



# Briar Village Newsletter

Serving 768 Homes Since the 1970s

Community Association (BPCIA) Meets Regularly on 4th Thursday - Everyone Welcome

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January

- 1-Jan-24 New Year's Day
- 15-Jan-24 Martin Luther King Day

### February

- 2-Feb-24 Groundhog Day
- 13-Feb-24 Mardi Gras Carnival
- 14-Feb-24 Valentine's Day
- 19-Feb-24 Presidents Day and Washington's Birthday
- 27-Feb-24 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo - March 17

### March

- 10-Mar-24 Daylight Saving
- 17-Mar-24 St. Patrick's Day
- 29-Mar-24 Good Friday
- 31-Mar-24 Easter

## 20 Powerful Martin Luther King Jr. Quotes to Remind You of His Message

More than 50 years have passed since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, but his words are just as meaningful as they were during the peak of the Civil Rights Movement. The Civil Rights leader died at age 39, but his impact continues to this day. From his most famous "I Have a Dream" speech to his letter from a Birmingham jail, his message is truly timeless.

- 1) "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today."
- 2) "Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."
- 3) "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
- 4) "The time is always right to do what is right."
- 5) "Keep feeling the need for being important. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love. I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity."
- 6) "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
- 7) "Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred."
- 8) "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
- 9) "When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"
- 10) "In some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."
- 11) "You can kill the dreamer, but you can't kill the dream."
- 12) "Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is a permanent attitude."
- 13) "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."
- 14) "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."
- 15) "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."
- 16) "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."
- 17) "There are some things so dear, some things so precious, some things so eternally true, that they are worth dying for. And I submit to you that if a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."
- 18) "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"
- 19) "Let no man pull you so low as to hate him."
- 20) "Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like any man, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

# Board/Committies

**BRIAR PARK CIA BOARD/COMMITTEES**  
**C/O GRAHAM MANAGEMENT**  
**2825 WILCREST DRIVE, SUITE 600**  
**HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042**  
**PH: 713-334-8000 FAX: 713-334-5055**

President - Carrie Bivins  
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brianjmag@live.com

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dguillermanhoa@gmail.com

Director - David Patronella  
hoadpatronella@gmail.com

Director - Rob Harvey  
rharveyhoa@gmail.com

Director - Eric Wallin  
cew3832hoa@gmail.com

## Committees:

Common Areas - Casey, David

Clubhouse - Eric, Brian

Pool - Carrie, Eric

Tennis Court - Brian, David

Security - Rob, Casey

Website - David

Social - Eric, Carrie

Newsletter - David

DRV - Diane

ACC - Diane

## Manager:

April Pitarra  
apitarra@  
grahammanagementhouston.com

## MJM Security:

Dispatch 832-356-3224

# Fat Tuesday

Mardi Gras, (French: Fat Tuesday) festive day celebrated in France on Shrove Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday), which marks the close of the pre-Lenten season. The French name Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday, from the custom of using all the fats in the home before Lent in preparation for fasting and abstinence

# Mardi Gras

The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced to medieval Europe, passing through Rome and Venice in the 17th and 18th centuries to the French House of the Bourbons. From here, the traditional revelry of "Boeuf Gras," or fatted calf, followed France to her colonies.

On March 2, 1699, French-Canadian explorer Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville arrived at a plot of ground 60 miles directly south of New Orleans, and named it "Pointe du Mardi Gras" when his men realized it was the eve of the festive holiday. Bienville also established "Fort Louis de la Louisiane" (which is now Mobile) in 1702.

## HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS IN GALVESTON

Mardi Gras was first held in 1711 in Mobile, Alabama as a national gala imported from France. Only later, in 1873, did this historical event appear in New Orleans. The classical colors of Mardi Gras have noteworthy meanings. Gold signifies power or purity of purpose. Purple portrays royalty or justice. Green is a reminder of love, friendship or faith. Mardi Gras is a movable date which may fall as early as February 3rd or as late as March 9th. Galveston's long heritage of celebrating Mardi Gras dates back to 1867, when a 350 pound justice of the peace presided over dramatic entertainment and a masked ball. By 1871, it had grown to a citywide carnival, with day and night parades, lavish costumes and an annual theme. The elite exclusive masked balls; while gambling houses, restaurants and saloons stayed open all night for the rest of the community.

***Mardi Gras Galveston Feb 2-13 is the 3rd largest Mardi Gras in the US.***

## Getting In Touch

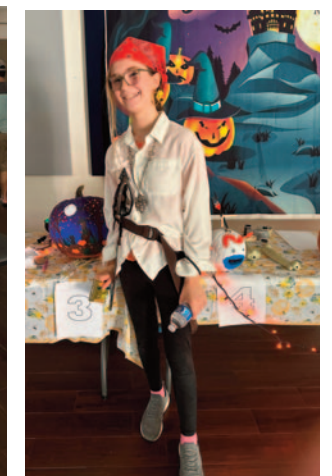
The most effective way to send and receive information with your board and the HOA is through the official Management website: [graham.cincwebaxis.com](http://graham.cincwebaxis.com). The site allows access to Payment, Document, ACC request, Violation and Contact information.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for volunteers to help with events and initiatives. Please help while getting to know your neighbors. Email [cew3832hoa@gmail.com](mailto:cew3832hoa@gmail.com) for info.



# Halloween Party





# Celebrating Success and Looking Ahead: Briar Flyers Swim Team

Dear Briar Flyers Community,

As the year ends, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude and share some highlights from our swim team season. The Briar Flyers had an incredible year filled with achievements, dedicated coaches, and awesome community support. Despite being a smaller team, our swimmers showcased outstanding skill and sportsmanship throughout the season. Their hard work and determination truly made this year one to remember. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing coaches for their guidance and commitment to nurturing the talents of our young swimmers.

We also appreciate the patience and understanding of our community during the challenges posed by the parking situation at our swim meets. Your support did not go unnoticed, and we are sincerely grateful for your support as this swim program, and its swim meets have been instrumental in creating a positive and empowering environment for our young athletes. Looking ahead to the next swim season, we are excited about the possibilities it holds. However, to continue fostering the growth of our team, we are seeking sponsorships for essential equipment, especially new lane ropes. Your support will make a significant impact on the training and development of our swimmers.

In preparation for the upcoming season, we are pleased to announce registration for the swim team starting in March. Keep an eye out for announcements regarding registration and the Spring Fling event on April 27th- a fantastic opportunity open to the entire neighborhood to enjoy the pool, meet your neighbors, and register for the swim team!

We look forward to the future with optimism and excitement. While our team may be small now, we're on a mission to make it bigger and better, and we need you to be a part of it! Please consider signing up your future Briar Flyer. Join us in making a splash next year and building something truly special!

Thank you for being an integral part of the Briar Flyers Community!

Carrie Bivins  
Briar Flyers Swim Team Rep

For more information and sponsorship opportunities please visit: [briarflyers.swimtopia.com](http://briarflyers.swimtopia.com)



From left to right:

Emily Wray | Janae Wilkinson | Alex Rubi | Mateo Gantiva | Desmond Stapleton | Ryan Reeves | Isaac Jimenez | Ash Terrell | Veronica Garcia Gutierrez

# Winter to Spring Checklist

Checklist of five important tasks for homeowners to consider during the transition from winter to spring:

## **Inspect and Clean Gutters:**

Winter can leave debris like leaves, twigs, and ice in your gutters. Clean them out to ensure proper drainage as spring rains arrive. Make sure downspouts are clear as well. This helps prevent water damage to your roof and foundation.

## **Check Roof and Attic:**

Inspect your roof for any damage caused by winter weather, such as missing shingles or signs of leaks. Examine the attic for proper insulation and ventilation. This helps regulate temperature and prevent issues like ice dams.

## **Service HVAC Systems:**

Schedule a professional inspection and maintenance for your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. This ensures they are in good working condition as you transition from using heating to cooling.

## **Landscaping and Lawn Care:**

Prepare your lawn and garden for spring by removing debris, trimming overgrown branches, and cleaning up flower beds. Consider fertilizing your lawn and planting new flowers or shrubs. This is also a good time to inspect and clean outdoor equipment like lawnmowers.

## **Inspect Windows and Doors:**

Check the seals and weather stripping around windows and doors. Repair or replace any damaged or worn-out weather stripping to improve energy efficiency. This can help keep your home comfortable and reduce heating and cooling costs.

## Roofs-environmentally friendly and cost saving

While doing some research with my daughter for her new roof, I found some interesting and informative information that may be of benefit to our BV homeowners as well! Much of this information we already know, but others may find it useful. I thought a paragraph in the newsletter might be helpful and or appropriate.

- Light colored singles are cooler for southern climates.
- Light colored roofs reflect 60 to 90% of sunlight.
- Unlike darker roof colors, light colors reflect solar radiation not absorb it.
- Darker roofs are 20% hotter, exacerbate mold and fungus growth, use more electricity resulting in higher energy bills and strain on HVAC systems.
- Dark roofs are better for colder climates as they attract, absorb and hold heat.
- Great for melting ice and snow, retaining heat in doors.
- In addition, for resale purposes, properties with dark roofs appear smaller, while lighter colored roofs appear more extensive and modern.

Stay cool 😎

## Briar Village Newsletter

Want to contribute to the BV newsletter? BV residents can submit content to: [briarvillagenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:briarvillagenewsletter@gmail.com).



## Architectural Control Committee

All improvements visible from the street must have ACC approval BEFORE work starts. Get the ACC Approval Form on the BV Website or from GMI.





# Yard of the Month Winners

## October

Kelly and Mary Dorman received October Yard-of-the-Month. Drive by 14019 Ella Lee to see this lovely landscape. A tall, stately Water Oak tree is the focal interest, but neatly manicured boxwood hedges along the street-facing walls of the home give the yard a formal flair. Brick-edged, island beds containing Foxtail Ferns and Sago palms continue the manicured theme. But, the emerald color of the lawn might be the first thing to catch your attention.



## November

This beautiful home is located at 137190 Overbrook. It belongs to a very lovely Lady who was excited to find out that she made the yard of the month. We spent a long time talking about the lovely flowers that she has in her front yard. She knew one of them, and was excited to talk about them.

# The DRV "Process"

Diane Guillerman

I have served on our HOA Board three separate times and deed restrictions has been one of my responsibilities on those boards. While I can tell you what the process is when you receive a deed restriction violation ("DRV") letter from Graham, I cannot make you follow it; but if you do follow the process, you will avoid further problems. When you receive a DRV letter:

- STEP 1 (a): Don't ignore it!
- (b) If you agree with the DRV letter, fix the issue and be done with it. You may contact April with Graham Management (713-334-8000/Direct line-940-239-9332 or [apitarra@grahammanagementhouston.com](mailto:apitarra@grahammanagementhouston.com)) to let her know you addressed the issue, but it is not necessary.
- (c): If you disagree with the letter or need more time to correct the violation, contact April with Graham Management or send her an email. Explain your situation and have an idea as to how long of an extension is needed or what is an appropriate solution . (April can only provide a certain number of extensions and for only a certain number of days-see below.)

Continued on next page

# The DRV "Process" continued

STEP 2: If you are unhappy with the response from Graham, contact the Board Member ("Director") over Deed Restrictions (currently me - [dguillermanhoa@gmail.com](mailto:dguillermanhoa@gmail.com)/713-480-0913). Explain why you are unhappy with the response and what resolution you would like to see.

(You can also send an email to ALL board members about the situation. One board member cannot handle or "fix" a DRV letter for you. Your first contact to the board regarding a DRV letter is to contact the board member over Deed Restrictions)

STEP 3: If you are still unhappy with the response, contact April and tell her you would like an informal meeting with the board as a whole. Again, you should be able to explain why you are unhappy and what resolution you would like.

HOWEVER, if you have received a certified letter, you may request a "hearing" on or before the 30th day after the date the notice was mailed. Legally, the request MUST be in writing. You will be notified by Graham when the hearing will occur.

Please note: This is NOT the same process if you submitted a proper ACC (or ARC) request and it was denied. A hearing before the board is required by law, so you must request a special meeting with the board if your ACC request is denied. The Board will listen to you and make a decision following your special meeting. Other things to remember:

(1) DO NOT take these letters personally. We have all received a letter at one point in time, even board members. We should all want to keep our properties up to maintain our investments and keep our neighborhood looking nice.

(2)The HOA Board is composed of volunteers. Please keep this in mind. It is not necessary to come to a meeting with the board and hurl expletives or threats. Every board I have been on has been very willing to work with residents to address difficult situations. We have been compassionate with residents needing additional time, etc.

Additional important comments:

Graham does two inspections a month from April through September; from October through March, Graham does one inspection a month.

If you receive multiple letters in one envelope regarding the same DRV issue, it is clearly an accident, but you can bring it to April's attention by contacting her.

We are currently NOT sending DRV letters for lawns or dead plants/shrubs due to the heat/drought this past summer. However, beginning in February or March, those issues will be addressed again.

Please keep your trash and recycling cans out of public view.

All certified letters are also sent by regular mail. This is to ensure receipt by the homeowner.

Some deed restrictions are not being enforced against certain homes because they are in a particular legal situation that prohibits action, such as probate or bankruptcy.

We live in a deed restricted neighborhood. While some people want to live by the deed restrictions set out in the 1970s, the Texas Legislature has allowed HOA subdivisions to update their deed restrictions. In addition, many laws have been passed within the last twenty years that have impacted HOAs and their deed restrictions; for example, the ability to have religious items placed on your property or solar panels. (This is only an example, not an exhaustive list.)

Finally, this neighborhood adopted an ordinance prohibiting parking on the grass. You could receive a ticket if you violate the ordinance.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for taking care of your property!

# How to Submit a Parking Violation Request

## ***Parking Codes, Regulations - edited to neighborhood situations***

APK-5 Parked on street more than 24 hours	Parking in the same space on the public street is limited to 24 hours. The vehicle must move after 24 hours.
APK-11 Parked blocking private driveway	A car parked curbside may not block any portion of a driveway.
APK-12 Parked within 15 feet of fire hydrant	The area must remain clear for emergency vehicles.
APK-13 Blocking or parking on sidewalk	Sidewalks must remain clear for pedestrian safety. A car cannot block the public sidewalk while parked in a driveway.
APK-14 Parked within 20 feet of a cross walk intersection	Parking too close to the corner blocks the view of pedestrians crossing the street or oncoming traffic.
APK-20 Parked more than 18" from right-hand curb	A legally parked car must park with the flow of traffic. The passenger wheels cannot be more than 18" from the curb.
APK-22 Commercial vehicle parked between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.	Commercial vehicles cannot park on the public street from 2am-6am
APK-28 Parked obstructing street	Do not stop or protrude into the traffic lane.

## ***How To Submit a Parking Violation Request***

ParkHouston supports public safety in Houston by enforcing on- street parking regulations. A parking violation service request is not an on-demand request for service but it should be used for chronic, long-term parking violations.

## **Required Information**

### 1. VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

Make and Model\*, Color\*, License Plate Number

### 2. PARKING VIOLATION

The service request should be for reoccurring or frequent parking violations.

Abandoned Vehicle

Blocking the Sidewalk, Large Vehicle, Other (description\*)

### 3. Time and day

It is very important to provide the days and the time of the day the violation repeatedly occurs. This will allow us to send an officer to the location at the correct time.

### 4. 14 - 18 days

We service the entire city. Due to the volume of requests, it will take from 14-18 days to close a case. Please wait at least 18 days before submitting a second request for the same issue.

### 5. Contact

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your case, please email [parking@houstontx.gov](mailto:parking@houstontx.gov) for additional assistance.

**REPORT A PARKING VIOLATION ONLINE HOUSTON 3-1-1 HOME PAGE  
or Call 3-1-1, or 713.837.03111**