Updegraff Brad Bohannan

South East Richard Sanderson

Sid Bullard North East

Karen Scariano

North West Tom Tatar

Judy Hafford

To learn more about board membership, or to place yourself or a neighbor in nomination please contact nominating committee chair Julius Neumeyer at Julius@Neumeyers. com. Board membership is a great way to have a voice, work with neighbors and stay informed on issues affecting Chateau Estates. Nominations for 2022 will be announced in July.







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Birds of Chateau By Bob Siegel

The Yellow Rump Warbler.

Birds are deserting Chateau Estates. This is not a surprise. Birds have been disappearing from North America

for a long time. Over the last 50 years, the continent has lost 3 billion birds, 30% of its total population.

In my garden, the loss of birds is quite evident. We haven't seen these birds in years: doves, kingbirds, redwing blackbirds, starlings, grackles, and shrikes. Even English sparrows are gone along with the Louisiana thrush and cedar waxwings.

There are many causes: Climate change, the encroachment by farms into grasslands, use of pesticides (depriving birds of food). Migrants are lost when they flock into buildings and into wind turbines.

But last month gave us hope. A bird that used migrate into my garden every fall had been missing for years. It finally returned last December, and in impressive numbers. This is the yellow rump warbler.

This warbler features yellow about the head and wings. But the most important yellow is on its rump, just above the tail. This yellow gives the bird its name. There are also white spots on outer tail feathers. Though this bird is small, these tail spots are visible, especially when it flies. And how this bird can fly!

The yellow rump darts from tree to tree, often with astounding speed. It zooms to the ground to pursue insects. It is a wonder the bird doesn't hit something. But we hope the yellow rump will become a harbinger of a vigorous return of birds to Chateau.

They sometimes come to backyards if food is offered. To attract them, try putting out sunflower seed, raisins, suet, and peanut butter







Spring Gardening Tips Michelle Charvet

After much in-and-around home, with spring arriving what better time to spruce up your home by mulching and planting flowering annuals, perennials and a few tropicals. It's a good time to get ahead of those early weeds and clean up any freeze damaged plants in your landscape. This satisfying activity results

in better "curb appeal" and increases the value of the neighborhood and homes.

Before spring makes her grand entrance, it's pruning time for most trees and many varieties of shrubs damaged by our recent freeze. You'll need to wait until mid-March or April to evaluate how far back to prune the damaged ones.

For woody tropical plants such as crotons, hibiscus, ficus, allamanda and mandevilla; check for damage with the thumbnail test by scratching the bark. If the tissue is green it is still alive. If the tissue is tan or brown, the branch is dead and should be removed. Prune herbaceous plants and non-woody plants such as ginger, agapanthus, bird of paradise, petunias and begonias back to living tissue. If the cold damaged tissue is mushy, oozy, slimy or foul smelling, it should be removed.

Spring is planting time for annuals such as begonias, geraniums, zinnias, marigolds, vinca, pentas and many more for beautiful color. Your neighbors will be envious. Add variety and color with flowering perennials like foxgloves, delphiniums and blue daze. Be sure to fertilize annuals for best production. Ask your favorite garden center for suggestions.

For the lawn, fertilize with an appropriate product for St Augustine after March 15th and Centipede grass after April 1st. Mulch garden beds to a depth of two to three inches. Mulching helps prevent weed seeds from germinating and retains moisture in the soil. For more information, go to the LSU Ag Center Planting Guide www.lsuagcenter.com Your local garden center is a font of information. And it is FREE! Happy Gardening.



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Spring Check List Tom Tatar NW Area Director

Spring is coming. It will be here quicker than expected. The hardest part of any project is 'getting started'. I find that making a check-list helps get on track to accomplish the project.



Our biggest investment is our homes.

This is our sanctuary to be proud of, both inside and out. The inside is only seen by our invited guests, but the outside is seen by everyone passing by. Now is the time to start on that check-list for spring.

Projects to consider:

- ♣ Spring housecleaning wash windows! Check screens for repairs.
- ♣ Pressure wash siding to remove dirt and mold.
- ♣ Trim bushes and prune trees. Some of us may be dealing with freeze damaged plants and trees.
- ♣ Clean garden beds and replace mulch. Plant new flowers.
- ♣ Check entrances such as front door, house numbers and door mats.
- ♣ Check your roof, vents, roof stacks and gutters for repairs from last year's hurricane.
- Replace fence boards. Make sure your gutters and clean and secure.

After you make your 'to-do' checklist, gather the tools, materials and supplies you will need to accomplish the tasks, whether touch up paint, cleaning supplies, mulch or clippers.

Since we are somewhat restricted in our social activities, now is a good time to start planning to spruce up our houses and yards. Not only does this increase the curb appeal of our homes, it also adds to the value. Happy spring cleaning.





Upcoming Tax Renewal Election on April 24th By Kristi Katsanis McKinney Councilwoman at Large

In April, voters will have the opportunity to decide on the funding of three crucial services that protect our quality of life – sewer, garbage and fire protection. The millage elections are renewals

of property taxes that have been collected yearly for the past 10 years.

Sewer services have been handled by the City directly since January 1, 2020. The sewer millage is a renewal at the rate of 1.14 mills which is the same rate that was previously approved. The funding is used to support the daily operations of the sewerage treatment plant and to maintain the plant, pipes and sewer lift stations. This is supplemented by a monthly user fee charged on water bills.

Garbage services are supported by the existing millage of 1.61 mills. The millage covers the costs of trash collection and removal from households and businesses, landfill fees, and the maintenance of the City's trash dump site. This renewal is important to maintain the high level of quality services that is keeping Kenner clean and trash off the streets.

The fire protection renewal of 7.4 mills is integral to providing the highest level of fire services to the community. The funding from this collection provides only one third of the needed funding for the operations and training requirements of our Kenner firefighters. It is a service that you never want to use, but always want to have on stand-by if truly needed.

The upcoming tax renewals are on the ballot on April 24th and early voting starts on April 17th. The City will be providing more information on the renewal election in the coming months.



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Support the Local Economy

Brad Bohannan SE Area Director

Everyone in Kenner is always talking about wanting a thriving mall, a closer grocery store and the empty spaces filled in the shopping centers. Through the political process we aspire to see more retail – why not Kohl's, Trader Joe's, shopping centers getting refurbished and the Esplanade Mall thriving like it did in the good ole' days. But what brings in new business and a more thriving local economy? The economic reality is that local consumer

spending is part of what drives business development. To see local business grow we must support it with our spending decisions.

The reason businesses come to any city is because data shows that we, as a city, can support them. Things like population and median income, education, housing and quality of life matter, as well as city government being a good partner to help them achieve their ultimate goal. Businesses come to be good neighbors, sure, but ultimately they come to make a profit.

Looking at struggling shopping centers it seems we have missed a simple thing we can all do to make our city more attractive. It's easy: make a conscious effort to support your local economy. When buying insurance, gas, dinner, groceries, furniture or anything else, basic or discretionary, buy local.

If we support each other with our spending we all win. If we shop Kenner first the data alone will encourage businesses to come.

Curb Repairs Planned

At the February CECO Board meeting, Councilman George Branigan announced plans for curb repairs across City Council District 4. The source of funding is the City Council District infrastructure fund as appropriated in the city budget.



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With this news in hand, CECO board members updated a survey done in 2019, finding 70 plus locations across Chateau where repairs are needed. We received a cascade of requests from neighbors on needs on their street. Councilman Branigan is working with the city to bid a contract to repair curbs on a 'per foot' basis. A list of the addresses identified is on the website under "News".



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Ellevate Louisiana By Julie Stokes

In early 2020, Ellevate Louisiana was formed as a statewide policy organization designed specifically for the women of Louisiana. Our goal is to educate our members, as well as the community as a whole,

on the practical issues facing our state from a non-partisan point of view and to explore pragmatic solutions to those issues in an objective way.

Because we formed right before COVID changed the way we interact, we adopted a largely virtual presence. Ellevate Louisiana's Engage Videocasts and Podcasts give our members and the whole community an opportunity to hear from leaders across our state on their goals and what they need to achieve maximum impact.

As we turn our attention to the upcoming legislative sessions, we are excited to host several roundtables with various legislators as well our upcoming Legislative Leadership Conference. This event, scheduled for March 24th will include Senate President Page Cortez, House Speaker Clay Schexnayder and Governor John Bel Edwards. It will be a chance to hear their plans and perspectives on the upcoming legislative session as well as to interact with them regarding our members ideas and concerns. We also plan to host a Day at the Legislature on April 27th , where our members can learn how the capitol works and meet members of the legislature.

It has been truly inspiring to see women from all political backgrounds come together to build a brighter future for Louisiana. Please visit us online at www.EllevateLA.org where you can become a member, sign up for upcoming events, and listen to or watch our videocasts and podcasts.

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JP Council Corner Dominick F. Impastato, III Jefferson Parish Council District 4

2020 will forever be marked with the hardships and losses we faced together in response to COVID-19. Our office continues to forge ahead with projects we have had underway. Traffic engineers hired to study areas near schools have provided recommendations

including new pedestrian crossing signals at Loyola and Vintage and a westbound turning lane near the U-turn lanes. Our office is working with Kenner to alleviate traffic and ensure safety of our children.

To improve Laketown, last year we gained \$2.3 million in Parish share of federal GOMESA funding, and recently received news of about \$2 million from the LA coastal agency for boat launch repairs. We expect repairs to commence this year.

Planning continues for the Vintage Walking Trail along the canal from Power to Wilson Drive in Metairie. Jefferson Parish is paying 2/3 of the match for a federal grant. We continue to work with Kenner on plans with LA DOTD and expect construction to commence in the near future.

The water meter pilot program, formed after many Kenner residents reported overestimated bills last September is wrapping up. A contract will be solicited to automate water meters across the parish and ensure residents are given accurate and effective services.

Our office continues to advocate for the City of Kenner planning for over \$37 million dollars in state capital outlay requests for canal and pump station projects within city limits. We are in involved in discussions regarding extension of West Napoleon to Airport Road after gaining \$11 million in Parish funds to fully fund this project. This is in addition to \$34 million in Parish funds for the roadway and drainage improvements on the Bainbridge thoroughfare for commercial airport traffic.

There are 2 parish millages on the March 20 election, one of which impacts Kenner. Residents will consider renewal of a Water millage beginning in 2023 and expiring 10 years thereafter. For information, you may visit www.jeffparish.net.

These are among the initiatives we have been working on to better serve you! If you have any questions or concerns about any other topic, please call my office at 504-736-6622 or email me at dimpastato@jeffparish.net.







State Legislative Session By Debbie Villio, State Representative

The 2021 Regular Legislative Session will convene at noon on Monday, April 12 and adjourn no later than Thursday, June 10. Last year, members of the House of Representatives

introduced 871 bills while the Senate members added 518.

I eagerly await the upcoming session to push for cutting bureaucratic red tape that is onerous to business, developing strong revenue streams without adding taxes, producing economic development opportunities for our city and much more.

Kenner has limited areas available for development to generate new revenue and improve quality of life. One opportunity is to make better use of its lakefront. To that end, I worked with Mayor Ben Zahn and Councilman Dominick Impastato and opened the door for city officials to proceed with developing Laketown by brokering the state's first-ever long-term lease of lake bottoms to a municipality. A 99-year lease of the lake bottoms flanking Kenner's Laketown is projected to create a vibrant multi-use development with upscale condo living and boutique retail. The vision for Laketown will energize a dormant area and stimulate commerce in Kenner.

This session we will consider reducing or repealing personal and corporate income taxes to encourage businesses and people to relocate to our state. We will consider simplifying and centralizing sales tax collections, implementing sports gaming, and pushing to lower insurance rates.

As always, if you have any issues that you would like to discuss, please reach out at hse079@legis.la.gov. It is an honor to serve as your State Representative.







Megan's Law Michael Glaser, Chief of Police

Each year, thousands of attempted abductions occur in the United States. Most of these crimes happen in our very own backyard. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children found the following based upon ten years of data:

- Attempted abductions occur more often when a child is going to or from school or school-related activities.
- School-age children are at greatest risk on school days before and after school (7-9 a.m. and 3-4 p.m.) and after dinner time (6-7 p.m.).
- Attempted abductions most often occur on the street while children are playing, walking, or riding bikes.
- Younger children are more likely to be playing or walking with a parent or an adult whereas school-age children are more likely to be walking alone or with peers.
- Attempted abductions of older children are more likely to involve a sexual component.

Megan's Law was enacted as a federal law in 1994. This act was named after Megan Kanka, a 7-year old New Jersey girl who was raped and murdered by a neighbor with a history of sexual offenses against young girls. The law requires law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding registered sex offenders and requires sex offenders to register with local law enforcement.



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The Adam Walsh Act classified sex offenders into three tiers according to the crime committed and mandates that Tier 3 offenders update whereabouts with law enforcement every three months for lifetime. Tier 2 offenders must update their whereabouts every six months for 25 years, and Tier 1 offenders must update their whereabouts every year for 15 years. Failure to register and update information is a felony.

In Louisiana, the State Police oversee the statewide sex offender registry. As a public service, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office website has a sex offender registry for the parish. Community notices are mailed to addresses within 3/10th of a mile of the residence of a person on the sex offender registry and include a photo and description, the crime committed and tier, safety tips and how to report suspicious activity.

For more information about Megan's Law, see www.meganslaw.com. Chief Glaser can be reached by email at kpd@kenner.la.us. Visit the Kenner Police Department website at www.kennerpd.com. You can also download the free Kenner P.D. mobile app for both Apple and Android devices as well as access the Kenner P.D. Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest updated crime, traffic, and other law enforcementrelated information.

Chateau Market Update

This market update is courtesy of realtor Sharon Kochera and represents sales of single family homes from October 23, 2020 through February 19, 2021.

	Per Sq. Ft	Sale Price
713 Brittany	\$160.80	\$265,000
4160 Cognac	\$131.46	\$280,000
4116 Cognac	\$127.22	\$286,000
721 Champagne	\$143.18	\$315,000
18 Rue Dijon	\$112.41	\$326,000
17 Monte Carlo	\$112.41	\$340,840
26 Rue Dijon	\$122.27	\$358,000
50 Chateau Mouton	\$138.17	\$430,000
39 Chateau Rothchild	\$144.65	\$512.500

Average sale price was \$344,810. Sale price averaged 97% of asking price. Houses were on the market an average of 36 days, with five of the nine homes selling in less than one week.



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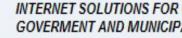
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General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday March 17th, 2021 7:00 PM Where: Zoom only. Check website for link

Jefferson Parish Millage Renewal for Water

Parish Representative

City of Kenner - Millage Renewals for Fire Protection, Trash and Sewer Treatment - City Representative

Upcoming Louisiana State Legislative Session Town Hall with State Representative Debbie Villio

Your Membership Supports

Protection of property values -- Neighborhood Beautification -- Public Gardens -- Quality of Life - Topical Neighborhood Meetings - Election Forums -- Newsletter - Chateau-Estates.org & Facebook page - Children's Halloween Party



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